



## RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PARTNERSHIP

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# News Brief

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## NEWS FROM THE RWSSP COORDINATION UNIT

### The 5th Steering Committee Meeting of RWSSP

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the RWSSP Coordination Unit (CU) organized the 5th Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of RWSSP. The meeting was chaired by MARD Vice Minister, Dr. Bui Ba Bong and co-chaired by the Head of WES section-Unicef Mr. Thowai Sha Zai who was representative for the international partners. The regular meeting focused on the following issues:

#### a. RWSSP CU

- Endorsing the “Annual report of the implementation of the work plan 2008 and the proposed 2009 annual work plan and budget plan of the RWSSP” made by the CU.
- Listening to the presentation on findings of “RWSSP inception phase review 2006-2008”.

#### b. Partners:

- Listening to the presentation on “Information on the updated implementation of RWSS Monitoring and Evaluation Indicator Set” made by the Cerwass.
- Listening to the presentation on “Pilot Community Led Total Sanitation” by SNV.
- And other related issues (Announcement of new memberships - EMW and Childfund).

Participated at the meeting were PSC members, national and international partners as invited guests. The meeting was held at Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, B6 Meeting hall, 2 Ngoc Ha Str. Ba Dinh Dist. Hanoi, starting at 8h00 and finishing at 11h45 on the same day.



### Coming activities



Consultative workshop to finalize the 2 drafts of national technical standards on drinking and domestic water quality by VAMP&E-MOH, 3/3/2009.



Stakeholder meeting “Assessing the Sustainability of the Sanitation Marketing Approach” by WSP/WB in collaboration with RWSSP, 6/3/2009.



Consultative for workshop “Draft guiding document for planning on better service provision to the poor and ethnic under the RWSS National Target Program 2006-2010”, 6/3/2009.



Kick-off meeting of the TA project “Clean water supply and sanitation for provinces in Central area” by ADB in collaboration with MARD, 10/3/2009.

### **Training for provincial staff on RWSS M&E indicator set implementation**

As planned, NCERWASS will organize 9 training courses during first quarter of 2009 in provinces of Son La, Hà Giang, Đắk Lắk, Cần Thơ, Thanh Hoá, Trà Vinh, Đà Nẵng, Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu, Hải Phòng.

From 12 to 16/10/2009, NCERWASS in collaboration with Unicef organized a training course on how to implement the RWSS M&E indicator set in Son La province. Participated at the training course were 32 trainees from 4 provinces of Phú Thọ, Lai Châu, Điện Biên and Sơn La.

The training purpose is to guide the provincial trainees the basic content of the RWSS M&E system who will train district/commune and village trainees how to collect, fill the data on formatted forms. During the training course, the trainees apply what they learn via fieldworks.

Through the training in Son La, some problems found to be solved such as duration of a training session, training method for the provincial trainees to train the commune and village ones which should be adjusted.

*Source: Phạm Kiến Quốc, NCERWASS*

### **NTP II - 2008 Review Meeting and 2009 Planning**

On 13/1/2009, Department of Preventive Medicine and Environment/Ministry of Health (DPME-MOH) organized "Review workshop on the NTP II – Sanitation component implementation during 2008 and planning for 2009" in Đà Nẵng city. Participated at the workshop were representatives of DPME-MOH, NTP II SO, Preventive Medicine Centers, PCERWASS from provinces and cities nationwide.

At the workshop, the participants listened to the brief progress of NTP II implementation's Sanitation Component report of 2008 workplan implementation and planning for 2009.

The comments at the workshop showed good points: a. the NTP II's provincial steering boards have been established in some provinces; b. Many important policies and legal documents have been issued to speed up the NTP II implementation.

However, discussions at the workshop showed some constraints: a. The annual planning for the NTP II was not involved actively by the health sector; b. In many provinces, budget have not been allocated or allocated too little to the Preventive Medicine Centers for implementing the sanitation component and the allocation was not yet based on the practical needs; c. The reporting system has many constraints. Therefore there should be more breakthroughs and stronger solutions to increase the hygienic latrines in rural households nationwide. *Source: Department of Preventive Medicine and Environment/Ministry of Health*

### **NTP II - Quarterly meeting on coordination among 3 sectors in implementing the RWSS NTP II**

On 16/10/2009, the Standing Office of NTP II (NTP II SO) organized the quarterly meeting on coordination of 3 sectors to implement the NTP II for quarter 1, 2009 at Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). Participated at the meeting were representatives of MOH/Department of Preventive Medicine and Environment, Ministry of Education and Training/Department of Student Affairs, MARD/NTP II SO, RWSSP CU, NCERWASS and donors of Danida and Ausaid.

The meeting concluded some issues to be followed including: (i) *Planning for 2009*, (ii) *Synthesizing and reporting on 2008 NTP II implementation*, the Program Steering Committee meeting tentatively to be held in April 2009, (iii) *Some other issues such as inter-sectoral monitoring, planning, reporting and coordination of 3 sectors at local level. Information exchange and collaboration should be strengthened among related ministries.*

The meeting note will be circulated by the NTP SO to related stakeholders right after the meeting. *Source: NTP II SO – MARD*

### **Unicef-MOH 2008 Review Workshop and planning for 2009**

From 19 to 20/2/2009 Department of Preventive Medicine and Environment-Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with Water and Environment Section (WES)-Unicef organized the workshop to "Review the implementation of the sanitation and hygiene project" in 2008 in Hồ Chí Minh city.

Participated at the workshop were leaders of DPME, WES-Unicef, NTP II SO, MARD, MOET, Hồ Chí Minh city Hygiene Public Health Institute, Central Highland Institute of hygiene epidemiology and representatives of 14 provincial preventive medicine centers implementing the project.

The sanitation project has achieved many results in 2008 such as development of criteria, standards, and special guidance for hot issues of composting facet properly and hygienically, household water criteria, and latrines for flooded areas. For 2009, the project will be implemented in a new way that Unicef will allocate fund directly to friendship provinces for implementation along with continuing support to DPME in preparing policies, guidance and monitoring at provinces. *Source: Department of Preventive Medicine and Environment/Ministry of Health*

### Japan support 165.788 USD for projects in Đắk Nông

On 20th January, in Ho Chi Minh city, Japanese consulate general, Mr. Ikuo Mizuki signed the agreement under the small scale grant aid of Japanese Government for Đắk Nông province.

The program accordingly will support 165,788 USD for Đắk Nông province to implement 2 projects: Constructions of domestic water supply station for 2 poor villages Bon Bundo A and B (Quảng Tân commune) and secondary school Vũ A Dính in Đắk Som commune.

The project of domestic water supply station construction will bring about clean and safe water to nearly 800 households. Presently, the local residents in this area use well and rain water; and spring, river, stream water for dry. However, these water resources are seriously polluted. The project of secondary school Vũ A Dính in Đắk Som commune construction will create good studying environment for nearly 300 pupils in Đắk Som commune... *Source: Hữu Duyên, 21/01/2009, www.monre.gov.vn*

### Hà Nội: 80% of mountainous communes with piped domestic water supply schemes



On 6th January, at the review workshop on implementing the Decision 134/QĐ-TTg on 20/7/2004 by Prime Minister regarding "Support to production land, residential land, houses and domestic water supply to ethnic and poor people" (or Program 134), the Hanoi city Ethnic Committee showed that after 3 years of implementation (mostly in old Hà Tây province and 4 communes in Lương Sơn district, old Hòa Bình province, nearly 13 billion dong from Program 134's budget of 17 billion dong has been spent for constructing 19 piped water supply schemes. As the result, 11 of 14 mountainous communes of Hà Nội (accounting for 80%) have been provided with piped water supply schemes for local people and some public offices. Besides, 188 households were supported fund for housing of 20 million

VND/household (hh); 246 hhs were supported with 2 million VND/hh for building wells.

As 2008 is the last year of program 134 implementation, in 2009 the Hanoi city Ethnic Committee thus plan to propose with the city's People's Committee to invest essential infrastructure for ethnic people in the city's area based on the 2005-2010 infrastructure projection report for 10 mountainous communes approved by old Hà Tây People's Committee and 4 communes in Lương Sơn district, old Hòa Bình province. *Source: Thanh Bình, 7/01/2009, www.monre.gov.vn*

### Hà Giang: More than 32 hundred thousand in mountainous area are in shortage of domestic water

Presently, more than 32 hundred thousand in mountainous areas are in shortage of domestic water. They are communes in high mountainous areas without water producers, far from natural water resources and water reservoirs ... It is noted that the water shortage have remained seriously in 4 rocky mountainous districts: Quán Bạ, Yên Minh, Đồng Văn, Mèo Vạc and communes of 2 districts: Hoàng Su Phì, Xín Mần where ethnic people use 2-3 labors going to get water far from 3 to 10 km for domestic use and livestock drinking water. At the centre of Mèo Vạc district where many households have to buy water from private water tank trucks from Nho Quế (far from more than 10 km), cost from 300.000 to 500.000 đ/tank, containing from 3 -5m<sup>3</sup> water. Especially, for communes in high mountains: Giàng Chử Phìn, Cán Chử Phìn, Hồ Quảng Phìn, Lũng Phìn,... of Mèo Vạc district, the households have to buy water at the cost of from 800.000 đ to more than 1 million đồng/tank. Those are not affordable will use their labor to get water from far places. The water scarceness will be more serious for production, lives of the local people if no rain in the coming time. It is heard that half a month ago, only some communes in high mountainous areas of Mèo Vạc and Đồng Văn districts lack of water for domestic use. *Source: Văn Phát – www.monre.gov.vn*

### School toilets inadequate 'Many students have to defecate and urinate outdoors'

More than 150 students in his two-storey school campus in Bo Village have to share a narrow double-tank latrine in which the dung is kept for fertilizer, 200m from classrooms and the river. It's the same situation for 300 students in their campuses of Ban Bo Primary School as well as thousands of students in Lai Chau and other mountainous provinces.

The vice chairwoman of the National Assembly Committee for Culture, Education, Youth and Children's Affairs, Ngo Thi Minh, said the situation was not good enough. Schools had upgraded classrooms and other infrastructure but hadn't upgraded toilets, she said. Many schools actually didn't have toilets so students had to use toilets in local people's houses. "That's one reason many girl students quit schools," she said.

Her comments were supported by a Red Cross survey at 187 primary schools in four provinces in 'central Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, and two in the north named Dien Bien and Lai Chau that showed 88 per cent of the schools needed help to build clean water tanks and toilets. Red Cross worker Nguyen Trung Nghia said toilets had been overlooked when building schools, causing a contrast between modern concrete classrooms and dirty rundown toilets.

Under the "Nutrition and hygiene education" project funded by the US Department of Agriculture and implemented by the Viet Nam Red Cross societies in remote regions of the country, financial aid will be provided to improved sanitation at 166 schools in poor provinces, including the construction or upgrading of 130 toilet blocks and 130 wells.

Lai Chau Province, with 27 schools on the list, has been allocated VND 1.5 billion (US\$88,000) for 22 sanitation projects, to serve about 10,000 students.

Local authorities said the projects would solve the problem of children having to defecate outdoors.

But improving sanitation was only part of the problem. Schools in mountainous regions also were short of classrooms, especially for pre-school kids, clean water supply systems and community based boarding systems. And many remote schools didn't have access to the project because of transport. NA deputy Ngo Thi Minh agreed and said people in remote areas were scattered making it difficult to provide them with access to schools, medical centers and other welfare projects.

She suggested local authorities in the 61 poorest communes nationwide be encouraged to gather people, into communities. "This is one of the solutions that I have proposed" to the National Assembly and waiting for instruction from the Government" she said. *Source: Cited from the same article in the VNS, 11/2/2009*

### **Influence of electricity tariff increase: Clean water tariff increase by 3 - 4%**

Mr. Nguyen Ton, Head of Vietnam Water Supply and Drainage Association said that the increase in electricity tariff from March 1st with average 948.5 VND/kWh will lead to rise in production input expenditure of clean water by 3 – 4% subject to certain water sources and water supply zones.

Currently water tariff is regulated by PPCs and cities and in many areas water is sold at lower prices compared to cost-recovery in water production, so enterprises suffer from unfavorable conditions.

"Electricity makes up over 30% of total expenditure of water production, approximately as much as human expenditure (about 34%)".

In 2008, Inter – Departments of Transportation, Finance, Planning and Investment had a proposal of clean water tariff increase locally with floor price of 3,600 VND and ceiling price of 8,000 VND per m<sup>3</sup>.

The tariff regulated in this proposal is that, 3,600 VND (previously 2,800 VND) per m<sup>3</sup> for household consumption below 16m<sup>3</sup>; 4,200 VND (previously 3,500 VND) per m<sup>3</sup> for consumption from 16m<sup>3</sup> to 20m<sup>3</sup>; 5,500 VND (previously 5,000 VND) per m<sup>3</sup> for consumption from 20m<sup>3</sup> to 35m<sup>3</sup>; and 8,000 VND (previously 7,500 VND) per m<sup>3</sup> for consumption above 35m<sup>3</sup>.

Since January 2009, water tariff of six provinces – Tuyen Quang, Binh Dinh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien - Hue, Binh Duong and Ba Ria - Vung Tau – has increased by 9% compared to the original tariff.

The representative of the Association revealed that MoNRE, MARD and MoC will issue a substitute for circular 104 regulating water tariff by March 2009.

The fresh point of this circular is that the water tariff will be market based cost recovery with ceiling and floor price of domestic water. Water tariff is still decided by the People's Committee of provinces and cities with floor price of 3,000 VND/m<sup>3</sup> for cities and ceiling

price of 12,000 VND/m<sup>3</sup> for large cities and 10,000 VND/m<sup>3</sup> for small cities. *Source: Pham Tuyen – Tien Phong, 19/2/2009.*



### **Provinces effecting increase of clean water from January 2009**

**Quang Tri:** Newly increased tariff of domestic water is 4,100 VND/m<sup>3</sup>, water for institutions, army, hospitals is 7,800 VND/m<sup>3</sup>, water for production is 8,800 VND/m<sup>3</sup>. water for service business is 9,800 VND/m<sup>3</sup>.

**Binh Duong:** Newly increased tariff of domestic water is 4,000 VND/m<sup>3</sup>, water for institutions, army is 6,500 VND/m<sup>3</sup>, water for production is 6,000 VND/m<sup>3</sup> (wholesale) and 6,500 VND/m<sup>3</sup> (retail); water for service business is 8,000/m<sup>3</sup>.

**Thua Thien – Hue:** General tariff for domestic clean water is 3,750 VND/m<sup>3</sup> (including 10% VAT and surcharge of waste water of 300 VND/m<sup>3</sup>). Tariff for clean water for institutions, production and services is 5,390 VND/m<sup>3</sup>.

## **International News**

### **World water resources continue to dry up**

The acute droughts in Kenya, Argentina and the US state of California are among the latest phenomena to illustrate that the global environment has been dangerously degraded. And participants in the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, heard that the planet could be destined towards "water bankruptcy".

It might surprise many to learn, then, that water issues are not directly included in the Kyoto protocol, the main international agreement on tackling climate change. Ensuring that this omission is not replicated in a follow-up accord scheduled to be finalized at talks in Copenhagen, Denmark, near the end of 2009, was one of the main topics addressed at a conference in Brussels on February 12 and 13. *Source: IPS/VNS, 16/2/1009*

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