



## Bangla Group

Update No. 2  
January, 2009

### Recent activities

New Year started with a reflection to the promised actions of GWA Bangla Group members made earlier. Most of the members reported that they are gradually implementing some of the planned activities and started to use the knowledge-skills gathered in the last ToT. A synoptic glimpse is reported below:

#### ***“Pressure group” formed by TSRDS***

In the programme area of TSRDS of East Singbhum, Jharkhand District, a pressure group with women has been created to claim their right and access to safe drinking water through the village development committee. Women's participation in the village *panchayat* (local governments at the village level) and their voice to the village development plan has been ensured.

#### ***“Sensitization” on Menstrual Hygiene: an initiative by BFF***

Beneficiary's Friendship Forum (BFF) of South Alipur, Faridpur, Bangladesh has conducted a two day-long workshop on water and menstrual hygiene and its associated concerns and doable measures. A total of 6 female staff participated in the workshop and they are now active in the field as awareness raising agent.

#### ***A “training camp” planned by HPP***

Hellan Pally Prerana (HPP) from Helan village of Hugli district in West Bengal has formed a Committee of 9 members to implement the leaning from the ToT on Gender mainstreaming in IWRM and will be holding a two-day long training camp with 30 attendants from 7-8 February 2009. GWA Bangla group members are invited to join this training camp.

#### ***Training held on pro-gender “participatory monitoring” By DSK***

Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK), Dhaka, Bangladesh has imparted hands on training on pro-gender participatory monitoring system to the frontline staff of Adolescent Reproductive Health project.

### Experiencing Changes: a snap shot

Women of Amagara village, Purulia district in West Bengal has created a noteworthy instance in watershed management, securing livelihood through self-help group formation, obtaining technical skill extended by PRADAN on this initiative.



*Group solidarity: paving way toward empowerment*

At present women's participation in the watershed committee is not only confined with village development plan rather they are playing vital role as a job assistant and became directly linked with project's implementation activities and continuing with constructing *Haapa*- a small tank, 2 m to 3 m deep dug into the ground over 6 to 8% area on the drainage line to collect run-off as well as seepage water. This new role has boosted up those previously destitute women's confidence to work along with their male counterpart and contribute significantly in improving their livelihoods and earn respect for their own. Women are now more aware about their children's proper education, increasing assets base, improving their lives and livelihoods.

#### **E-discussion: beyond regional boundary**

A vibrant e-discussion held between the GWA Bangla group and Kate Harriden from Resource Management Asia-Pacific (RMAP) Program, Australian National University on her joint research paper titled “Act on gender: A peep into intra-household water use in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)” with Dr. Kuntala Lahiri Dutt. This has open up the scope for the group to utilize and replicate the unique methodical approach in determining intra-household water usage diary in any particular urban-rural setting in Asia region!

## A note on ToT document

GWA Bangla ToT report on "Gender mainstreaming in Integrated Water Resources Management" which was reviewed by GWA Bangla group and some of them came up with concrete notes on the missing issues and discussions and have focused on the need to preserve and practice their invaluable learning from the ToT as a living memory. Note on stakeholder analysis, facilitators skill and participant's feedback has stirred up all the valuable discussions taken place during ToT and called to participants mind!



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ToT report on gender mainstreaming in Integrated Water Resources Management. Document access:

<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/blogs/gwnblog/2008/12/11/kuntalas-report-on-gender-and-water-training-wshop-in-kolkata/>

## Half a day in Borneo of Dr. Kuntala

This pictographic presentation of Kuntala's expedition from warm Canberra, Australia to cold Tokyo to the distant Borneo Island, Balikpapan in the province of East Kalimantan, Indonesia explores the unknown and tap the exquisiteness



Picture: Dr Kuntala at the meeting in Tokyo, with Dr Ravi Narayan.

of the panorama and provides the thread of continuity for the readers. This brief travel story is as simple as in terms of its presentation and expression as like the language of nature.

It is worth mentioning, that this pictorial travel diary upholds the creative thinking which bubbles pleasantly from the very beginning. A reader can very easily go the

experience of her enchanting journey from Tokyo to Balikpapan through her portrayal of the beauty of nature and lives.



Picture: A view the coast in Balikpapan

Further info on Borneo Island can be found at URL: [www.empoweringcommunities.anu.edu.au](http://www.empoweringcommunities.anu.edu.au)

## Membership update

As of January 31, 2009 two members from West Bengal namely, Dr. Basudeb De and Chandranath Adhikary and Rebeka Khatun from Bangladesh has received GWA membership.

## Relevant resources, events & other

### Resources

- Ten "Golden Rules" for a Gender Approach in Drinking Water and Sanitation Programmes. Document access: <http://www.irc.nl/page/4395>
- UN issues paper on gender and climate change. Document access: [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/cs/w52/issuespapers/](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/cs/w52/issuespapers/)
- ADB case study: Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management Small Scale Water Resources Sector Development Project, Bangladesh. Document access: [www.adb.org/Documents/Periodicals/GNN/june2008-Bangladesh-Casestudy.pdf](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Periodicals/GNN/june2008-Bangladesh-Casestudy.pdf)
- Providing Professional Education in Social and Human Development. Information access: [www.priaeducation.org](http://www.priaeducation.org)
- Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Asia-Pacific Portal. Document access: [www.asmasiapacific.org](http://www.asmasiapacific.org)
- Basic tips for fund-raising for small NGOs / civil society in developing countries. Document access: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=341>

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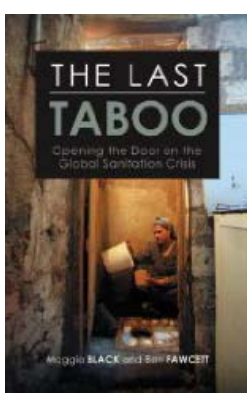
- Gender & Water Network. Information and newsletter access: <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/gwn/index.php>
- Woman of steel. Story access <http://www.indiatogether.org/2008/d/ec/ksh-steel.htm>

**Books and reviews**

**The Last Taboo: Opening the Door on the Global Sanitation Crisis.** By Maggie Black and Ben Fewcett.

This book is a timely policy book to coincide with 2008's designation by the United Nations as the International Year of Sanitation, which is linked to the Millennium Development Goals to cut the number of people worldwide without basic sanitation in half by 2015. This book is a compiled worldwide case studies highlighting efforts to install human waste management

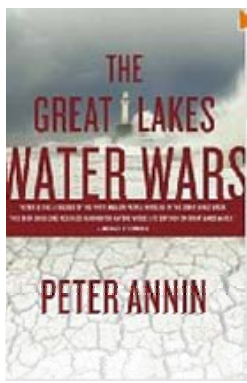
facilities that both failed and succeeded. It also criticizes UN trend to measure "access" to sanitation by looking at the number of installed facilities in recognized settlement areas. For detail: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=23433>



**The Great Lakes Water Wars**

Washington DC Island Press, 2006. ISBN 978-1-55963-087-0, written by Peter Annin and reviewed by Abraham Hoffman. Annin begins with citing a worst-case scene, the sad fate of the Aral Sea. Located in Central Asia, bounded by Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, the Aral Sea is an

environmental disaster. Annin offers cautious optimism as people are becoming more aware of the need for water conservation. Annin succeeds remarkably well in providing a status report for the general reader. The



significance of the problem calls for an audience that includes people who do not live in the Great Lakes region. This story has no ending, so Annin offers the web link ([www.greatlakeswaters.org](http://www.greatlakeswaters.org)) to keep people updated on the issue. For detail: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=23434>

**"When the Rivers Run Dry: Water--The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-First Century"**

Boston Beacon Press, 2006. ISBN 978-0-8070-8572-1 written by Fred Pearce and reviewed by Eliza L. Martin. Journalist Pearce argues that major rivers across the globe are no longer flowing all the way to their traditional outfalls and leading to a shortage of clean, potable water and damaging riparian habitats and wetlands. He takes his readers on a global journey,

explaining the impact of increasing water scarcity. Pearce's book is well researched and well written, good for a popular audience or anyone looking for an accessible introduction to current world water issues, but less focused on climate change that makes water flows ever more unpredictable and on urban water. For further detail: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=22889>



**Call for abstract**

15th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management "Meet old and new worlds in Research, Planning, and Management" to be held from July 5 – 8, 2009 in Vienna, Austria. Information access: (<http://www.issrm09.info/>)



Happy Chinese New Year: 2009

**For further information, comments and future contribution please contact**  
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