

Environment and Sustainable Development News

Volume 4, Number 4, December 2004

ISSN 1020-8968



Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005

UNESCAP organized the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005 (MCED) in Bangkok from 29 to 30 November 2004. The Meeting was attended participants from 30 member countries as well as 10 international organizations.

In his opening statement, Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director, Environment and Sustainable Development Division of UNESCAP, elaborated the theme of the Conference, namely "Achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific", highlighting the need for more environmentally sustainable consumption and production patterns, appropriate use

of economic instruments and the use of environmental sustainability and performance indices, as well as the promotion of the perspective that environmental protection could be approached as a business opportunity and a driver of economic growth.

The Meeting was an important step in the preparatory process for MCED 2005. It reviewed the draft summary report on the state of the environment and supported the focus and content of the report. Recommendations were made for further revision of the report.

The secretariat presented the synthesized outcomes of the five subregional preparatory meeting for the MCED 2005. The Meeting supported the outcomes of

these meetings and emphasized the importance of appropriate implementation of these initiatives in the post-Conference period.

The Meeting reviewed the draft documentation for the MCED, including the implementation review of and action plan for the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, assessment of progress in the promotion of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, the Ministerial Declaration, the Regional Implementation Plan, and the programme for MCED. Suggestions were made on further development or revision of these draft documents.

For further information on this Meeting, please visit the

Water for Life: A Decade for Action

The World Water Day 2005 on 22 March marks the beginning of a decade dedicated to action under the title "Water for Life" as proclaimed by the UN General Assembly.

Most people in the Asia-Pacific region have little choice but to use potentially harmful sources of water. The World Water Day is part of a continuing initiative to promote access to safe drinking water supply and sanitation. It is a springboard for raising awareness about water, stimulating debate and focusing on dangers that derive from inadequate management of water and sanitation.

The next ten years from 2005 to 2015 are going to be very

critical: the time has come for intensifying advocacy efforts. Good news is that with 83 % coverage, the world is on track to meet the MDG target for drinking water. However, much work still needs to be done in the UNESCAP region. Progress in sanitation has been slow, with an estimated 2.6 billion people worldwide still living without improved sanitation facilities. In South Asia, the sanitation situation is critical.

An important task for UNESCAP is to identify relevant water and sanitation policies and legislations and apply these policies in places where they are still absent. Furthermore, it is important to raise stakeholder aware-

ness of the dangers of water-related disasters and their impacts on the economy. In general there is a need to push the authorities to provide better services, influence local and national policies, and make the authorities accountable for their actions and services provided. The linkage between water, sanitation and hygiene in relation to health and environment is also important and must be promoted. Concerning the private sector, institutional and management arrangements should be created to ensure that the involvement of the private sector in response to disasters disrupting water supply and sanitation infrastructure.

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Intergovernmental Meeting on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia: Task Force on Energy

The first session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia: Task Force on Energy (TFE) met in Khabarovsk, the Russian Federation, on 2 and 3 December 2004. The TFE was attended by Government officials from China (observer), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation. The meeting was hosted by the Khabarovsk Territory Government and opened by H.E. Mr. Vladimir Popov, First Vice-Governor on construction, fuel, and energy complex of the Khabarovsk Krai.

The meeting was held in response to a request by an earlier meeting of senior government officials of North-East Asia in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, in April 2003. At that meeting,



a draft Collaborative Framework on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia was adopted, and the senior officials requested ESCAP to establish a Task Force in order to further review and refine the framework for energy cooperation.

The TFE focused its discussion on

the modality of the cooperation framework and proposed the following areas of work for further discussion in terms of contents and prioritization: (a) energy planning and policy; (b) investment policies; (c) electricity development and interconnection; (d) transit of fossil fuel; (e) energy efficiency; and (f) renewable energy including hydropower. The TFE also discussed on the institutional arrangements and recommended to establish a Senior Officials Committee as well as Working Groups. More details will be discussed at the second session of the TFE scheduled for early April 2005 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The Government of the Republic of Korea deserves our sincere appreciation for providing financial and technical support to this initiative.

Concluding Regional Workshop on Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources

On 24-26 November 2004, the Concluding Regional Workshop on Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources was held in Bangkok, Thailand, as the final activity under the project "Capacity-building in strategic planning and management of natural resources in Asia and the Pacific". The project launched in 2000 has focused on human resources and institutional capacity building through a series of expert, workshop and training events at regional, subregional and national levels followed by national studies on the application of Strategic Planning and Management to policy or institutional development.

The Workshop was attended by officials from government agencies responsible for environment, energy, national and water policies. Representatives from United Nations agencies, academic institutions and subregional organizations also participated in the Workshop.

The Workshop was held to: (1) share experiences on the concept and application potential of the strategic planning and management approach to national and institutional policy making; (2) identify options for sustaining the strategic planning and management

approach at national levels; and (3) establish or strengthen regional and national strategic planning and management networks.

Some of the benefits of the project, as acknowledged by the Workshop, include the increased level of stakeholders' involvement in the policymaking process and the opportunity for a critical review of existing policies and institutional arrangements in achieving the goals of sustainable development. The Workshop also recognized the challenges to sustaining efforts to apply SPM, including the lack of human resources and institutional capacity to sustain the process and the need to secure high-level political support to overcome institutional barriers to applying SPM.

The Workshop formulated a number of strategies for sustaining efforts to apply SPM at the national level, which included suggested actions for most countries to promote the SPM process, for agencies at different levels and sectors to improve collaboration and coordination, and for continued emphasis on capacity-building at all levels.

The Workshop considered measures and options for using networks to

sustain SPM efforts. Participants identified the benefits of the networks that were established during the implementation of SPM activities and felt the need to strengthen existing regional and subregional networks for better access to and exchange of information. The Workshop requested UNESCAP to continue promoting networking with participating member governments as well as interested international organizations/agencies and subregional organizations for SPM application.

The Workshop acknowledged that subregional organizations and international organizations/agencies have contributed substantively to advocating and providing technical and financial assistance on SPM as a tool for planning and managing sustainable development policies as well as achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and recommended that they continue to play an active role. Efforts should be made to involve other international bodies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the South Asian association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as well as linking activities to collaborate with relevant centres of excellence.

Two Subregional Preparatory Meetings for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005

Two Subregional Preparatory Meetings for the MCED 2005 were held respectively for the Central Asia and North-West Asia subregion on 7-8 October 2004 in Istanbul, Turkey and for the Pacific subregion on 21-22 October 2004 in Apia, Samoa. Both Meetings were attended by participants nominated by the Governments of the subregions as well as relevant international and subregional organizations. The objectives of the two Meetings were: (1) to share views on and inputs to the subregional chapters of state of the environment report 2005, particularly with respect to environmental challenges in the subregion; (2) to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in the post-WSSD implementation process in the subregion and to discuss and strategize how to integrate economic growth and environmental sustainability; and (3) to review and identify strategic initiatives at the regional and subregional levels to promote sustainable development.

The Meetings generally supported the proposed theme of MCED 2005, "Achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific". The Pacific Subregional Meeting stressed the need for a theme paper elaborating options and strategies towards achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth. Both Meetings supported the participation of officials from the ministries of development and finance in addition to the environment, in the Conference so that integration of economic and development issues could be discussed in depth.

The Meetings reviewed the draft subregional chapters of the state of the environment report and made suggestions for their further revision.

The Central Asia and North-West Asia Subregional Meeting noted that devising an appropriate Environmental Sustainability Index was very important for assessing the progress made towards achieving sustainable develop-

ment taking into consideration regional and subregional situations.

The Pacific Subregional Meeting recognized that small size, geographical isolation, low level of economic development, economies of scale, and vulnerability to natural disasters and outside markets, lack of financial resources and technological know-how were the main constraints in promoting sustainable development in the subregion.

The Central Asia and North-West Subregional Meeting welcomed the ADB-led initiative for land management in Central Asia. The Pacific Subregional Meeting identified "sustainable community lifestyles in the Pacific Island Countries" as the initiative for implementation planning, with focus on adaptation to impacts of climate change, eco-tourism, and resource management.

For more information regarding the two Meetings, please visit the website at www.unescap.org/mced.

Bringing Safe Water to a Small Community in Colombo

Until recently, the whole community of 3,500 people in Halgahakumbura have shared water supplies by queuing for hours each day at eight stand-posts. Sanitation comprises a few shared pit latrines and two communal toilet blocks in a dilapidated condition. There are thousands of communities like this across Sri Lanka, where only 30 per cent of the population has access to piped drinking water.

The Government of Sri Lanka has identified improving access to drinking water as a priority area and aims to bring safe water to 85 per cent of its population by 2010. The corporate plan of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) has identified several priority actions to meet this target: develop community-based, demand-driven water supplies; introduce cost recovery to operate and maintain the water distribution systems; expand township and urban water supply delivery through public-private partnerships; introduce a new policy to rationalize water tariffs to better reflect economic costs and

phase out high cross-subsidies; establish water consumer societies; and improve water supply, sanitation, health and welfare facilities. It is in the con-



text of these guiding principles that UNESCAP has been developing the first pro-poor, public-private-community-partnership for bringing piped water and house connections to every home in Halgahakumbura.

A key to the success of the project was the selection of a community that demonstrated its greatest need being access to piped water and a willingness

to pay for an affordable and reliable water supply. The major contribution to the project's achievements were made by Sevanatha Urban Resources Center, a Colombo-based NGO. Apart from this being the first public-private partnership in the water supply sector in Sri Lanka, other project innovations include persuading the poor to pay for piped water supplies that were previously provided free by stand-post.

Although the private sector company only took over full management responsibility of the water supply project at the end of November, Jagath Godakumbura, Managing Director of Petra Engineering Services Ltd. is pleased that so far everyone connected to the system is already paying for their water used. If the project continues to succeed, NWSDB is hopeful that this innovative pro-poor PPP model can be replicated in some of the other 1500 tenement gardens in Colombo, which are currently served by free water delivered at stand-posts.

Seventh Thematic Seminar on Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Urban Environmental Management: Strengthening the Implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative

The Seventh Thematic Seminar on Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Urban Environmental Management: Strengthening the Implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative was held on 13-14 December in Bangkok. The Seminar was co-organized by UNESCAP, the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan, and Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES). Nineteen participants from 15 member cities of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network attended the Seminar.

Mr. Rea Kwon Chung, Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Division of UNESCAP, emphasized the importance of ICT as a tool for environmental management and highlighted the specific aspects to which ICT could contribute in the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative. Mr. M. Aslam Khan, Chief, Environment Section, UNESCAP, introduced the objectives of the Seminar as follows: (1) to improve participants' understanding in the use and effective-



ness of ICT in urban environmental management; (2) to assess the current status of ICT application in participating member cities; and (3) to identify future needs and actions to strengthen use of ICT in urban environmental management at the local level.

The Meeting elaborated the benefits of ICT application in urban environmental management. The current application of ICT in the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative, with a focus on its website, was noted by the Meeting.

The participants highlighted the current status of ICT applications in their respective cities. The Nonthaburi Municipality highlighted the application of the Global Positioning System in solid waste collection. The participant from Kitakyushu presented distance learning and the participant from Tehran introduced the ICT application in air quality monitoring and reporting.

A Kitakyushu Initiative discussion forum was established for presentation to the Seminar. It was emphasized that the discussion forum play a key role in the future implementation of the Initiative. A training session was conducted to train the participants in designing and improving local websites for urban environmental management. A special session was organized to give participants hands-on experience in e-learning, particularly in public participation in solid waste management. For more information on the Seminar, please visit the website at www.iges.or.jp/kitakyushu.

The Tenth Senior Officials Meeting of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation

UNESCAP organized the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and the Tenth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM 10) of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) from 24 to 26 November in Okinawa, Japan. It was hosted by the Government of Japan. The Meeting was attended by representatives from China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation as well as representatives from ADB and the World Bank.

The Meeting was opened by the honorable Minister Koike. In his opening statement, Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Division of UNESCAP, underlined the timing of the SOM 10 as opportune and important in view of the forthcoming MCED 2005 and the need for paradigm shift for achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth.



The Meeting reviewed progress and success achieved as well as expertise acquired in the implementation of the technical assistance project to support subregional activities for reduction of air pollution from coal-fired power plants. The Meeting noted with appreciation that the Central Asia is willing to utilize the training and data monitoring manuals developed under the project and to learn from the experience and knowledge of the NEASPEC air

pollution experts' work.

The Meeting appreciated the efforts of the Nature Conservation Working Group, which prepared the project proposal for a Framework for Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia. For the next two years, the Nature Conservation Project plans to study the existing threats and needs for conservation and develop a subregional strategy and action plan for the conservation of threatened felines and migratory birds with active involvement of local communities.

The Meeting underlined the importance of environmentally sustainable economic growth for the subregion and highly recommended that the subregion should further develop project activities and programmes to take the lead among the subregions, especially in promoting and developing the model of how to pursue "green growth" environment as a driver of growth and business opportunity.

Regional Energy Meeting in the Pacific: UNESCAP Proposes a Renewable Energy Capacity-Building Initiative

The Regional Energy Meeting 2004 (REM 2004), hosted by the government of Papua New Guinea, was held in Madang, Papua New Guinea, 29 November to 3 December, 2004.

Eleven Pacific Island Developing States (Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu), 5 subregional organizations (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, South Pacific Geoscience Commission, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, University of South Pacific and the Pacific Power Association), together with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UNESCAP participated in the REM 2004.

The REM 2004, which was supported financially under the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Strategic Action Planning (PIEPSAP) project funded by the Government of Denmark, and co-financed by UNESCAP, discussed salient issues pertaining to

sustainable energy development in PIDS, such as dependency on imported fuel, vulnerability to oil price fluctuations and options for increased utilization of indigenous renewable energy sources as a viable option for reducing the islands' vulnerability.

Responding to the needs expressed



ment of a clearinghouse for external training; information packages; and curriculum development and assistance.

The proposal was well received by the Meeting, which stressed that capacity building on renewable energy is an issue of importance for increasing the success of renewable energy interventions, and expressed its appreciation of UNESCAP's efforts to develop the proposal. It was agreed that the proposal, with comments as provided by the Meeting, be further developed in close collaboration between UNESCAP and members of the Energy Working Group of the Council of Organizations in the Pacific (EWG-CROP) for consideration by PIDS by mid-2005.

by PIDS, UNESCAP at the REM 2004 launched a proposal on increasing capacities of institutions in the Pacific sub-region for long-term provision of timely, relevant and targeted training on renewable energy. Main elements of the proposal include: long-term capacity-development plan; regular needs and training assessments; establish-

The REM 2004 also agreed to convene a high-level meeting as part of the subregional preparations for the 14th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will be held in May 2006. Among issues to be considered for endorsement by the high-level meeting is the Pacific Islands Energy Policy.

Seminar Discusses Policies for Further Development of Small-Scale Hydropower

The Seminar on Small Hydro Power Policies and Development was jointly organized by UNESCAP and the International Center on Small Hydro Power (IC-SHP) from 12 to 16 December 2004 at IC-SHP in Hangzhou, China.

More than 50 participants from developing countries of Asia and Africa attended the seminar. The objective of the seminar was to discuss the development of policies for promotion of small hydropower, and to improve national frameworks for development of small hydro power technologies in developing countries.

China has a long history of utilizing small hydro power, and the Government of China attaches great impor-



tance to small hydro power development. Policies and technologies developed in China have been recognized internationally. During the seminar, participants shared experiences on small hydropower policies and tech-

nologies, and were exposed to examples of small hydro power utilization in China.

In conjunction with the opening of the seminar, the Decennial Celebration of the International Network on Small Hydro Power (IN-SHP) was organized, and the Decennial Declaration on Global Small Hydro Power Development of the International Network on Small Hydro Power, Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, was adopted. It reiterated the need for renewed measures at dif-

ferent levels for the continued development of small hydropower to support sustainable development initiatives worldwide. For more information, please visit <http://www.inshp.org>.

Expert Group Meeting on Water-Use Efficiency Planning

The Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Water-Use Efficiency Planning was organized by UNESCAP in Bangkok from 26 to 28 October 2004. Seventeen participants from 12 countries attended the Meeting.

In his opening statement, Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Division of UNESCAP, noted that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation had called for the development of water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, to introduce measures for improving the efficiency of water infrastructure. In response to this call, UNESCAP had published the "Guide to Preparing Urban Water-Use Efficiency Plans".

The Guide presented at the Meeting drew attention to the importance of sound institutional and legal frameworks to incorporate water-use efficiency policies and mandates into water resource planning and development.

The participants made presentations covering various aspects of water resources development, management and planning, including water conservation and water-use efficiency in their respective countries. The following actions were identified as the key to the success of urban water-use efficiency in national and regional policy:

- Designation, where appropriate, of a responsible agency as the national focal point on water-use efficiency;
- Establishment of a legal framework and related standards for developing higher efficiency water supply systems;
- Establishment of water-efficient standards for consumer devices and fixtures;
- Metering water service and rationalization of charges based on actual cost of service taking into account the real value of water to facilitate efficient water use;
- Allocation of more funds for water efficiency measures, and placement

of a higher priority on funding water supply projects which include water-use efficiency plans or considerations;

- Promotion of the private sector's involvement in water-use efficiency projects and activities;
- Establishment of a database on water consumption patterns, breakdown by sector, as a prerequisite for drawing up effective water efficiency plans;
- Development and implementation of extensive communication models and strategies that promote sustained public awareness and education programmes;
- Documenting and disseminating information on successes and lessons learned from pilot and full-scale schemes, in order to refine future water-use efficiency planning and possible replication.

The Meeting adopted a set of recommendations for action at the national and international levels for developing water use efficiency plans and

UNESCAP Assisted Training Programme on Environmental Assessment and Monitoring in Bhutan

At the request of the National Environment Commission (NEC) of the Royal Government of Bhutan, the Regional Adviser on Environment and Sustainable Development, Dr. Pak Sum Low, served as the only external resource person for the Training Programme on Environmental Assessment and Monitoring organized by the NEC for members of 10 Dzongkhags (District) Environmental Committees (DEC) The training Programme was held on 2-12 December 2004 at Phuentsholing and was inaugurated by Deputy Minister Dashi Nado Rinchen. About 50 DEC members participated in the Training Programme. A number of resource persons from the NEC formed the core of the training team.

The following aspects were covered in their lectures:

- Environmental policy (including the participation of Bhutan in multilateral environmental agreements);
- Environmental Assessment Act 2000;
- Regulation for the Environmental



Clearance of Projects and Regulation on Strategic Environmental Assessment);

- Guidelines for environmental clearance for forestry, highways and roads, urban development, hydro-power, mines, and installation of underground and overhead utilities;
- Environmental monitoring and assessment of air quality, water quality and land degradation in Bhutan.

The Regional Adviser contributed six lectures: (1) Air Quality Assessment; (2) Environmental Impact Assessment: Principles and Practices; (3)

Environmental Risks Assessment; (4) Sustainable Development, Environmental Monitoring and Environmental Standards; (5) Strategic Environmental Planning and Management; and (6) Open the Black Box of the Global Environment Facility, with special focus on the Small Grants Programme. These lectures provided the regional and global perspectives and were complementary to those given by the national resource persons.

The Regional Adviser discussed the importance of integrating environmental considerations, including environmental cost, into socioeconomic planning, and emphasized that the purpose of environmental laws and regulations should be preventive rather than punitive, and that a systematic and integrated approach for sustainable environmental management is necessary, so that all stakeholders, including government authorities, industries and communities could work together as partners to achieve environmental sustainability.

Experts Discuss Options for Wind Energy Technology Transfer Among Developing Countries

Wind energy is one of the fastest growth industries in the world. In other parts of the world, wind turbines have proved economically viable, and the technology is well developed. With due attention to social and environmental impacts increased utilization of wind resources can therefore contribute to sustainable energy development.

In spite of these obvious advantages of wind power, barriers in the form of lack of knowledge about wind energy technology and investment options, lack of awareness of long-term benefits and lack of incentives for technology transfer in current policies persist.

Against this backdrop, the Seminar on facilitation of technology transfer for the enhanced utilization of wind energy was held from 29 November to 3 December 2004 in Beijing, China. The seminar was jointly organized by UNESCAP and the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA) with funding support from the Government of China.

Participants from China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan attended the Seminar. The Seminar discussed the present development of wind energy technologies in

the UNESCAP region, policy options for increased utilization of wind technology, mechanisms for enhancing technology transfer, and ways to promote further cooperation between the participating countries for the promotion of wind technology transfer. Site



visits to wind farms and wind turbine manufacturers were arranged to obtain first hand information for technology transfer.

Based on the presentations, discussions and site visits, the participants recommended the following actions to be taken to facilitate the transfer of technology for the enhanced utilization of wind energy:

- Policies on facilitation of technology transfer should be developed and

national wind energy development plans with clear targets and priorities in support of technology transfer should be formulated;

- Capacity building efforts related to institutional arrangements, in particular for strengthening linkages among governments, research institutions, private sector entities as well as NGOs for technology transfer, should be enhanced;

- Innovative financial instruments and arrangements for facilitation of technology transfer for the enhanced utilization of wind energy technology should be introduced. To this end, financial support of technology transfer and development projects should not solely depend on conventional funding sources but also consider other mechanisms such as the Global

Environment Facility and the Clean Development Mechanism;

- Knowledge sharing on technology and experiences pertaining to introduction of technologies should be encouraged;

- Further development and adaptation of wind energy technology and products through inter-country cooperation including South-South cooperation should be supported.

ESDD Events (First Quarter 2005)

24-29 March	Seoul	Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005
Environment		
2-4 February	Cebu	Kitakyushu Initiative National Workshop on Wastewater Management and Treatment in Cebu
Energy Resources		
January (tentative)	Bangladesh Nepal	National Training Workshop on the Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes
February (tentative)	Sri Lanka Viet Nam	Development of National Strategies for the Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes
Water Resources		
17-21 January	Bishkek	Inaugural Meeting on the Chu-Talas River Commission
21-26 February	New Delhi	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
22 March	Bangkok	World Water Day
March	Beijing Manila Hanoi	National Workshop on Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts of Meteo-Hydrological Disasters

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The Environment and Sustainable Development Division invites scientists and the members of the academic community to submit papers for the Water Resources Journal.

*The **Water Resources Journal**, a biannual publication, aims at disseminating information on planning and policy initiatives to government offices, local organizations and educational institutions involved in water resources conservation, development and management in developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region. It covers a wide range of subjects including water usage, contamination, conservation, management, access and water related disaster preparedness and mitigation.*

The Journal also encourages articles elucidating various country experiences that can be translated as lessons, policy recommendations and actions for our readers, who include decision makers and other stakeholders.

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