

Preparing for SACOSAN 5 in Nepal



Participants of SACOSAN V consultative meeting/photo: Anil Sthapit

Civil Society Consultative Meeting

The coverage of water supply services and sanitation facilities increased considerably and reached the present status of about 80% in water supply services and about 50% in sanitation facilities. "The sanitation coverage is a way behind in compare to the water supply coverage in Nepal due to the socio-economic, cultural and religious factors. Therefore, a need of proactive approach along with the reactive approach to solve the sanitation related problems in the society is indispensable. In this context, government's budget has increased by three fold for sanitation in recent years", highlighted Mr. Ghanshyam Bhattarai, joint secretary at Ministry of Physical Planning and Works in an interaction program organized by the Freshwater Action Network (FAN) Nepal on 30th March 2012 in Kathmandu.

The objective of this interaction was to review, to reflect and to strategize future direction in preparing the upcoming 5th South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) to be held in Nepal from 16-18th November, 2013. Government officials from Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MPPW), Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS); WASH related UN Agencies, I/NGOs, CSOs and students actively participated in the meeting to discuss on the CSOs engagement in SACOSAN V.

Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) has made some influence and contribution to the recent SACOSAN declarations. The government has made commitments to follow and implement the SACOSAN declarations made in Colombo in the April last year. In addition, Nepal government will be hosting SACOSAN V at the end of the year 2013. In this context, FAN Nepal took initiative to organize an interaction to discuss on the pertinent issues by bringing key stakeholders together.

The interaction program began with presentation by representatives from the government and civil society organizations on review and reflection of past SACOSAN which was followed by identification of activities for organizing SACOSAN V in Nepal in 2013. Ms. Lajana Manandhar, FAN Nepal National Convenor, recalled her participation in SACOSAN IV in Sri Lanka where CSOs Agenda were emphasized in her welcome and opening remarks. She stressed the need of CSO's involvement for the preparation of SACOSAN V meeting in Nepal and suggested to adequately prepare for the field visit sites which in many ways relates to the national prestige among the international community.

The roles of all stakeholders, national and international, governmental and non-governmental are vital and instrumental in achieving water supply and sanitation sector goals. In this context, SACOSAN initiative is seen as an instrument for further enhancement and consolidation of our efforts towards achieving the national goals by the year 2017.

Institutional Setups

- Steering Committee for National Sanitation Actions (SCSNA) has formulated Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2010 as an effort towards reducing the gap between water supply and sanitation coverage with following features

Steering Committee is formed under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary, MPPW

- Local bodies as leader for the sector at the local level
- Coordination mechanism at all level
- Considering Total Sanitation in rural and urban areas alike
- Focus on ODF situation and behavioral changes
- Cost sharing and resource pooling mechanism
- Creation of community fund
- Alliance building
- SC endorsed the decision for organization of NEPASAN in August /September 2012 and SACOSAN in November 2013.
- SACOSAN-V secretariat established in DWSS
- Plan of Actions has been prepared and is in process of refinement
- GoN has been allocating more than 1% of its annual budget for sanitation and hygiene related programmes

Mr. Bhattarai stressed on the importance of SACOSAN meeting which would provide a platform to achieve the national target "Sanitation for all by 2017". He further emphasized on the necessity of holistic and integrated approach to be applied in collaboration with various stakeholders such as GOs, I/NGOs and community members and through the mobilization of resources to community level; and narrowing down water supply and sanitation through the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

Mr. Ramchandra Shah, Chief of Environmental Sanitation Section at DWSS shared different plans and policies advocated by Nepal during SACOSAN IV, Sri Lanka along with its implementation activities such as establishing national body for sanitation, sanitation sector budget allocation, organization of equitable and inclusive program etc to ensure the effectiveness of SACOSAN process.

Mr. Namaste Lal Shrestha, Sanitation Expert at UNICEF reminisced the success of SACOSAN meeting in enlarging the government commitment to achieve the target in Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. So, he said, "I believe the upcoming SACOSAN meeting in Nepal will largely help the country to achieve the national target of 100 percent sanitation coverage by 2017".

Participants dispersed in small groups discussed to prepare the road maps for SACOSAN V; and clustering and fine-tuning of different identified activities under relevant headings. This resulted in sharing of various plans for the preparation of SACOSAN V meeting. Then, the program made headway with sharing of ideas from the participants of various SACOSAN meeting which was held in

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The interaction program was concluded by Ms. Lajana Manadhar, National Convenor of FAN Nepal with the formation of CSOs taskforce for the active involvement in the preparation of SACOSAN V.

The meeting recommended to have a provision of formal space for CSOs engagement in SACOSAN V, agreed collaboration between the government and the CSOs and to form clear guidelines for CSOs engagement in the processes. This program undeniably helped to achieve these outputs.

The interaction was successful based on the responses of the participants on the process and outputs and their enthusiasm throughout the duration of the interaction. However, it is not an end in itself but a beginning towards organizing SACOSAN V with a positive direction and hope. The outputs from the interaction are expected to establish a basis to organize SACOSAN V and engage CSOs effectively in the main committees and sub committees suggested. The interaction gave clear direction for CSOs to contribute in organizing SACOSAN V. The preparatory committee thus formed is one of the mile-stone achieved which now needs to engage actively in the preparation and organization of SACOSAN V in collaboration with the host ministry.



Sharing experience from the past SACOSAN meeting
From Left: Prakash Amatya, Laxmi Kanta Sharma, Rewat Karki, Lajana Manadhar/Photo: Anil Sthapit

Achievements in Sanitation Progress

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GoN has been consistently increasing its annual budget for sanitation and hygiene sector. GoN has introduced "One House hold- On Toilet" concept in its sanitation related plans and programs Formulation and implementation of field level Strategic Plan/ Plan of Action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Commitments at the field level Recognizing "Hand Washing" as regular activity Focus on child and gender friendly WASH facilities Building of Public Private Partnership in Sanitation Establishment of Resource Centers and Sanitation Desks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Defecation Free in 300 VDCs more than, 5 municipalities and more than 1000 school catchments Programs for Sanitation Model Districts Increasing involvement of private sector in sanitation initiative |
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Action Plan:

Formation of Committees	Responsibilities
National Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form a National level SACOSAN V Organizing Committee and Sub Committees Prepare ToR of the Organizing Committee and Sub Committees Organize preparatory meetings (main and sub committees) Formation of national CSO task force (regional balance)
Registration and information sharing Sub Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of registration committee Information on web site Identification of number of participants (country wise): participants should be drawn from: central and local government, I/NGOs, UN Agencies, Bilateral agencies, donor agencies, academia, media etc (gender balance inclusive, good geographical representation) Registration fee (national and international) Opening and closing of registration
Logistics Sub Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential venue: International Convention Centre, Hotel Soaltee, Hotel Yak and Yeti and Hotel Hayatt Stage and venue decoration, back drops, lighting, sound system and projectors etc Conference Kits/badge/T-shirts and ID cards etc Invitation (participants, guests for opening closing, reception and participation etc) Design of logo and slogan Token of appreciation and mementos Mobilization of volunteers Managing food and beverages
Accommodation and Travel Sub Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation for International delegates Home stay & modest hotels Coordination and negotiation with hotel owners Coordination and negotiation with air lines Airport pick up and drops Managing local transportation (taxi and city bus)
Sanitation Sub Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand washing facilities (water, soap, towel and toilet paper) Waste bins Mobile toilet Special campaign on sanitation in Kathmandu Make 2013 as campaign year for SACOSAN
Health and security Sub Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile First Aid team First Aid Boxes arrangement Security team Agreement with political parties to refrain from strike

**Programme and Planning
Sub Committee**

- Formation of programme committee
- Identification of Chief guests (opening and closing)
- Prepare overall programme of SACOSAN V (Aid memoir)
- Call for paper, review and selection
- Organize Pre-SACOSAN workshops (national and regional)
- Identify Master of Ceremony, facilitators/moderators and chairs
- Identify speakers
- Identify field visit sites (show case of Sanitation).
Outside Kathmandu Valley, Pokhara and east Nepal
- Preparation of Country Paper (inclusive gender responsive) and identification of speaker
- Variety of Cultural event: Inclusive Cultural Jhanki (parade)

**Documentation and
Public Relation
Sub Committee**

- Media partnership (print electronic and television)
- Publication and publicity
- Coordination and collaboration with media (through Federation of Journalist)
- Recognition for best contributor or supporter
- Engaging media in sanitation campaign
- Make best use of media for publicity and publication
- Planning for media campaign
- Documentation of proceedings
- Daily Bulletin
- Information dissemination

**Financial management
Sub Committee**

- Prepare Budget
- Identify donors
- Explore for grant from the government
- Registration fee
- Identify sponsors (private sector)

CSOs National Preparatory Committee for SACOSAN V
The committee includes representatives from:

- Citizen Action Forum
- Freshwater Action Network Nepal
- Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users' Nepal
- Federation of Urban Slums (Nepal Basobas Basti Sanrakshan Samaj and Mahila Ekata Samaj)
- GUTHI
- Jhupra Water Supply and Sanitation Users' Committee
- Lumanti Support Group for Shelter
- Media Academy Nepal
- Resource Centre Network Nepal
- Paschim Paila

Advisors:

Water Aid, WSSCC, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, Practical Action, Plan International and Others



Freshwater Action Network Nepal
Secretariat

Lumanti Support Group for Shelter,
Tahachal, Kathmandu

P.O.Box : 10546, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel : 977-1- 467 3288, Fax : 977-1- 467 3287

Email : lajana@lumanti.org.np, Website : www.fansasia.net