

Regional High-level Meeting on Rainwater Harvesting
Kathmandu, May 27-29, 2009

“Gain from the Rain : Collect, Preserve and Use”



Mr. Suman Sharma
Joint Secretary MoPPW
Radisson Hotel, May 4, 2009

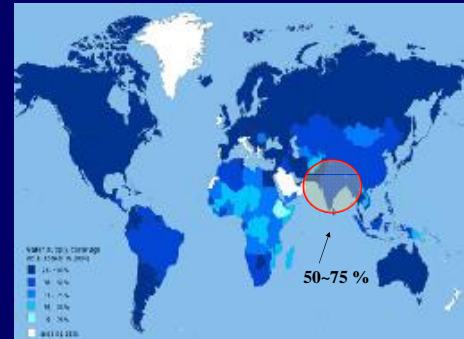
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Context



% of people with access to water supply

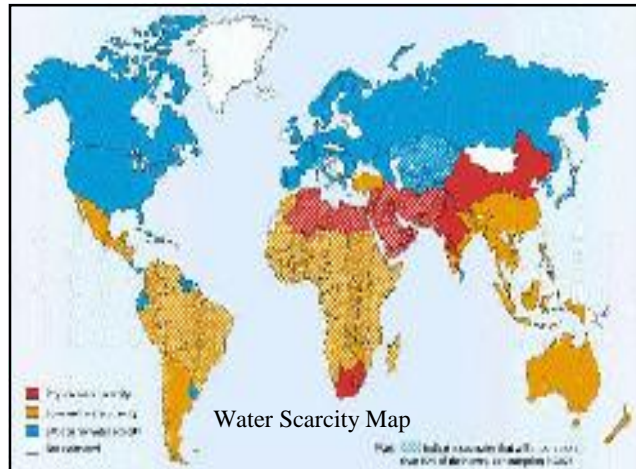
Source: water partners international

All the countries in our region are following Target 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, which aims to halve the population without access to water and sanitation by 2015

Many rural areas in our region are still deprived of basic water supply services that seriously impacts on their quality of health, education, livelihood, living conditions and overall quality of life

Most cities and urban settlements in our region suffer bad quality of water services due to poor system capacity and management practices

High urbanization, increasing level of demand due to change in lifestyles coupled with depleting sources to meet the demand due to climate change and other anthropogenic factors are typical water management challenges in our region



Rainwater management.....

- opportunity to harvest at household, communal and even larger levels to support domestic, agriculture and other uses
- can be used for ground water recharge in rural and urban areas, *[good experiences available in the region]*
- good technical option in highlands and in coastal areas with limited alternative freshwater sources
- complementary source to meet the deficit in supply in urban areas
- scale can vary to suit particular requirements @ household or community level, for a small or large supply

Glimpses from the region

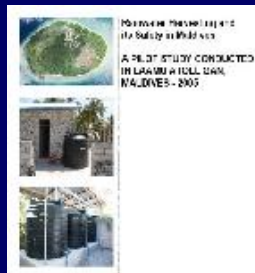
Bhutan



Glimpses from the region



Bangladesh



Maldives

Sri Lanka





Previous Commitments

- In September 2006, the Government of Sri Lanka invited ministers from SAARC countries to the city of Kandy to discuss on the issues of Rain Water Harvesting. A ministerial declaration was signed at the end of the meeting expressing commitment to promote Rain Water Harvesting policies and practices
- The Fifteenth SAARC Summit held in Colombo through 2-3 August 2008 in its declaration “ Partnership for growth for Our People”, paragraph 15 has re-emphasized on the need to harness rainwater for development and urged countries to take appropriate action

The proposed meeting is in continuation to the commitment made by Nepal in the Kandy meeting to hold the next Rainwater Harvesting Consultation.

Proposed Meeting

Date: 27 - 29 May 2009 **Venue:** Hotel Radisson, Kathmandu

Level: High-level Meeting: invitations extended to Ministers/ Secretaries and other senior officials of SAARC region

Resource persons: Identified experts from the region and beyond

Expected Outputs:

- share knowledge, experiences and policies and practices in promotion of RWH
- share field experiences and research results on technical, social, ecological and economic aspects of RWH
- un-cover potential for drinking, ground water recharge, irrigation and other applications

Participation: by invitation – comprises a mixed representation from government, private, academic institutions, I/NGOs

Registration fee: None

Financing: Costs covered by the meeting organizers

- local hosting of the meeting
- accommodation and board for the minister/head of country delegation during the meeting
- programmed site visits for all participants
- publications to promote application of meeting outcomes

Participants are requested to arrange for their travel and accommodation through their own funds or through support agencies

Invitations Extended to

<u>Afghanistan</u> Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development	<u>Bangladesh</u> Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
<u>Bhutan</u> Ministry of Agriculture	<u>India</u> Ministry of Water Resources
<u>Maldives</u> Ministry of Housing, Transport and Environment	<u>Pakistan</u> Ministry of Environment
<u>Sri Lanka</u> Ministry of Urban Development and Sacred Areas Development	

- *Separate letters have been dispatched to the minister and the secretary*
- *Letter to the Secretary carries a request for the nomination of delegation*
- *Information about the event has also been circulated through respective WHO and UNICEF offices, who are also likely to support the participants' costs for travel and accommodation*



Thank You

Meeting Sponsors: WHO, UN-Habitat, Water Aid, Government of Finland, Helvetas, Rain Foundation, BSP –Nepal, Plan International, UNICEF