



# Institutional Changes for Sanitation



Discussion Paper  
on the  
Institutional Changes required  
to achieve the MDG target on Sanitation

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*The shaded areas of the map represent ESCAP members and associate members.*

# **Institutional Changes for Sanitation**

**Discussion Paper**



New York, 2009

## Institutional Changes required to achieve the MDG target on Sanitation: Survey and Experiences from the Asia-Pacific Region

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This publication was prepared by Ermina Sokou (Environment and Development Division, ESCAP) under the overall guidance of Le Huu Ti, Chief of the Water Security Section. The paper also benefitted from the support of many ESCAP staff. Miguel Perez Ludena and Katerina Limenopoulou not only enabled the printing of the paper, but also provided significant lessons learned and experiences from the project on Integrated Pro-Poor Water and Wastewater Management in Small Towns. Tae Hyung Kim and Salmah Zakaria provided support and peer review and Tae Hyung Kim also contributed the cover photograph. Hye Yoon Jung also contributed to text box 2 and assisted with the annexes and references. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or of the Governments of the surveyed countries.

This document has been issued without formal editing.

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## Preface

Following the Hashimoto Action Plan of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared 2008 International Year of Sanitation (IYS) through Resolution A/C.2/61/L.16/Rev.1 on 4 December 2006. The resolution expressed concern on the slow and insufficient progress made in achieving the global sanitation target, and recognized that progress can be made through active commitment and action by all States, including at the national and local levels, as well as United Nations agencies, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

In the Asia-Pacific region, rapid socio-economic development has lifted many people out of poverty and has contributed to significant achievements with regards to access to sanitation facilities. Between 1990 and 2006, access to improved sanitation in the region increased by an impressive 73 per cent. Today, more than half of the people of the region have access to improved sanitation facilities. However, this impressive improvement still leaves a staggering 1.76 billion people without adequate sanitation. In fact, compared to other regions, the Asia-Pacific region has the largest number of people who have yet to gain access to basic sanitation.

Against this backdrop, the Water Security Section of the Environment and Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) conducted a survey to identify achievements and delays in institutional changes required to achieve sanitation goals. As part of the survey, a questionnaire was sent to member countries in September 2008, through the regional offices of the WHO and UNICEF. The findings of this survey were discussed and analyzed with government representatives at a regional workshop, held back-to-back with World Toilet Expo and Summit in November 2008. The main findings were also presented to representatives of civil society and NGOs at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International WASH Practitioners' Marketplace and Fair, in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. This initiative was supported and also contributed to the objectives of the GTZ-funded project on "Integrated Pro-Poor Water and Wastewater Management in Small Towns."

This discussion paper was prepared by Ermina Sokou under the overall guidance of Le Huu Ti, Chief of the Water Security Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP. The paper also benefitted from the support of many ESCAP staff. Miguel Perez Ludena and Katerina Limenopoulou not only enabled the printing of the paper, but also provided significant lessons learned and experiences from the project on Integrated Pro-Poor Water and Wastewater Management in Small Towns. Tae Hyung Kim and Salmah Zakaria provided support and peer review and Tae Hyung Kim also contributed the cover photograph. Hye Yoon Jung also contributed to text Box 2 and assisted with the annexes and references.

The survey was led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), with the contribution and assistance of UNICEF and the WHO. Mark Henderson and TV Luong from UNICEF/EAPRO helped enrich the information available, contributing with a survey prepared in preparation for the 2007 EASAN meeting.

Jack Sim created the forum where the first draft of this paper was presented and discussed with 15 policymakers from ESCAP member countries, in Macao, China, during the World Toilet Summit and Expo in November 2008.

This paper was published with the support of GTZ-financed project on "Pro-poor water and wastewater management". ESCAP is grateful for the support.

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBO	Community-Based Organization
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
EASAN	East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene
ECOSAN	Ecological Sanitation
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESI	Economics of Sanitation Initiative
IYS	International Year of Sanitation
LGI	Local Government Institute
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NO	Number of Occurrences (in questionnaire responses)
ODF	Open Defecation Free
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PI	Pacific Islands
PSP	Private Sector Participation
SACOSAN	South Asian Conference on Sanitation
SEA	South-East Asia
SSWA	South and South-West Asia
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization

## Country Abbreviations

BAN	Bangladesh
CAM	Cambodia
LAO	Lao, PDR
NEP	Nepal
PHI	Philippines
PLW	Palau
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SRI	Sri Lanka
TLS	Timor-Leste
THA	Thailand
VAN	Vanuatu
VIE	Vietnam

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