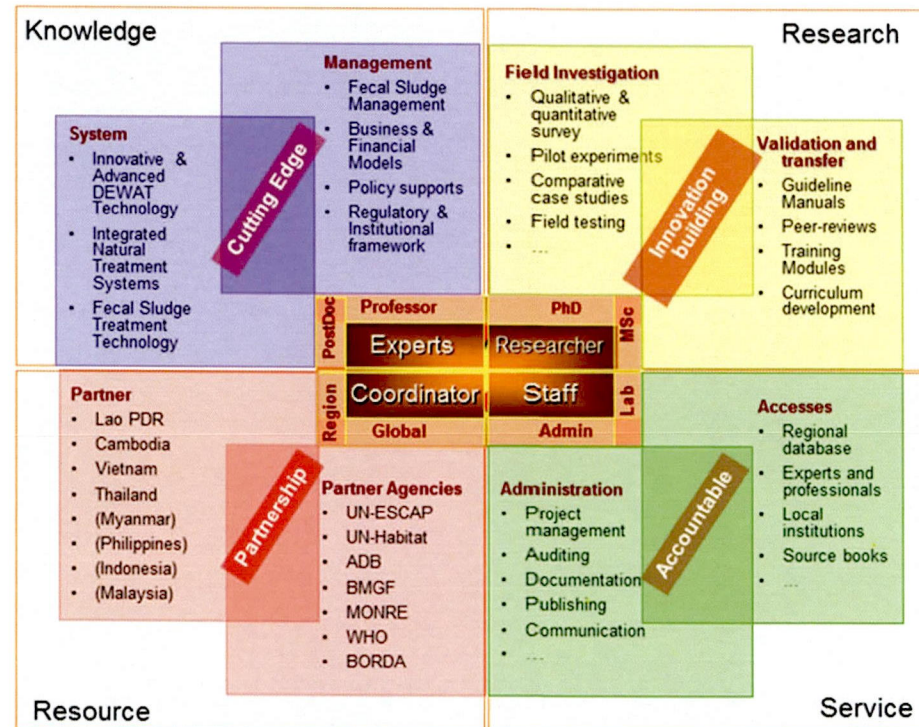




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Joint Project
STRENGTHENING
CAPACITY OF
POLICYMAKERS IN
SOUTH-EAST ASIA
TO PROMOTE
POLICIES AND
DEVELOPING PLANS
FOR IMPROVED
WASTEWATER
TREATMENT AND
REUSE IN URBAN AND
PERI-URBAN AREAS

BACKGROUND

Improved sanitation and wastewater management is crucial to maintain water security. It can bring significant benefits to poor communities, particularly women. Lack of awareness amongst policy makers and the relatively high costs of sewage collection and treatment often deter investments. UNESCAP and UN-Habitat have implemented the joint project to address the fast-growing problem of untreated wastewater through promotion of the Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) in 2013-15. DEWATS provides an appropriate and low-cost solution in many situations in the rapidly urbanizing areas of developing countries where other systems are not suitable. DEWATS also provides a great business opportunity and community empowerment.

OBJECTIVE

This project is expected to strengthen capacities of policymakers in Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Cambodia to promote policies and developing plans for improved wastewater treatment and reuse in urban and peri-urban areas. This project is contributing to achieving the MDG target of halving by 2015 the proportion of the population without sustainable access to basic sanitation.

PARTNERS

This strategic partnership between ESCAP, UN-Habitat and national/local partners in targeted countries addresses the need to enhance understanding and awareness amongst policy makers and planners on improved wastewater management. The project is further strengthening the network of Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN), which is also supporting participating governments to achieve the MDGs for water supply and sanitation, with emphasis on innovative solutions. Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) has been identified as a resource centre or referral point for expertise on all aspects of DEWATS in South East Asia.

MAIN OUTCOMES

Two regional workshops have reviewed the progress and sub-regional wastewater management experiences in South-East Asia and the implementation of the field project (19-21 March 2014, Bangkok, Thailand and 11 December, 2014, Attapeu, Lao PDR). Financial schemes and options have been considered along with a cost-benefit analysis and market opportunities for DEWATS. Three national workshops of October-December 2014, focused on developing the vision of the national DEWATS strategy were organized by respective Ministries of Public Works and Transport (in Cambodia and Lao PDR) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (in Viet Nam), UN-Habitat, with a substantial support of ESCAP. The

outputs of these events had provided valuable information in developing the policy guidance manual on wastewater management with a special emphasis on DEWATS in SEA.

The objectives of the third regional policy workshop (2-3 April 2015, UNCC, Thailand) are:

1. To review and discuss the main findings and outcomes from the project implementation in particular: (a) the Policy Guidance Manual on Wastewater Management with a Special Emphasis on DEWATS in SEA and the case studies; (b) the e-learning training module on enabling policies for Wastewater Management and DEWATS in SEA, ideas on further facilitation of the open-university network;

2. To discuss and identify the policies and strategies to scale up the development of DEWAT initiative at regional level, as well as the market opportunities and enabling mechanisms.

All related materials are saved at:

<http://www.unescap.org/events/regional-policy-workshop-wastewater-management-and-sanitation-south-east-asia>.