

Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (Urban) – Western Region

Event Summary

As part of the study undertaken by TERI University, along with TERI and Coca Cola on Urban Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), a Regional Stakeholder Consultation Workshop for the Western Region was held at Ahmedabad, on 18th February 2016. This study is being funded by USAID and explores all issues and challenges in implementing WASH projects in urban areas. The one-day workshop was conducted in order to facilitate experience-sharing, cross-fertilization of ideas, and to bring out key challenges and explore implementable solutions in the region.

The workshop commenced with a welcome address by Dr S K Sarkar, Distinguished Fellow and Director, TERI. He highlighted the recent survey, *Swachh Sarvekshan 2016*, in which 73 cities of India were ranked in terms of cleanliness. He emphasized that such initiatives act as a motivation for the municipal workers and people of the city. The Western Region has done very well in this survey and many cities from this region have received high ranks. He also mentioned about the targets of newly launched Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and efforts required to achieve them. Dr Girija Bharat gave an introduction to workshop and gave an insight about the various project components. She further mentioned how the deliberations of all the Stakeholder



Consultation Workshops will be synthesized and fed in to the State of WASH Report, which is under preparation. Mr. Anand Rudra, Senior Project Management Specialist, Water & Sanitation, USAID delivered a Special Address in the inaugural session. He deliberated about the MoU between USAID and Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). He also mentioned that this project in association with Coca Cola, TERI University and TERI, aims at strengthening of knowledge in Urban WASH, its implementation in Kolkata and Chennai, and collation of good practices from all over India. Mr Rudra also mentioned about the AMRUT and Smart City initiatives and its intricate linkages with the SBM. He expressed the uniqueness of the policies wherein cities will be funded only after evaluation of their progress with respect to *Swachh Bharat Mission*. He also lauded and appreciated the dynamic efforts of TERI University and TERI in the execution of this project. Ms Poonam Kaur, Manager CSR & Sustainability, Coca-Cola India, gave a Special Address and stated that water is an integral part of Coca-Cola's work both from the business and sustainability perspectives. She talked about the "Support My School" initiatives of Coca-Cola in providing access of WASH services to schoolgirls. Fifty percent people who practice open defecation all over the world reside in our country and therefore solutions should work across the sectors. She also mentioned that Water and Sanitation is not only an

engineering issue but also a social one. Infrastructure problem is not the only problem but behavioral change is also a challenge. In the inaugural session a Policy Brief titled **'Swachh Bharat Mission Towards Cleaning India: A Policy Perspective'** was also unveiled and distributed amongst the stakeholders.



The first technical session on *"Strategies Undertaken towards Open Defecation Free Communities"* had three presentations from Mr. Sanjay Joshi, Shanti Life Foundation; Dr. Meera Mehta, CEPT University, and Mr. Anurag Anthony, Urban Management Centre, Ahmedabad. Mr Sanjay talked about his NGO's effort to encourage women to construct household

toilets and graduate them out of microfinance to make them bankable. Dr. Meera spoke about the initiatives of Government of Maharashtra (GoM) in creating Open Defecation Free (ODF) cities. She mentioned that merely having a toilet at home doesn't imply ODF, proper disposal and treatment of sewerage is also essential, hence the GoM has also introduced ODF+ and ODF++ concepts for stronger sanitation services. Mr Anurag spoke about the works of UMC in encouraging ODF slums in Gujarat, and he gave examples of their survey in Talaja City on existing sanitation situation.

Stakeholders' views on WASH issues, challenges and potential solutions were discussed in the second technical session. In this session Prof V M Chariar, IIT Delhi, gave a presentation on his technological innovations that can help save water and utilize the nutrients of sewage water. Some of the technologies included water-less toilets, non-polluting dry toilets, and zero discharge bio-toilets. The second presentation was by Mr Vinod Gadewar, Ion Exchange Pvt. Ltd. and he gave possible technological options for treatment and reuse of wastewater in decentralized STPs. Mr Swapnil Chaturvedi, SAMAGRA, gave the last presentation of the session and described the efforts of his NGO in delivering "Awesome Toilet Experience" in slums of Pune. They have reconstructed the existing community toilets and introduced a model wherein people can receive cash/kind benefits from using the toilets.

Ms Meena Bilgi, UNEP Asia Pacific, Alternate-Sustainable Consumption and Production, chaired the concluding session of the Workshop, which was a brainstorming session with active deliberations and discussions for probable solutions and recommendations. During the discussions it was highlighted that a proper framework needs to be developed for Public-Private Partnership, which should be based on trust and accountability. It should include profit-making models for private investors and beneficial efforts for the public. Government should also take initiatives for scaling up sustainable solutions, which have been successful at pilot scale. It should do away with its risk averse behavior to encourage small start-ups. Further, it was stated that definition of ODF shouldn't be limited to toilet construction and proper networking of

sewerage system should also be included in it. In conclusion it was mentioned that capacities and capabilities of Municipalities need to be enhanced along with efficient governance.

