

Asia holds the key to achieve MDGs

Asia, today, has more people living in slum conditions, more without access to water and sanitation and more people with inadequate nutrition, than any other developing region in the world. With two-thirds of the world's poor residing in Asia and the Pacific, it is abundantly clear that the region holds the key to solving the global poverty challenge.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), cannot be achieved unless they are met in the Asia and Pacific region.

Given the scale of deprivation in Asia and the Pacific, achieving all the MDGs by 2015 does require massive investments and innovative approaches by the governments, the private sector and all other stakeholders.

Urban Amenities in Rural Areas Enhance Rural Prosperity

In his address to the Nation on the eve of 60th Independence Day, Prof. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India expressed happiness to note that there was a growing recognition of enhancing rural prosperity through the Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) model.

Earlier the President had inaugurated the Periyar PURA Complex in Tamilnadu pioneered by Periyar Maniammai College of Technology for Women, Vallam, Tanjore consisting of a cluster of 65 villages having a population of over one lakh. This model PURA complex has all three Connectivities - physical, electronic and knowledge - leading to economic connectivity. This has resulted in large-scale employment generation and crea-

tion of a number of entrepreneurs with the active support of 1150 self-help groups. Two hundred acres of wasteland has been developed into a cultivable land with innovative water management schemes. Villagers are busy in cultivation, planting Jatropha, herbal and medicinal plants, power generation using bio-mass, food processing with dedicated marketing centers. This model has emanated independent of any government initiative. There are other PURA models like the Loni PURA in Maharashtra, the Chitrakoot PURA in Madhya Pradesh and the Byrraju PURA in Andhra Pradesh.

The President of India feels that these experiences can be emu-



Prof. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
H.E. President of India

lated nation wide. India needs 7000 PURAs all over the country. This movement can be multiplied by thousands of entrepreneurs, educational administrators, small-scale industrialists and bankers with the support of government agencies providing total economic prosperity to rural India by 2020.

India Supports Creation of a Pan-African e-Network

The Government of India is creating a Pan-African e-network for connecting 53 African countries. In a similar way, India has proposed to extend the services to Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The Indian Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Industry is growing at about 28 percent per annum. This is definitely a strong indicator that the ICT industry requires

a national mission to realize \$200 billion turnover by 2012 says the President. Job opportunities are expected to grow from one million to nearly 9 million direct jobs and 6 million indirect jobs in the construction, retail and transportation industries by 2010.

Many State Governments are in the process of implementing e-Governance services and creating State Wide Area Network across their States. The

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has decided to invest Rs. 24,000 crore for establishing an e-governance network and Government to Citizens Services across the country within five years time. Through capacity building, job opportunities, better consumer protection laws and secure infrastructure, ICT would enable economic growth to higher levels of prosperity in India.

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Prime Minister's Vision of Cities in India



Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, in his Independence Day speech on 15th August 2006 said that cities and towns are centers of growth and generators of employment opportunities. The cities in India need to have a new look for which they need massive investment and renewal. They need basic amenities like sanitation, drinking water and proper housing for the poor. They need public transport, parks and playgrounds. India needs cities in which the working poor can live with self-respect and dignity; cities in which children and women feel safe and secure. In order to ensure that our cities have better infrastructure and that they have better living conditions, India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. This programme and other similar ones have started showing results. Work has begun on Metro systems

in Bangalore and Mumbai. The Prime Minister sees a glorious decade of city development ahead of us.

The challenge before Government is to implement these programmes. The Prime Minister said, that "We have to improve the way governments function and deliver public services. How do we do this? How do we ensure that higher financial outlays translate into better outcomes? I sincerely hope that the Right to Information Act enacted by our Government will empower our people who will be able to use their rights to make government more accountable. We have to work hard to eliminate corruption in the delivery of public services, in fact eliminate it from all walks of life. We will work to put in place a system that rewards honesty, probity and efficiency."

India Hosts Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Human Settlements

The Asian cities are now experiencing a rapid urban growth leading to a rapid urban transformation in the region. According to projections by the United Nations, the majority of the population in Asia and the Pacific region will live in urban areas by 2030. Between now and then, the urban population in the region will grow by 2.2 per cent a year and, as a result, the urban population will nearly double from 1,352 million at the turn of the century to 2,605 million in 2030. Some urban dwellers will live in mega-cities, but the vast majority of the urban population will live in smaller cities and towns.

Out of 20 mega cities with 10 million and more population in the world, 11 are located in Asia. At the same time, Asia has the largest share of the world's slum population. In 2005, the region was home to more than half the world's total slum population, or about 581 million people. In order to address the issues relating to rapid urbanization and growing slums and squatter settlements, the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements has been jointly convened by UN-HABITAT and the Government of India.

The Government of India is hosting the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements. The four days Conference will be held in New Delhi (India) from 13th to 16th December 2006. The Conference shall have two segments. The first segment on 13-14 December 2006 will be the Expert Group Meeting mainly devoted to the deliberations by the High Officials of all the participating countries from Asia and the Pacific and the second segment on 15-16 December 2006 shall be devoted to the Ministerial Meeting in which the Ministers In-charge of Housing and Human Settlements from the participating countries shall deliberate on various issues, adopt the draft framework for action and have a declaration.

The Ministerial segment of the Conference will be inaugurated by H.E. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India on Friday, 15th December 2006. The closing session is expected to be Chaired by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 16th December 2006.

The Conference aims at identifying the strategies both at regional and country

level for addressing the challenge of rapid urbanization, slums and squatter settlements and also discuss and share experiences of designing and implementation of sectoral public policies and developing a uniform mechanism for monitoring progress on the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda. The Conference shall provide a platform for developing common understanding among Asia and the Pacific Countries, on issues of Housing and Human Settlements and shall foster partnerships among Asia and the Pacific countries in these areas. The Conference shall discuss various subjects which include land, housing, water and sanitation, basic services, security of tenure and other related issues and prepare a framework of implementation of sustainable housing and human settlements in Asia and the Pacific by the UN Member States.

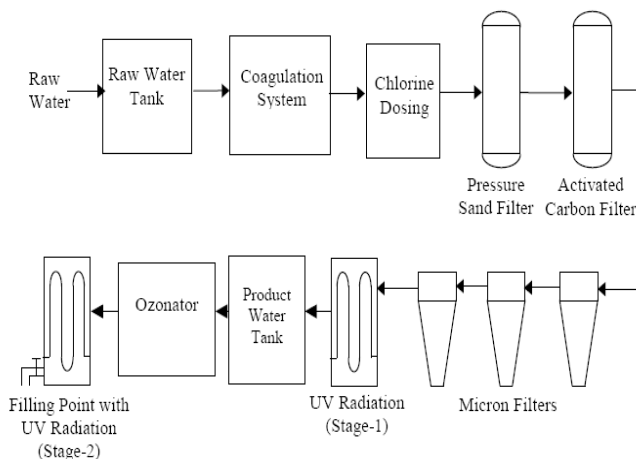
The Conference will be participated by the Ministers for Housing and Urban Development, Mayors and Representatives of local authorities, the Representatives of UN and other intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, civil society groups, the private sector, the Habitat Agenda Partners and eminent persons and sectoral experts.

An NGO's Effort in Making Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation Accessible and Affordable to over a million

Byrraju Foundation, an NGO set up in July 2001 based in Hyderabad currently works in 150 villages, in five districts of Andhra Pradesh. The Foundation's services are directly made available to more than a million people. An additional one million who live in the neighboring villages also benefit from its programs. Working towards holistic transformation, the Foundation focuses on: Healthcare, Education and Adult Literacy, Water, Environment and Sanitation and Livelihoods.

Establishing 'Sujala' Water Plants

The program aims at providing safe drinking water to 100 per cent of the population in the adopted villages. Despite adequate availability of water and substantial investments in village-level water treatment systems, it was found that 'drinking water' in 78 per cent of the villages adopted by the Foundation, did not meet the safe drinking water standards. Consequently, a sustainable low-cost community-driven model that integrates technology and community participation was evolved to provide WHO/BIS standard drinking water. Water is supplied in food-grade HDPE Cans.



Schematic Representation of the Water Treatment Process

Byrraju Foundation's drinking water program, has resulted in marked reduction in water-borne diseases. Access to one million people, totally safe, affordable – 12.5 paise/



litre, uninterrupted supply, continuous quality monitoring. People organise transport for home delivery at a nominal charge, if unable to pick up from the water plant.

Individual Sanitary Latrine (ISL)

The Foundation is also promoting sanitation and hygiene through Individual Sanitary Latrine (ISL) program which ensures hygienic sanitation and a cleaner environment. The ISL is a self-owned sanitation facility made available to every family living in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) – category. The Foundation has institutionalized regular collection, segregation and scientific disposal of domestic and community waste. 30,000 ISLs have been constructed so far, 40,000 more ISLs are being built to achieve 100 per cent sanitation in the adopted villages, ISL's have 95 per cent usage. Adopted villages are equipped with waste removal systems and vermicomposting has been institutionalized in these villages.

UN-HABITAT's Study Visit to Pro-poor Water Bottling in Andhra Pradesh

UN-HABITAT had organised a study visit from 15-21 July 2006 to Andhra Pradesh where Byrraju Foundation is providing access to safe bottled drinking water to all sections of society in the rural India. The objective of this study-cum-attachment visit was to understand the complete process of community-based water bottling units so that the participants could fully apprise themselves of the project's technical, financial, economic, commercial, social, environmental and other aspects in order to replicate the model in their respective countries for providing safe drinking water by taking up pilot demonstration projects. Eng. Musiimenta Julius from Uganda; Mr. Albert Muigai & Ms. Mercy Nzioki from Nairobi; Ms. Guheswori Tuladhar, Nepal; Mr. Andre Dzikus, Programme Manager, UN-HABITAT Nairobi and Dr. Kulwant Singh, CTA, WAC New Delhi participated in the study visit.

Community Managed Water Supply Scheme (CMWSS) in Indore

Shiv Nagar, Shahin Nagar, Chowdhary Park, Kamal Nagar and Pawan Putra Nagar colonies are located in "Musa Khedi" in the city of Indore where 1200 households live below the poverty line. Presently, there are no dug wells or hand pumps available in the locality and the households are dependent on private tube well owners for their water requirements. The poor also fetch water from nearby Lakhani factory, which is located at a distance of 3 kms from colony. During summer season people get water from the tankers of Indore Municipal Corporation and rest of the year they buy it from private tube wells. Households generally purchase water from owners of private tube wells; Municipal Corporation also supplies water through water tankers which is not adequate. There were few stand posts but generally private tube well owners are serving the area and charging the money at much higher rates as compared to the Municipal Corporation water tariff.

In May 2005, a joint ADB - UN-HABITAT Mission visited Indore, Bhopal and Jabalpur to formulate the Small Piped Water Network pilot projects in two ADB project cities namely Indore and Jabalpur. A detailed door-to-door survey was conducted by the District Urban Development Authority (DUDA) team for assessing the current resources and the demand for water in the project area. The technical team of engineers also carried out a survey for the selection of site and for the construction of the elevated reservoir. The total capital investment is being jointly financed by UN-HABITAT and DUDA. The capital work execution is expected to take 7-8 months. The network has been designed in a manner that water supply for at least 4 hours a day could be maintained. It is proposed to supply water as per the norms of 70 litres per capita per day for piped water connections. Efforts would be made to increase the number of supply hours towards the target of uninterrupted 24 hour supply. The summary of the beneficiaries and the proposed facility are as follows:

Water demand in litres / day	Water supply through	Total number of households	Water supply in litres per capita per day	Population to be served	No. of households to be served
4,20,000	Service connection	1200	70	6000	1200

DUDA will provide 420 kilolitres of water every day at bulk water rates to the CWASC, which has been established as a registered society to manage proper water supply and recovery of water charges from the households. Water will be supplied by Narmada line through constructing an elevated RCC reservoir of 420 kilolitres capacity. The project has the provision of connecting the reservoir to extended Narmada connection of IMC. DUDA Indore will work in a community participation mode through Community Water and Sanitation Committee (CWASC) to facilitate: execution of safe drinking water scheme for the areas of Shiv Nagar, Shahin Nagar and Chowdhry Park colony; development of pricing structures to support pro-poor connection charges and monthly user charges; introduction of basic billing and collection systems; implementation of community managed operation and maintenance of water supply systems; and training and capacity building of the community.

Through development of CMWSS and extending appropriate support to them, it will be possible to give immediate relief to the people. With the adoption of this strategy, it is expected that the users don't have to travel long distances or waste time queuing for water. The consumers will also be assured of continuous service or, if not continuous, on a regular basis (sametime every day) and provided enough water to cover their needs for daily house chores, which would facilitate proper housekeeping.

The CWASC has been converted into legal entity as a registered society and supported by IMC functionaries to carry out the responsibilities of planning, designing, implementation, operation, maintenance and management of the CMWSS. Since collection of drinking water in houses is primarily done by women they are being actively involved in planning, choice of technologies, location of systems, implementation, operation and maintenance of water supply schemes. For this purpose at least one third members of the CWASC are women. DUDA will be procuring and installing bulk revenue meter at inflow point for monitoring the water consumption. The supply will be run by two valve man / chaukidar and one revenue collector whose service will be provided by the CWASC. Collections shall be made through this staff only. DUDA will also technically supervise the project and supply tool kits to the plumbers engaged in the project.

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