

Third World Urban Forum, Vancouver 2006

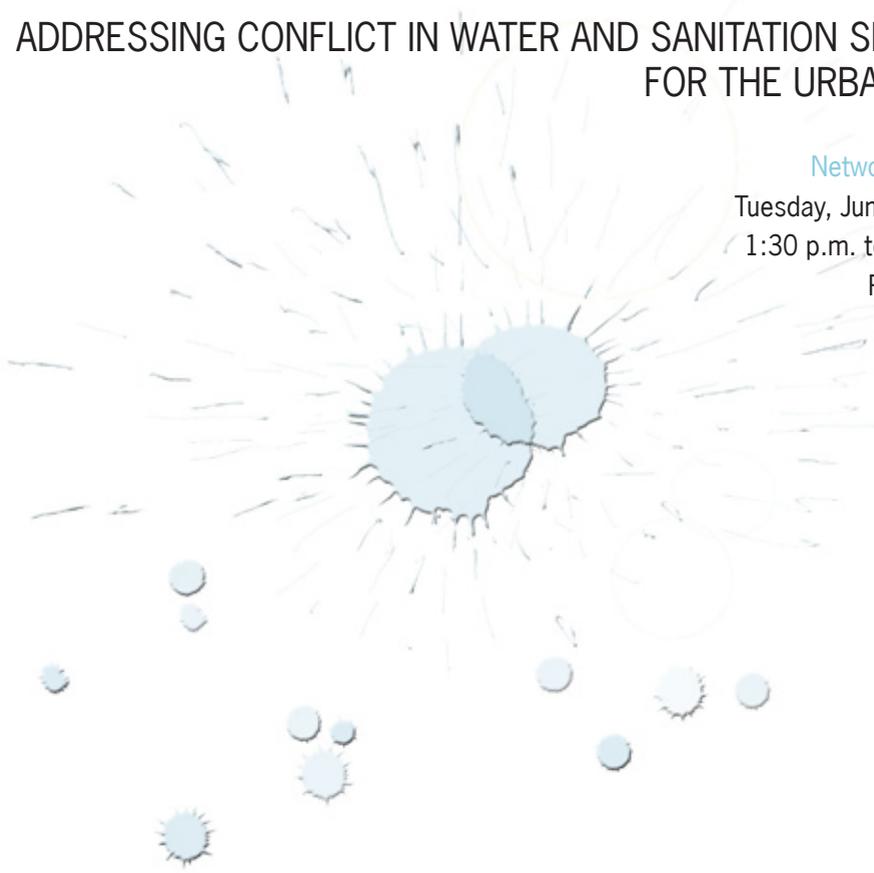
ADDRESSING CONFLICT IN WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES FOR THE URBAN POOR

Networking Event

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Room MR18



Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
developpement international

ADDRESSING CONFLICT IN WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES FOR THE URBAN POOR



Photo: Anna Tufvesson

The delivery of adequate water supply and sanitation services to the urban poor poses a special challenge for developing-country governments and institutions. Exploding population growth, increased demand, crumbling infrastructure, limited financial resources, and weak institutions combine to create a picture in which the health, livelihoods, and overall well-being of millions are being compromised. In an increasing context of decentralized service delivery, city and municipal authorities grapple with the need for system rehabilitation and extension, legislative reform, stronger institutional capacity, and the challenge of cost recovery. The poor, often in informal settlements, seek their own solutions, some innovative, but many expensive and unreliable, with attendant environmental and health risks.

This networking event focuses on the types of conflicts that can easily emerge in such compromised circumstances. These may occur at the policy level or among national and municipal governments, and various user groups or catchment areas. They may arise as a result of particular management or ownership arrangements, revenue collection strategies, water quality problems, or loss of access to resources. All affect the urban poor most harshly.

THIS NETWORKING EVENT WILL ADDRESS SPECIFIC CONFLICT SITUATIONS ARISING IN INDIA, SOUTH AFRICA, VIETNAM, ZIMBABWE AND MOZAMBIQUE, AND THE ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THEM.

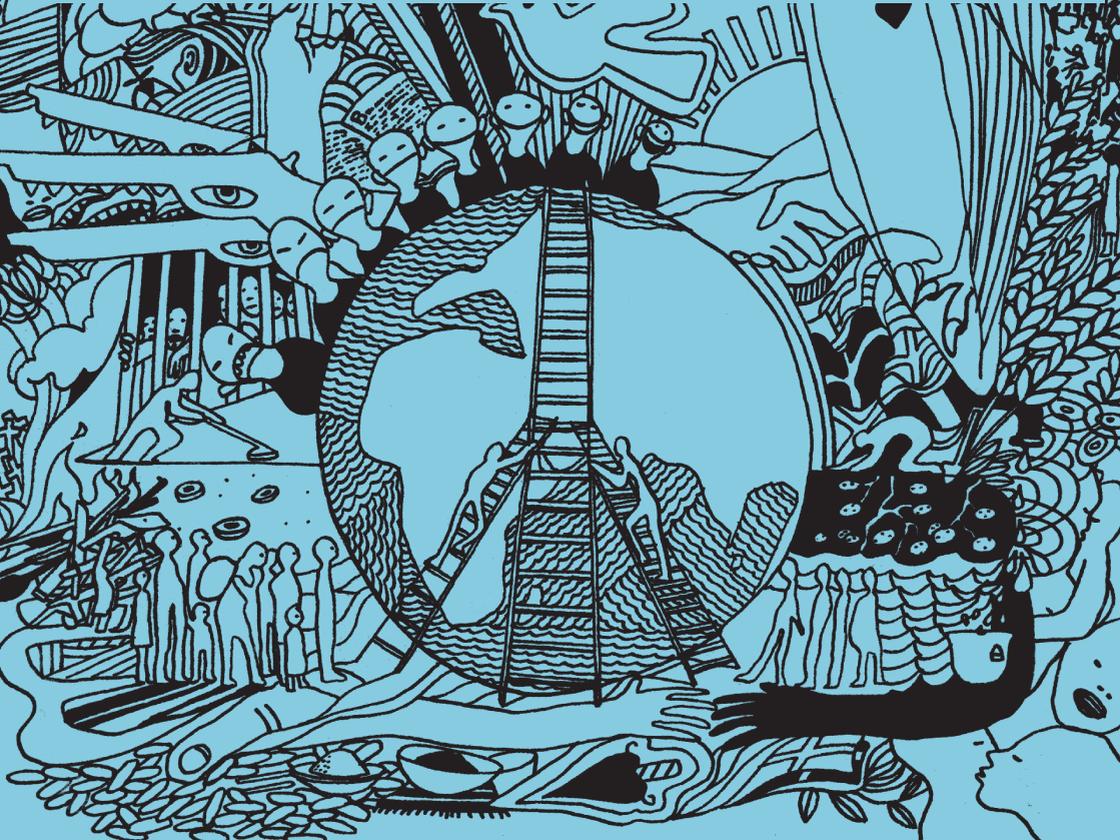


Illustration: Jesper Waldersten

DR. SRINIVASAN JANAKARAJAN

PROFESSOR, MADRAS INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, CHENNAI, INDIA

URBAN WATER CONFLICTS IN INDIAN CITIES

Dr. Janakarajan's particular interests lie in water management, emerging water management challenges in south Asia, competing demands for water, and multi-stakeholders' dialogue.

A typical problem in many growing urban areas in the developing world is the overuse of the aquifer under the city, forcing consumers and providers to go elsewhere for water. The immediate and most flexible response is to use tankers to haul water from nearby villages, but this can create conflicts in those villages. For example, villagers near Chennai competed with the city for water for agricultural production, which led to aquifer overuse in the villages. Some villagers also started to sell the common aquifer water, affecting the whole community.



MS. REFILWE PITSO

WATER MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT, MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, SOUTH AFRICA

THE URBAN TRANSITION: THE LAND QUESTION IN RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION, SOUTH AFRICA

Ms. Pitso has 11 years' experience in the water and sanitation sector, including work for South Africa's largest water board; the national local government association; municipalities; and donor agencies. In the course of this work, she has been involved in troubleshooting many issues such as water tariffs and allocation, system breakdowns, and clashes between institutions and consumer groups. The latter includes the conflict experienced in the Winterveldt water and sanitation provision project, where plot owners hindered supply of water service to tenant households residing in their plots.



PRESENTERS



DR. BEKITHEMBA GUMBO

MANAGER, WATERNET OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

WATER MANAGEMENT IN TOWNS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Dr. Gumbo has worked on water management in many towns in southern Africa, including Mutare in Zimbabwe. A conflict over water supply between Mutare and neighbouring Mozambique was addressed through a joint river management project. However, the increased water supply in Mutare, together with poor maintenance, led to extensive pipe breakages. Moreover, local political agendas influenced the water supply, resulting in a water system that has the potential to be an invaluable service, but is in fact causing physical and economic problems in and around the town.



DR. RANJITH PERERA

DIRECTOR, SOUTH EAST ASIA URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS PROJECT, THAILAND

ADDRESSING POLLUTION-RELATED CONFLICTS THROUGH A COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Dr. Perera works in urban environmental management in South East Asia. In many Asian cities, rapid population growth has exceeded the capacity of municipal authorities to respond to uncontrolled disposal of solid wastes in open spaces, resulting in land, water, and air pollution. Solid-waste management is a serious problem in suburban Hanoi, Vietnam. A demonstration project in the Vinh Quynh commune tests the feasibility of using solid-waste separation and composting to eliminate conflicts over water use.

MODERATOR



MR. BONIFACE N. C. GONDWE

ACTING DIRECTOR, WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES, MALAWI MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Gondwe is a civil engineer with more than 22 years' experience in urban and rural water supply services development and in project management. As Acting Director of Water and Sanitation Services at the Malawi Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development, Mr. Gondwe is directly responsible for technical oversight of the boards that provide water services in the country's urban centres

RAPPORTEUR



MR. FREDRIK THOMASSON

JOURNALIST AND HISTORIAN

Mr. Thomasson is a consultant who has worked extensively on water issues and development for organizations such as Sida, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), and the World Bank. He specializes in conflict analysis and issues concerning water and conflict management. Mr. Thomasson presently works as a researcher at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

HOST ORGANIZATIONS

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA)

CIDA is the official development agency of the Government of Canada. Its mandate is to support sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable, and prosperous world.

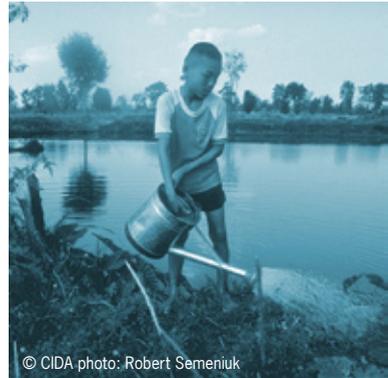
www.cida-acdi.gc.ca

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (Sida)

The role of Sida is to assist in creating optimal conditions that help poor people and countries in their struggle to reduce poverty. This mission includes providing contributions for economic growth, democracy, and equality between women and men.

www.sida.se

Water and sanitation are key programming areas for both CIDA and Sida. Their project partners have, collectively, a wealth of experience in addressing a variety of water and sanitation issues, including those pertaining to conflicts and disputes among stakeholders in urban areas.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Photo: Lars Roberts



Photo: George de Goijer

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