

News from the

CROSSING BOUNDARIES PROJECT

January - March 2011

National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development, 24th and 25th of February, 2011, Pune, India

Pune: The National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development organised by the Watershed Organisation Trust and supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation was held on 24th and 25th February in Pune.

Representing SaciWATERS, Chanda Gurung Goodrich, drew from the repertoire of the CB Project initiatives and narrated her experiences in addressing gender issues. She spoke about the development and introduction of the Gender and Water course, which is now running successfully for the fifth year in Partner Institutions and has become a popular course among students.

"The project has also provided mentorship and support to aspiring and working women water professionals, through specialist development of Women Water Professional networks and awarding of fellowship to female students studying Integrated Water Resource Management," Dr. Chanda added. Through its staff and independent researchers, CB has been instrumental in publishing a comprehensive study on the status of Women Water Professionals in South Asia along with Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM).

She then presented a SWOT analysis on SaciWATERS' effort to incorporate gender and equity in the water sector. Dr. Chanda cited the awarding of fellowships to female students as one of the main challenges. "There are arguments stating that this is not being "just" as there are many male students who come from financially weak families and cannot afford to take the programme," she explained. "Once recruited, retention of women candidates is another challenge. Most of the post-graduate female students are early at their career and family life. So it is very difficult for them to devote full attention to their study programme," she added.

The conference had outlined five themes for papers and presentations. The themes were:

- a) Weaving Knowledge Streams & Disciplines Together to Address Climate Change.
- b) Enhancing and managing Ecosystems and natural Resources for Development and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- c) Gender, Climate Vulnerability & Adaptation.
- d) Greening Economic Development.
- e) Making Livelihoods Climate Smart.

Upcoming Events

IMWI is organising a 5-day Gender and Water Research Methodology Workshop from 11th to 15th April in Kruger National Park, South Africa. Researchers who attend this, working on the issues of gender and equity will acquire skills to make a compelling case for gender and equity inclusive research at IWMI and elsewhere. Dr. Anjal Prakash, Senior Fellow- Research and Outreach, SaciWATERS will be attending the workshop and will be coordinating proceedings of the third day that will deal with "Identifying gender, water and equity focused research methodologies".

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), in association with the Ministry of Water Resources, is organizing the first 'India Water Forum' (IWF), an annual international water convention, to address the dynamics of water and climate change. In its inception year, the IWF theme is Water Security and Climate Change: challenges and opportunities. Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, Director and Dr. Jayati Chourey, Senior Fellow- Research and Networking, will represent SaciWATERS at IWF.

The SaciWATERS-CapNet Network (SCaN) is organising a three day training course on the use of Open Source Geospatial Tools in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in partnership with OS Geo-India, Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, SCaN and Cap-Net. The programme is being supported by the Indian Institute of Information Technology -Hyderabad, Geological Survey of India and National Remote Sensing Centre. For more details visit www.saciwaters.org



SaciWATERs was represented by Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich and Dr. Anjal Prakash

Capacity Building Workshop, 9th to 11th February, 2010, Paro, Bhutan

A three day capacity building training cum workshop was organized on Impact of Climate Change on Mountain Ecosystems for Bhutanese water professionals here. This was the second in a series of such workshops, part of the special allocation of CB project for Bhutan for building capabilities on IWRM.

The workshop was divided into three parts: the first session dealt with the contextual understanding of climate change and its impact on mountain ecosystems, focussing on water resources management and livelihoods. The second, explored Climate change and its impacts in the relation to Bhutan. The final session studied the strategies, technologies and best practices that could be adopted at the local level.

While, SaciWATERs was represented by Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich and Dr. Anjal Prakash, other resource persons included, Mr. Deepak Gywali, NWCF, Kathmandu, Nepal, Mr. K.N. Vajpai, Convenor, Climate Himalaya Initiative, Dehradun, India, Dr. Anamika Barua, IIT, Guwahati, India, Mr. Yeshey Penjor, CC Policy Specialist, UNDP, Thimphu, Mr. Tenzin, Department of Agriculture, Mr. Ichharam Dulal, DUDES, Mr. G. Karma Chhopel, National Environment Commission and Ms. Rachel Sayre, Master's Candidate, Pennsylvania State University, Intern at RSPN.

Women Water Professionals Awareness Meeting, 2nd February, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Colombo: One of the objectives of the Crossing Boundaries project was to strengthen Women Water Professionals' (WWP) Networks in the South Asia region. The organisation for the WWP awareness meeting here was spearheaded by Ms. Kusum Athukorola who is Leader-Advocacy, SaciWATERs. The meet, organised in collaboration with IWMI, NetWater and Women for Water Partnership, Sri Lanka was held on February 2nd.

The meeting was inaugurated by the First Lady of Sri Lanka, by the lighting of the traditional lamp. Several people, including Dr. Deepthi Wickremasinghe of Women for Water Partnership, Dr. Mark Giordano from IWMI, Ms. Mangala Wickremanayake of NetWater. Ms. Kusum Athuroala and Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich from SaciWATERs spoke about their organisations' work in the field of Women Water Professionals.

This session was succeeded by a technical one that saw two presentations; one by Dr. Chanda, in which she presented findings from the Situational Analysis Study done by SOPPECOM and SaciWATERs, and Ms. Swarna Sumanasekara, from NetWater, who presented findings of a study on women professionals done across different sectors.

A "Gender Parliament" facilitated by Dr. Anjal Prakash was up next, where, participants were given provocative statements that they could agree, disagree with or remain neutral about. This exercise was to reflect our attitudes about gender and the stereotypes we have with respect to gender roles.

The plenary session was a panel discussion on Perceptions and Experiences. The panellists were Ms. Badra Kamaladasa from the Irrigation Department; Dr. Deepthi Wickremasinghe from the University of Colombo and Ms. Subashini Perera from the Norwegian Church Aid. Ms. Kusum Athokorala chaired the session.



The meeting was inaugurated by the First Lady of Sri Lanka

Research Impact Workshop, 8th to 11st January, Kathmandu, Nepal

Kathmandu: The time was ripe to reflect and ponder about the Crossing Boundaries experience, thus far. Therefore, an Impact Workshop was organised for the Research Coordinators (RCs) here from January 8th to 11th at Nepal Engineering College (NEC). Dr. Deepa Joshi, Assistant Professor, IWE, was the lead facilitator.

The workshop was a platform for the RCs to meet and analyse the impact of research conducted through the project, to discuss and learn affective means to link policy, research and practice and above all, to share ideas on documenting practices. Primarily, the workshop was meant to facilitate the process of writing reports, with impacts created, being a focus area.

Discussions on research impacts from the CB project kick started the workshop where the RCs got an opportunity to speak on how "Research Impacts" are perceived in their respective institutions. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Joshi on the theoretical dimensions of "Research Impacts". Then, the RCs had the opportunity to present some promising evidences and knowledge from the CB project.

Day 2 had interactive sessions on tools and techniques for collating and translating research material into communicable outputs. Day 3 aimed to learn from communities of practice and had a Panel Discussion by a team of experts on 'Research, Policy and Practice in Water'.

The panel consisted of water experts drawn from agencies, who have made significant impact through their research on policy and practice and individuals who work at the interface of research, policy and practice.

A session on Collating Qualitative Data as well as Critical Reading and Writing was taken on Day 4. During the workshop, the research coordinators also worked on developing a uniform format for their research synthesis report.

Writing Workshop, 17th to 21st January, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Colombo: Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), University of Peradeniya, hosted "Write-shop" a writing workshop for Ph. D –level SAWA students from January 17th to 20th under the auspices of the Crossing Boundaries Project here. The workshop attended to impart students with the important but practical skill of writing for social change and progress. The Lead Facilitator of the workshop was Dr. Edwin Rap from IWE.

Day 1 of the workshop focused on developing core writing skills. Sessions on composing effective paragraphs, writing correct sentences and using optimal words. On Day 2 of the workshop, Writing for Science was the primary topic of discussion. Students were trained to develop a particular concept and to organise one's ideas. Concepts such as "Key Message Sentence" and techniques such as Mind Mapping were also imparted.

Part two of Writing for Science took place on Day three of the workshop. Students learnt to prepare an outline for writing a paper, and ended the day learning how to develop an outline for a Ph. D thesis and how to integrate findings of social and technical analyses.

"Writing for Advocacy" was the topic of the last day of the workshop. "Advocacy" was defined, and identifying the target audience was taught. Writing for a "Non-specialist" audience and media as a tool for advocacy was discussed as well.



The RCs got an opportunity to speak on how "Research Impacts" are perceived in their respective institutions

Editorial:

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