

# **SEAMEO-UNICEF-WSSCC Consultative Workshop on Promoting “WASH in and through Schools”**

## **Background**

A meeting between SEAMEO, UNICEF and WSSCC was held on 21 January 2004 to explore modalities for possible collaboration to build on the strengths, capabilities and shared concerns of the three organizations. The proposed collaboration was to focus on:

1. Promoting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in, and through schools as the effective channels to inculcate good hygiene and sanitation habits to children at a young age, and to motivate parents and community members towards behavior change; and
2. Motivating people to take action in building their own sanitary facilities and contributing to the construction and maintenance of safe water supply, thus increasing the momentum to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for water supply and sanitation in 2015.

The initial activity within the framework of the collaboration was to jointly organize a Consultative Workshop, bringing together education officials, representatives of stakeholder government agencies in the different countries as well as officers of multilateral organizations concerned with the planning and implementation of water, hygiene and sanitation in schools.

The consultative workshop was meant to introduce the collaboration of the three institutions among the ministries of education in the SEAMEO and neighbouring countries and to seek inputs for a portfolio of projects that can be developed, incubated and promoted by the organizers for support.

The Consultative workshop on Promoting “WASH in Schools” was convened at the SEAMEO Secretariat in Bangkok on 16 to 18 June 2004. The Consultative Workshop Programme is given on Appendix 2.

## **Objectives and Outputs**

The three-day consultative workshop aimed to introduce the WASH Project to the key stakeholders, take stock of current projects and identify/develop the specific areas for collaboration among the participating institutions. The participants were also expected to share exemplary project/programme experiences, as well as identified concerns in the area of school sanitation and hygiene in their respective countries.

The main outputs expected of the consultation and workshop were:

- A framework for cooperation and collaboration for SEAMEO, UNICEF and WSSCC on interventions relating to school hygiene, sanitation and health; and
- Identification of possible advocacy/demonstration projects at the region, sub-region and country levels, outlining the concept, goals and modalities of implementation as well as linkages with existing/related projects in the country.

In view of limited time, however, the workshop and discussion focused on identifying and developing projects in water, sanitation and hygiene in schools building on the synergy of the institutional strengths and core concerns of SEAMEO, UNICEF and WSSCC.

## **Workshop Activities**

### **Participants of the Consultative Workshop**

A total of 40 participants attended the Workshop. The participants comprised representatives from 7 SEAMEO Member Countries coming from agencies of the ministries of education, ministries of health and other government ministries chiefly concerned with water and sanitation services as well as UNICEF Country Offices.

Government officials were invited from three non-SEAMEO member countries; namely: China, Mongolia and Timor-Leste. Other participants represented non-government organizations as well as the SEAMEO regional centres, the TROPED Network and the Secretariat.

Invited presenters and resource persons representing international organizations and bilateral development assistance agencies provided enrichment to the discussions among the participants.

A list of participants is given on Appendix 3.

### **Opening Formalities**

Mrs Lilia O Ramos, Southeast Asian Regional Coordinator of WSSCC delivered the Opening Remarks on behalf of Mr Ghourishalnkhar Ghosh, Executive Director of WSSCC. Mrs Ramos recalled the participation of WSSCC in the 39<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference held in March 2004 in Brunei Darussalam. It was explained that the initial effort at collaboration between SEAMEO and WSSCC was then introduced to the SEAMEO Council. The WSSCC Regional Coordinator expressed hopes that the first joint activity of the partners in the region would result in concrete steps and actions towards the goals shared by the three organizations.

In his Opening Remarks, Dr Arief S Sadiman, Director of the SEAMEO Secretariat, welcomed the participants and outlined the goals and mission of SEAMEO and its constituent regional centres and network. He related the recent activities being done by SEAMEO in the area of water and sanitation within the framework of SEAMEO's goal of contributing to the improvement of the quality of life in Southeast Asia. He emphasized the importance of cooperation and collaboration, harnessing the comparative advantages and institutional strengths of each organization.

The SEAMEO Secretariat Director drew attention to the priority areas being espoused by SEAMEO which includes, among others, quality and equity in education as well as environment and sustainable development. Dr Sadiman cited the recently-concluded SEAMEO-UNESCO Education Congress and Expo, which prominently featured, amongst others, a Ministerial Forum on Child-Friendly Learning Environments. He noted that the SEAMEO Ministers' Declaration on Child-Friendly Learning Environments, adopted during the Ministerial Forum, provides the basis for further regional cooperation on a more comprehensive concept of quality and equity in education underlining access to safe water and sanitation as a marker for quality.

Dr T V Luong, representing the Director of the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, incorporated her Opening Remarks in her presentation on *Field Level Implementation of WASH in Schools*. Dr Luong expressed hopes for a fruitful workshop and expressed her appreciation for the cooperation and assistance extended by the SEAMEO Secretariat in organizing the Consultative Workshop and welcomed the participation of non-SEAMEO member countries.

### **Case Presentations**

- Field-level implementation of WASH in Schools presented by Dr T V Luong (UNICEF EAPRO)

In her presentation, Dr T V Luong provided a conceptual focus for the consultative workshop by relating the WASH in Schools Programme to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Specific issues concerning water supply and sanitation also have implications to gender disparities and the over-all health and well-being of children.

Her presentation walked the participants through the gross effects of inadequate sanitation, the mechanisms and processes for spreading intestinal parasites and the simple interventions that could help prevent disease and improve academic achievement. Exemplary cases of appropriate technologies adopted and adapted to suit conditions prevailing in rural communities in Asia were demonstrated and discussed.

- Regional Project on Focusing Resources on School Health (Dr Lucille C Gregorio, UNESCO APREB)

Dr Lucille C Gregorio of UNESCO presented an inter-agency initiative within the over-all framework of developing child-friendly learning environments. Water and sanitation in schools is not only a core element for a healthy learning environment; it can also be adopted as a starting point for dealing with social and developmental concerns. The relative effectiveness of some strategies, such as ensuring effective partnerships among teachers, health workers and school officials as well as the community was discussed.

### **Presentation of Country Experiences**

The importance of school health, sanitation and hygiene in supporting initiatives for education quality improvement was underlined in 11 country reports presented by each delegation. Significant learnings were shared among the participants. Active discussion of the country experiences yielded ideas for improving current initiatives as experienced in the different countries.

The sharing of experiences and exemplary cases of national initiatives on improving water and sanitation services in schools provided the backdrop for more detailed discussions on identifying projects at the levels of the school, country and the region to address needs and concerns relating to water and sanitation in schools and how the schools can be an entry point for sensitizing the communities to undertake sustainable community-based water and sanitation interventions.

### **Project Development Group Session**

Having taken stock and reviewed the experiences of the countries and organizations represented, the project development workshop component consolidated the experiences and organizational concerns relating to water and sanitation in schools. Two workshop groups were organized to first identify key water, health and sanitation concerns in schools in their respective countries and identify priority projects at the national, sub-regional and regional levels that are meant to address these concerns. Capsule proposals were prepared by each group and they were presented and discussed in the plenary session.

The recommended projects identified by both groups share some elements which can be integrated to form a single set of activities in a regional framework.

The proposals were adopted by the Workshop in plenary session, calling on UNICEF, WSSCC and SEAMEO to further develop the recommended actions and mobilize resources for the projects. The group will advocate for cooperation from the ministries/agencies they represent on the projects identified. The body pledged to continue sharing information and networking among the organizers and the participants.

## Final Plenary and Adoption of Workshop Recommendations

The final plenary session featured the presentation and discussion of the group outputs. The body recommended that, given the common features of both proposals, the suggested projects be integrated as a single set of projects identified and recommended by the regional workshop.

The two groups focused on two major tracks in putting together ideas for projects supporting the goal of increased awareness of water and sanitation issues among schools and mobilizing the communities served by the schools to undertake sustained water and sanitation interventions. One group focused on actions at the national and regional levels, providing an expansive framework for sharing of knowledge, experiences and building on the identified exemplars in the participating countries. Another group tackled discrete measures for addressing water and sanitation concerns, identifying specific activities/projects that may be conducted under the broad framework for cooperation on water and sanitation in schools and communities.

Dr TV Luong also presented the draft workshop recommendations developed by the workshop groups. The body proposed some amendments, and unanimously adopted the Workshop Recommendations. The Workshop Recommendations adopted is on Appendix 1.

## Closing Formalities

Speaking on behalf of the workshop participants, **Dr Domingos De Sousa**, Director General of Education of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste expressed thanks to the organizers for the assistance to the participants and the efficient conduct of the workshop. He noted the good practices and ideas gained in the consultative workshop and his Ministry's desire to collaborate with the different parties represented in implementing some of the ideas shared during the workshop.

**Dr Deepak Bajacharya** of UNICEF Myanmar enjoined the participants to give a vote of thanks to the workshop organizers as he shared the sentiments expressed by the other participants. He reminded the body of the challenges that lay ahead. He took particular note of the good cooperation between the UNICEF Country Offices and the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office which made their participation in the consultative workshop possible.

**Dr Somei Kojima**, Chief Advisor of the JICA-Mahidol University Asian Centre of International Parasite Control (JICA ACIPAC) gave some remarks during the closing session. He noted the potentials of the group to serve as the core network for promoting not only water, hygiene and sanitation., but also several other school-based health interventions. He cited the achievements made by ACIPAC in the field through its cooperation with different countries in the region on school-based deworming of children aiming at reducing the intestinal worm infections among children.

Dr Kojima cited the potentials of the schools for effective disease-prevention and noted the start of productive collaboration among the stakeholder institutions represented in the Consultative Workshop.

Representing WSSCC, **Dr Lilia O Ramos** impressed on the group the need to continue advocacy for water, hygiene and sanitation in and through schools. She cited the Bangkok-based organizers for the effort made in preparing for the Consultative Workshop and her appreciation for the continued cooperation with SEAMEO.

**Dr TV Luong** gave some closing remarks on behalf of UNICEF EAPRO. She expressed her appreciation to the participants for such hard work and dedication to produce a solid set of recommendations. The bigger challenge that lies ahead is convincing other parties, institutions and donors to support the project. She also expressed appreciation for the UNICEF country offices that provided support for the participants.

The SEAMEO Secretariat Director, **Dr Arief S Sadiman**, taking off from the remarks made by the representatives of the cooperating institutions, underlined that the consultative workshop is but the first step, but it was a very important step made. He further outlined the collaboration between WSSCC, UNICEF and SEAMEO, particularly in the detailed development of the projects identified during the Consultative workshop. He also cited the cooperation of the SEAMEO Centres and Network on Tropical Medicine and Public Health as well as the representatives of the Ministries of Education for their contributions in the success of the consultative workshop.

# APPENDICES

## **Workshop Recommendations**

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Secretariat, The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) have joined forces to accelerate action towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation as articulated at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002.

A 3-day consultative workshop was organised from 16 to 18 June in Bangkok to introduce the WASH Project to the key stakeholders, take stock of current projects and identify/develop the specific areas for collaboration among the participating institutions.

In concluding the three-day workshop, the participants have adopted the following recommendations:

Adoption of the slogan for promotion of WASH in and through schools to reflect the spirit in which the consultative workshop deliberations were made:

Water for life  
Sanitation for human dignity  
Hygiene education  
for a better future for all

1. Countries in the region are facing huge challenge to improve water supply and sanitation. Immediate actions are needed to be taken by all stakeholders.
2. Schools are effective outreach channels to the communities for effecting behaviour change.
3. Government policy and resource commitments are needed to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals relating to Water and Sanitation.
4. Effective inter-sector and inter-ministry collaboration and coordination especially between the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and other ministries responsible for water resources and management, with clear responsibilities and accountabilities at all levels are needed to promote WASH in and through schools.
5. Nationwide social mobilization at all levels is needed to ensure values formation and behaviour change towards promoting household water security, safe water and improved sanitation in schools as well as desirable hygiene practices.



6. International cooperation and networking should be strengthened through exchanges of information and experience between countries and among regions on promotion WASH in and through schools.
7. In support of the above recommendations, specific project actions at the national, sub-regional and regional levels have been identified for further development and for SEAMEO, UNICEF and WSSCC to seek support from other partners.

**SEAMEO UNICEF WSSCC  
Consultative Workshop on Promoting  
“WASH in and through Schools”**

**PROPOSED PROJECTS**

**WORKSHOP GROUP I**

**Regional Project 1: Development of a Regional Network on Water Sanitation and Hygiene In and Through Schools and Communities**

The proposed project addresses the issue of mobilizing community involvement. The project will be organized on the regional level but will also involve the agencies in the country to work together as part of a team. The project will ensure the possibility of opening this regional network to other networks, to showcase as well as learn from other regions to enrich both our knowledge and the knowledge in other regions.

**Goal:**

To develop a regional network on water sanitation and hygiene in and through schools and communities to strengthen countries to accelerate achieving the millennium goals on water and sanitation.

**Objectives:**

- To have a means for different institutions/ agencies/countries to interact more closely in sharing ideas, experiences and other information related to school health and sanitation
- To identify activities or projects that will benefit all countries through the exchange of expertise
- To scale up existing country projects to ensure sustainability.

**Components:**

- Information sharing
- Institutional and capacity building
- Materials development
- Monitoring and Evaluation.

**Institutions Involved (national):**

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Appropriate government units concerned with water supply and management and sanitation services
- Non-Government Organizations

**Mode of Implementation:**

Following the structure of the government concerned, (such as in decentralized countries it will take place at the sub-national level with planning and guidelines from central government), information distribution will be done through various levels/units of government to reach people and communities in the participating. Focal points in charge of the network will serve as with extensions of the regional network for information distribution as well as guide implementation of specific projects in their countries.

**Sub-Regional Projects**

- Community-based public health engineering
- Providing proper expertise and guidance regarding public health engineering activities for school sanitation – to fill a gap in existing teams.
- Advocacy for rural areas
- Priority for provision of sanitation/water supply should be given to poor, isolated rural areas

**Country Level Projects**

- Advocacy for development of government guidelines/ laws/ legislation/ enforcement/ policies
- Advocacy for policies and sufficient budget allocation for water, sanitation and health (including school health) management from the government.
- Curriculum improvement, textbook development , teacher training (in-service and pre-service)
- Resource Mobilization/Allocation
- Government should advocate to donors/ community/ private sectors for resource mobilization
- Promoting collaboration and coordination between ministries and partner organizations
  - Make clear responsibilities and accountabilities at national and sub-national levels
- Community/Teacher/Parent/Student Involvement in Promoting and Supporting Water and Sanitation in Schools and the Community

- Identify roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved.
- Social Mobilization
  - Tool development (e.g. water test kits) for social communication
    - Dual use - test water safety and behavioural change
  - Production of promotional materials
  - Involvement of Media
  - Capacity building of the advocates (promoters)
  - School-based deworming of children
  - Promotion of hand washing with soap
- Tool Development/Technology Development
- Exploring different technical options for water supply and sanitation
  - e.g. rain water tank, latrines.
- Monitoring and Evaluation
  - Integrated into the program from the planning stage through implementation. Well-constructed, two-way monitoring mechanisms where information flows up and support flows down.

**Regional Project 2:** Regional advocacy for community/school involvement in river water quality protection (explain to the people how to protect their resources against deforestation)

## **WORKSHOP GROUP II**

**Regional Project:** Support for Capacity Building at the Regional Level

**Scope:** Southeast Asia and participating countries (China, Mongolia and Timor-Leste)

**Issues to be Addressed:**

- Need for coordinated and systematic planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Policy and advocacy for water, health and sanitation issues
- Development and promotion of appropriate technologies on WASH facilities
- Training of trainers on teaching methods for WASH in schools
- Mobilizing stakeholders participation in WASH

**Goal:**

To enhance the capability of major stakeholders to promote WASH in schools

**Objectives:**

- To reinforce national initiatives in promoting WASH in schools.

- To share experiences on best practices from the region
- To enhance mutual support and cooperation among participating countries.

**Institutions involved:**

- Government, international development agencies and NGOs
- Private sectors
- Teachers; parents; community leaders
- Civil society and community organizations

**Mode of implementation:**

- Training
- Workshops
- Conferences
- Study visits

**Project 1: Strengthening “WASH” in Schools through Regional Exchanges**

**Issues to be addressed:**

- Problems of coordination among ministries/sectors involved
- Need to integrate WASH values
- Emphasizing “show-how” in sharing “know-how”

**Objective:** To aid in promoting WASH through national and regional exchanges

**Institutions:** Ministries of Education, Health, NGOs, Youth/community organizations

**Implementation:**

- Exchange visits of policy makers, media personalities, WASH advocates
- Campaign for a “WASH” day (school, district, national, regional)
- Evaluation

**Project 2: Development of a Regional “WASH” Website**

**Scope:** SEA plus China, Mongolia and Timor Leste

**Issue Addressed:** Inadequate access to information

**Goal:** Develop a one stop regional information source for “WASH” in schools

**Objectives:**

- To provide a medium for information exchange
- To document best practices
- To serve as information source for planning, monitoring and evaluation; fund raising and advocacy

**Content/Types of Information:**

- “WASH” profile of schools/countries
- IEC materials
- Appropriate technologies
- Inventory of experts

**Institutions:** MOE, MOH, SEAMEO, UNICEF, WSSCC

**Implementation:**

- Design and development
- Data collection
- Information/data uploading and maintenance

**Project 3: Promotion of rainwater as water supply for “wash” in schools**

**Locale/Scope:**

Resource disadvantaged mountainous areas; areas with peat soil/low pH, contaminated soil, and with small amount of rainfall of SEA and participating countries.

**Issue Addressed:**

Inadequate resources in remote areas where government or local institutions can not provide/support water supply (drinking and sanitation)

**Goal:**

To promote rain water as a water supply for remote areas

**Institutions involved:**

UNICEF, WSSCC, UNESCO, SEAMEO, UN HABITAT, WHO, MOE, MOH

**Implementation:**

- Pilot implementation and scaling up of rain water collection and management projects for domestic/school water
- Adopt technology from a successful project w/ improvements to suit local culture and conditions
- Monitor and evaluate performance of system
- Socialize system and implement to a larger scale
- Re-evaluate implementation

**Project 4: School health based intestinal parasite prevention and control****Scope:**

Selected primary schools in a number of districts in participating countries

**Issues Addressed:**

- Need to strengthen intestinal parasite control among children; majority of school age children in ASEAN countries are infected with intestinal parasites
- Need for awareness and understanding of the causes and methods of prevention; majority of them are not aware of causes of infection
- Quality improvements; has Implications on learning class performance. Infected children tend to be malnourished, anemic, slow learners

**Goal:**

Improve health status of school children

**Objectives:**

- Reduce infection rate among school children
- Support/encourage health behavior change
- Improve sanitary environment and facilities

**Institutions involved:** MOE, MOH, UNICEF, WHO, SEAMEO, NGO

**Implementation:**

- Coordinate implementation teams (national/ provincial/ district/ school)
- Conduct of baseline survey
- Provision of treatment

- Provision of sanitary facilities
- Development of IEC materials, Instruction (Training and Health education)
- Monitoring and evaluation



**Workshop Programme**

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<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	
<b>15 June 2004</b>	Arrival of Participants Check-in at Windsor Hotel/Windsor Suites	
<b>16 June 2004</b>		
0800	Departure from Hotel	
0830	Registration (Foyer)	
0900	<b>OPENING FORMALITIES</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening Remarks</li></ul>	Dr Lilia O Ramos Coordinator for Southeast Asia, WSSCC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome Remarks</li></ul>	Dr Arief S Sadiman Director, SEAMEO Secretariat
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-Introduction of Participants</li></ul>	
1000	Morning Tea Break	
1030	<b>Session I Overview and Case Presentation</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of Workshop</li><li>• Case Presentation</li><li>• Open Discussion</li></ul>	Dr T V Luong UNICEF EAPRO
1230	Lunch Break (Cafeteria)	
1400	<b>Session II – Country Presentations</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cambodia</li><li>• China</li><li>• Indonesia</li></ul>	

Date/Time	Activity	
1500	Afternoon Tea Break	
1520	Session II – Country Presentations (Cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lao PDR</li> <li>• Myanmar</li> <li>• Malaysia</li> <li>• Mongolia</li> </ul>	
<b>17 June 2004</b>		
0830	Departure from Hotel	
0900	Session II (Continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thailand</li> <li>• Timor-Leste</li> <li>• Vietnam</li> <li>• Philippines (Case Presentations)</li> </ul>	
1015	Morning Tea Break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Case Presentation: FRESH – Focusing Resources on Effective School Health</li> </ul>	Dr Lucille C Gregorio UNESCO Bangkok
1100	<b>Session III – Workshop</b> Workshop Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop Group Sessions</li> <li>Group I Conference Room (5<sup>th</sup> Floor)</li> <li>Group II SEAMEO Secretariat Conference Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)</li> </ul>	T V Luong / B E Benozza
1230	Lunch Break (Cafeteria)	
1330	Session III – Workshop (Continued)	
1530	Afternoon Tea Break	
1600	Session III – Workshop (Continued)	

Date/Time	Activity
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**18 June 2004**

0830	Departure from Hotel
0900	<b>Session IV Workshop Presentations</b>
	Plenary: Presentation of Workshop Outputs
1030	Morning Tea Break
	Remarks from Invited Agencies/Institutions
	• ACIPAC

**WORKSHOP SUMMARY and CLOSING FORMALITIES**

1130	• Workshop Summation	Dr T V Luong UNICEF EAPRO
	• Remarks	Dr Stephen J Atwood, M.D Regional Advisor, Health and Nutrition UNICEF EAPRO
	• Statements from the Participants	Dr Domingos De Sousa Director-General of Education Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports  Timor-Leste Dr Deepak Bajracharya Chief, Water and Environmental Sanitation UNICEF
	• Concluding Statement	Dr Arief S Sadiman Director SEAMEO Secretariat
1230	Lunch Free Period	

**List of Participants**

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