

# agency news

## WaterAid hosts the Secretariat

The Business Partners for Development (BPD) programme was launched by the World Bank to facilitate collaboration between key players who do not normally work together: private enterprise, governments and representatives from civil society. Based on partnerships which offer mutual benefit through sharing of expertise, skills and resources, the WaterAid-hosted BPD Water and Sanitation cluster is concentrating efforts on the provision of drinking-water and sanitation for economically disadvantaged urban populations in large towns in the South. To date, seven pilot projects have been chosen; their key objectives are to identify specific lessons about the potential for partnership working, and demonstrate how these could be replicated and scaled up to regional and national levels.

The primary beneficiaries of any solutions developed, which are to be adapted to their needs and are financially sustainable, will be those without access to clean water or sanitation.

For more information, contact: Meena Watts, Co-ordinator, BPD - W&S Cluster, WaterAid, Prince Consort House, 27-9 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7UB, UK. Fax: +44 171 793 4545. E-mail: [wateraid@compuserve.com](mailto:wateraid@compuserve.com)

## Water for Aguaruna communities in Peru

IT Peru has just completed a pilot project about the design, building and installation of water wells and hand-pumps in the Aguaruna communities of the Amazon region.

This area — of 58000 ha — is home to around 2400 people (490 families) who make a living from hunting and farming.

The water wells are between 2 and 20m deep; each well serves 50 families in a communal area. The drilled shallow well is suitable for eight isolated families.

IT Peru has published a leaflet in Spanish and Aguaruna giving information on handpump maintenance, and has also

developed appropriate equipment and drilling tools which can be manufactured easily in small local workshops.

As a result of this pilot project, the Aguaruna communities have asked IT Peru to develop an integrated project — in which they are full participants.

For more information contact: IT Peru, Energy Programme, Casilla 18-0620, Lima 18, Peru. Fax: +51 1 446 6621. E-mail: [hidro@itdg.org.pe](mailto:hidro@itdg.org.pe)

## Calling women in water

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council wants to swell its ranks of women members. Since first inviting anyone actively involved in W&S development in developing countries to register, more than 400 people have taken up the offer — but only 20 per cent are women.

WSSCC Executive Secretary, Ranjith Wirasinha, says 'While the 4:1 ratio of men to women may be a reflection of the numbers actually working in the WSS sector, one of our key objectives is to increase the influence of women throughout the sector. To do that, we need active participation of as many women as possible in Council Working Groups, Networks and Task Forces.

WSSCC has some 20 ongoing activities and five regional focal points. It is utilizing various e-mail listservers to disseminate information; this is also an ideal way of registering. Says Wirasinha: 'In the past we have had to search hard for women professionals to invite to meetings ... we hope that many more will let us know that they want to be actively involved in setting sector policy and developing innovative approaches.'

For further details, contact Brian Appleton, WSSCC, WHO, 20 Ave Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. E-mail: [appletonb@who.ch](mailto:appletonb@who.ch)

Are women professionals active in the sector so hard to find? Contact the Editor, *Waterlines*, IT Publications Ltd., 103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH. Fax: +44 171 436 2013. E-mail: [journals.edit@itpubs.org.uk](mailto:journals.edit@itpubs.org.uk)

## PAHO/WHO

The Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization in Guatemala (PAHO/WHO) has been asked by the country's Secretary of Water Resources to help obtain technical information, contacts with experts, and contacts with counterparts in other Latin American countries on how to organize user committees at the level of water reservoirs and water basins. The Government intends to set up similar committees wherever possible.

To pass on relevant information, contact: Steven K. Ault, Environmental Health Advisor, PAHO/WHO Guatemala. Fax: +502 334 3804. E-mail: [ault@ops.org.gt](mailto:ault@ops.org.gt)

## EHP

The USAID-sponsored Environmental Health Project has established an information network on the decentralization of water and wastewater organizations in Central America and the Caribbean. It aims to promote the exchange of information and collaboration among water and wastewater organizations involved in decentralization efforts/research in Central America and the Caribbean.

Decentralization has become an important area due to a new consensus on sustainable and integrated water resources management calling for ownership and authority at the 'lowest appropriate level'.

To find out how to access the various services of DECNET, or to obtain a copy of the Scope of Work for the network, please e-mail the list administrator, Dan Campbell, at: [campbelldb@cdm.com](mailto:campbelldb@cdm.com)