

# agency news

## RedR

In addition to running the register of relief personnel mentioned in the previous issue of *Waterlines*, RedR also runs an extensive training programme, which aims to improve the effectiveness of those undertaking relief assignments.

The emphasis of RedR training is on active learning through participatory group exercises, case studies, role-play, focused discussion, simulations and practice with equipment used in the field. Training is planned and presented in collaboration with relief agencies and specialist organisations. Informal exchange of experience is a vital part of every course.

The provision of clean water and suitable sanitation facilities is of utmost importance in disaster relief and hence RedR runs a modular

course, Environmental Health in Emergencies, which offer participants the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and skills in different aspects of the field.

The course is divided into four modules (each taken as a two or three-day residential course) which are repeated every year and can be taken in any order.

Emergency Sanitation and Vector Control is a three-day course which aims to enhance the ability of relief workers to prevent or control disease by environmental sanitation measures and the control of disease vectors (mosquitoes, flies, rats etc). The next course will be held between 18-21 May.

Water Supply Treatment and Distribution is also a three-day course which aims to develop participants' practical skills in the design and installation of emergency water supplies in humanitarian relief

operations.

The two-day Water Sources course helps to improve participants' practical skills in locating and exploring water sources for emergency water supply. It includes practical sessions on repairing handpumps and drilling for water.

The first course in this series took place in early April and was an introduction to environmental health. It included sessions on hygiene promotion and water testing as well as the wider aspects of assessment and planning in relief.

Further details about these and other RedR training courses are available on the website: < <http://www.redr.org> >



technology are not luxuries, but necessities.' It argued for, amongst other things, the need for dedicated and educated water professionals, the need for decisions to take into account the views of social scientists, economists, etc., as well as indigenous scientific knowledge and capabilities of communities.

The Youth declaration was presented through a colourful and moving mixture of visual art, songs and dance. The group called for the creation of a Youth Task Force to undertake education and public awareness to change people's behaviour towards water. They also called for unity and solidarity, and for full cooperation amongst different actors since the problem of water crisis is such that no one can fully appreciate its dimensions. What is certain, according to the Youth declaration, is that the crisis and the solutions necessary to deal with it transcended the political timeframes of those in the Ministerial conference.

The Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference sought to bring people concerned about freshwater issues together to reach consensus on the way forward in addressing the water crisis.

Amid the various criticisms, including the lack of translation for non-English speaking participants, there was a consensus reached on agreeing targets to focus and catalyse actions. There were different views as to whether international-level targets were meaningful. But there was a strong consensus that national and sub-national targets and standards have to be set. The urgency and immensity of the problem is such that three million children die each year from water-related diseases. Everyone – governments, citizens, civil society organisations, businesses, professional groups – has a role to play in forging solutions to the problem. This is the abiding message of the Forum.

The next international arena for investigating what solutions have been started will take place at the Rio + 10 Earth Summit in 2002. In the meantime, civil society groups, NGOs and governments need not lose time in engaging in a participatory, transparent and inclusive process to agree national targets and plans for solving the water crisis in their countries.

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