

Knowledge Nodes on Sustainable Sanitation

SEI aims to promote and develop pro-poor sustainable sanitation in the developing world through capacity development and knowledge management. SEI is working in partnership with highly reputable organisations world-wide, who are acting as hosts for knowledge nodes on sustainable sanitation through this programme. The nodes serve as capacity development, information and networking platforms/hubs for governments, civil society and the private sector relating to different sustainability issues of sanitation.

Three knowledge nodes on sustainable sanitation have been established in Asia.

Promoting Sustainable Sanitation in China

The China Node on Sustainable Sanitation (CNSS) was the first EcoSanRes knowledge node that entered into operation, and is hosted jointly by the Centre of Sustainable Environmental Sanitation at the Science and Technology University Beijing (USTB) and the Clean Water Alliance (CWA). The main objectives of the node are to serve as a platform for different stakeholders to increase public awareness on sustainable sanitation, to generate knowledge, and to develop capacity for implementing sustainable sanitation systems.

Since its launch in November 2008, the node has been actively disseminating information on sustainable sanitation within China. The CNSS planned and raised funding to develop two pilot projects applying Urine Diversion Dry Toilets (UDDT) in rural villages in Sichuan Province and Shanxi Province. Based on this experience, implementation of UDDT at provincial levels is under negotiation. CNSS organized an international ecosan forum in Chengdu where more than 140 organizations participated and formed an NGO cluster concerning

Sustainable Sanitation

Sustainable sanitation systems protect and promote human health, minimise environmental degradation and depletion of the resource base, are technically and institutionally appropriate, socially acceptable and economically viable in the long term.

Ecological Sanitation (ecosan)

Ecological sanitation systems safely recycle excreta and other organic waste to crop production, in such a way that the use of non-renewable resources is minimised.

ecosan in 2008. After the ecosan concept was presented in two CCTV programs, the Soho China Foundation was inspired to support installation of UDDTs in a school in a drought-prone area of Gansu Province.

In February 2009, CNSS established their website www.susanchina.cn. In March 2009, CNSS held the first Experts' Meeting to create the Node Experts Group and to establish Chinese criteria for sustainable sanitation. CNSS also held a "Urine Re-use Workshop" and a "Biogas Technology Workshop" in cooperation with University Bonn/Germany in August 2009. What's more, the node co-organized with SEI a "lessons learned workshop" on the Erdos-Eco Town Project in December 2009.

In 2010, CWA created a regular press release system and a Journalists Group specialized in sustainable sanitation, after which two media events were held in Beijing. CWA launched the Beijing Eco-toilet Action at the first media event and reports of these two media events were covered by central and local newspapers. A series of posters on sustainable sanitation in China was released in September 2010.

CNSS, through CWA, has provided sanitation support to Hougou Village in Shan'xi Province, through a request from China Village Heritage Association. Hougou is an ancient village from the Tang Dynasty with a more than 1300-year history, and due to its traditional houses constructed in caves it has become a

tourist attraction. However, the sanitary status of Hougou has been inadequate. CNSS has cooperated with the local government to raise funds and to construct indoor (in-cave), dry urine-diverting toilets, as one step towards improved sanitation in the village. The effort as such has inspired the Tourists' Bureau for further expansion of dry, urine-diverting toilets to other areas using government funding. Also, in 2010, the China Sustainable Sanitation Development Forum 2010 was held, where delegates of the conference visited Hougou village – the successful show case of Eco-toilet in Shan'xi village.

Roadmap to Sustainable Sanitation in the Philippines

The Philippine Knowledge Node on Sustainable Sanitation is managed by the Center for Advanced Philippine Studies (CAPS) for the Philippine Ecosan Network (PEN). CAPS is the leading knowledge centre in the Philippines on ecosan and sustainable sanitation since 2000. PEN is an active network of institutions and individuals committed to promoting and advancing sanitation in the country. CAPS is furthermore the secretariat of PEN.

The Philippine Node is engaged in advocacy, knowledge sharing and development. The Node successfully promoted and integrated sustainable sanitation principles in the newly adopted Philippine Sustainable Sanitation Roadmap. Consequently, the country has made sustainable sanitation as a national policy as shown in its National Sustainable

Sanitation Plan (NSSP) and the National Sustainable Sanitation Promotion Plan (NSSPP) of the Department of Health.

Moreover, the Node has worked successfully for the inclusion of sustainable sanitation principles in the Manila Declaration of the Second East Asia Ministerial Conference on Hygiene and Sanitation (EASAN2) in January 2010. Delegates from thirteen East and Southeast Asian countries participated. The PEN also provided technical and organizational support to the Philippines government in hosting the event.

In terms of knowledge sharing, the Philippines Node has conducted training of trainers, workshops and orientation on sustainable sanitation. It has enhanced the sanitation database of the CAPS EcoSan web portal (www.ecosan.ph) providing a platform for sharing and downloading relevant documents and knowledge products.

Last but not least, in terms of knowledge development, the Node has conducted a series of studies in the fields of school sanitation, emergency sanitation, and urine reuse among others.

Creating Demand for Sustainable Sanitation in Nepal

The Nepal Node for Sustainable Sanitation (NNSS) is hosted by the

Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO). The Node is working with key stakeholders to ensure that more people will be aware of, have access to, and practice sustainable approaches to sanitation throughout Nepal.

The Node has established an Ecosan Resource Centre in Darhechowk and organized several training programs, awareness campaigns and a social marketing campaign in the surrounding area, which led to installation of more than 500 urine-diverting toilets with support from NNSS as well as DWSS (Department of Water Supply and Sewerage), WHO and Shanti Nepal. In addition, the campaign created demand for more than 3000 urine-diverting pans in local households. The Resource Centre is providing pans and pipes to households interested in urine-diverting toilets.

The Central Human Resource Development Unit (CHRDU) of DWSS has incorporated sustainable sanitation in its training schedule and it organized two six-day training on ecological sanitation and a six-day training on Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS). Overall, NNSS provided sustainable sanitation training to 340 people, including 133 women.

NNSS is also working with various other international partners to

promote sustainable sanitation in Nepal. In partnership with BORDA and local stakeholders, ENPHO is promoting Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) through learning projects, training programmes and awareness campaigns. In partnership with seecon consulting, ENPHO has prepared training modules and delivered training courses on Sustainable Sanitation and Water Resource Management. ENPHO also assisted the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technologies (CAWST), Canada, to organize an international Learning Exchange for its partners, including training on sustainable sanitation and field visits to several sites.

In collaboration with Resource Centre Network Nepal (RCNN), NNSS has established its web page, contributed articles for e-newsletters and initiated the media fellowship program. ENPHO is conducting research on urine application together with the Horticulture Centre of Ministry of Agriculture and local farmers, and it has also signed an MoU with the Institute of Agriculture of Tribhuvan University to promote research on nutrient recycling.

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