

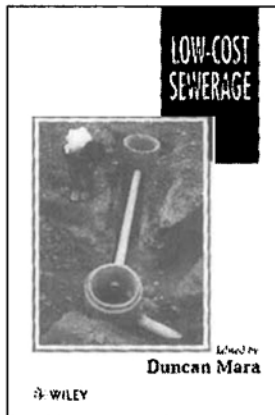
books

Low-Cost Sewerage

Edited by Duncan Mara
John Wiley, Chichester, 1996.
224pp. Pbk. £19.99.
ISBN 0 471 961963 9

This book comprises contributions from both academics and practitioners who attended the International Conference on Low-Cost Sewerage held at the University of Leeds in July 1995. Delegates attended from Colombia, Finland, Greece, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, the UK, USA, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

Fourteen papers were presented which, together with the conference conclusions, add up to 15 chapters. Low-cost sewerage technologies are described and their applications in both developed and developing countries



are detailed. Each chapter is followed by useful references.

The titles of the chapters indicate the wide scope of the Conference, including: Sewer systems in Ghana, South Asia, and a Greek rural community; global needs and developments in urban sanitation; the Colombian ASAS system; guidelines for the design of simplified sewers; Third World surface-water drainage; and the effect of solids on performance.

Although there was a strong consensus that low-cost sewer systems are an important technology which is cost-effective in many situations — and that there is an urgent need to disseminate this message effectively, the details of the follow-up action remained somewhat contentious. The first step is to decide what we know about the subject, and to discover precisely what has been done in the past and how well it has worked.

The final chapter sets out the next steps, notably the need to establish a permanent organization for promoting the adoption of more

appropriate standards in sewerage design, and for assisting in the planning, design, and implementation of low-cost sewerage.

Conference delegates concluded that the most appropriate mechanism for such an organization is the expansion of the existing GARNET (Global Applied Research Network in Water Supply and Sanitation) system, to include a new unit concerned solely with low-cost sewerage. A footnote at the end of the book states that this new unit has now been established within GARNET as the Low-Cost Sewerage Network; its co-ordinator is Professor Duncan Mara of the University of Leeds who can be contacted by e-mail on: d.d.mara@leeds.ac.uk

Water Policy: Allocation and management in practice

Edited by Peter Howsam and Richard Carter
E & FN Spon (Chapman Hall), London, 1996.
384pp. Hbk. £70.
ISBN 0 419 216502

This is a book of the proceedings of the September 1996 International Conference on Water Policy held at Cranfield University; produced from camera-ready-copy by the individual contributors so that the finished publication would be available at the conference itself.

The papers, sub-divided under eight main headings, cover a wide range of topics: water allocation; water resources; environment and water quality; water-supply management; water economics; water politics; institutional issues; and water users.

Both the conference and the

publication were supported by several organizations, including ODA; in her foreword, Baroness Chalker, UK Overseas Minister, welcomes Silsoe College's initiative in organizing the conference, and states:

'It provides an opportunity to exchange insights gained in implementing water policy reform, and to examine the applications of the principles of integrated water policy which have been developed in the light of experience.

The papers presented come from many parts of the world and cover many different aspects of water-policy implementation, ranging from strategic resource planning at an international level through to specific studies of water use. They rightly embrace the full range of political, legal, economic, technical, social, and institutional considerations of putting policy into practice.

This compilation of papers shows that substantial scope already exists for good practice in implementing new water-policy approaches. It also indicated that there is still plenty of room for improvement if we are to meet the challenges ahead, and meet them we must!

Much has been written and discussed about appropriate, sustainable water-policy options. However, putting theoretical ideas into practice is a difficult issue, in view of the multiple and complex issues involved. This book will be a valuable reference work for water and irrigation engineers and managers; academic researchers; and also planners, economists, lawyers and policy-makers in river authorities and government departments.

Charles Kerr



NEW FROM IT PUBLICATIONS

Whose Reality Counts? Putting the first last
Robert Chambers

Robert Chambers presents a radical challenge to all concerned with development in his latest book. Continuing his commitment to participatory rural appraisal (PRA), he analyses the past mistakes and myths of PRA and points towards solutions.

Chambers argues that personal, professional and institutional change is essential if the realities of the poor are to receive greater recognition. Self-critical awareness and changes in concepts, values, methods and behaviour must be developed to explore the new high ground of participation and empowerment.

With its thrust of *putting the first last*, this book presents a new, exciting and, above all, practical agenda for future development which cannot be ignored.

318pp. January 1997. Paperback. ISBN 1 85339 386 X. £3.25.