



Bangla Group

Update No. 1
December, 2008

Formation of GWA Bangla Group

GWA Bangla group has been formed recently as an outcome of the ToT on Gender mainstreaming in IWRM, held in Kolkata with the participants from West Bengal, India and Bangladesh. As of today this Bangla group is comprised with 27 members. Begum Shamsunnahar and Arnab Chakraborty were selected as Coordinator for Bangladesh and West Bengal and Afsana Yasmeen was selected as Moderator for Bangla Group.



An e-group was later formed with the same members on 9 December 2008 to become a virtual podium where all the participants will be able to share their ideas and thoughts, experiences and best practices, reference materials, debates, relevant links and lessons learned stories relating to gender and water in the region. This e-group is expected to remain alive through an active posting from the members from both the Bangla speaking cross section from India and Bangladesh.

Recent activities of the group members

- Dr. Kuntala Lahiri has participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Synthesis Meeting for the 5th World Water Forum on December 15, 2008 in Tokyo, Japan.
- Begum Shamsunnahar, Coordinator GWA Bangla group Bangladesh part has participated in The South Asia Consortium for Inter-disciplinary Water Resources Studies-SaciWATER's 1st International Conference on Water

Resources Policy in South Asia on December 17-20, 2008, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- A coordination meeting of GWA Bangladesh members was held on 26 December 2008 in Dhaka. Issues relating to internal coordination and strengthening national platform were discussed in that meeting.
- A team comprised of Begum Shamsunnahar and others from GWA Bangladesh has undertaken the work of translating the "Resource Guide on Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management" in Bangla.

A brief field observation of Kuntala from Borneo Island

A brief field observation on women's role and position was made by Dr. Kuntala Lahihri Dutt from her recent field visit to Sangatta, a little township in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Kalimantan is the current name of Borneo island, part of which is under Malaysia, and another part is owned by Brunei. The largest part is in Indonesia, and is one of the most generously endowed with natural gas, oil, coal, gold and other minerals. She went to the Indonesian part, north of the large town & port Balikpapan, about 50 kms from the Equator. She was there to look at changes that have occurred in the gender roles and position of women with all the social changes that have taken place since resource exploitation began earnestly. She found that often women have been left behind at home and the economic benefits have been largely usurped by men. Men now marry more than once, often keep more mistresses than they cannot sometimes feed, they control the cash they get from logging & mining companies as compensation for their land or earn cash from jobs (those also usually go to men). However, both excess money and the lack of it can actually impact women in the communities negatively, and all the 'development' can go to men, leaving women by the wayside.

Membership update

As of 25 December a total of three participants from GWA Bangla ToT have received membership and they are: Sukanta Sarkar, Sanjukta Chowdhury, Budhwerser Mahato. A total of 7 participants from West Bengal are in the pipe line to receive GWA membership.

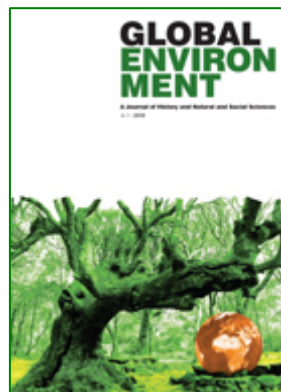
Relevant resources, events and miscellaneous

Several documents have been shared within the GWA Bangla group in past few weeks. Some of the highlighted ones are shared below:

Resources

- **GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT: A Journal of History and Natural and Social Sciences:**

This is a half-yearly journal intends to act as a link for ongoing researches on the environment and world history, with special regard to the modern and contemporary ages. It stimulate and gather studies and researches which, in spite of diverse approaches and themes, share a conception of the environment as a perspective from which to look at the problems of the world and its history, at conceptions of economic development, social and productive relations, government, and relations between peoples. Articles of this journal can bring a lot of interest of the GWA group members on relevant issues.

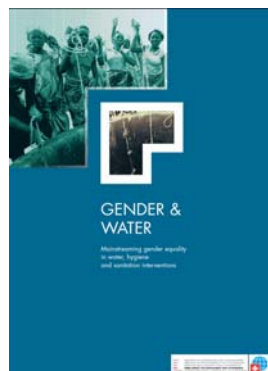


Document access:

<http://www.globalenvironment.it/>

- **GENDER & WATER. Mainstreaming gender equality in water, hygiene and sanitation interventions**

This document aims to support SDC project staff and partners such as national programme officers and water organizations to mainstream gender equality into SDC water, hygiene and



sanitation interventions. It will illustrate how to put gender on the agenda in terms of gender strategies and gender-sensitive water policies and ensure that people are engaged and remain committed.

Document access:

<http://www.emwis.net/topics/fo1584825/sdc687357>

Training/workshop/scholarships

- **Participate in the 5th World Water Forum's through Virtual Meeting Space!**

A Virtual Meeting Space (VMS) has been created by the Forum co-organizers using the latest innovative technologies to "bridge divides" between those interested in improving water management in the world. The VMS will be pivotal to your participation in the Forum, throughout the preparatory process, during the event itself and its follow-up.

Access to VMS:

<http://portal.worldwaterforum5.org/wf5/en-us/Pages/Home-Page.aspx>

- **Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEAL), Experiential field based training: January 22, 2009.**

Information access: <http://devalt.org/>

- **USIEF announces 2009-2010 FULBRIGHT-NEHRU ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (FNELP) fellowships.**

Information access:

<http://www.usief.org.in/>



Greetings for Christmas and New Year 2009!

May new year brings new hopes, new promises and new reasons to celebrate your work and life.

For further information and contribution to future updates please contact:

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