

webwatch

■ Water Help Desks

The World Bank and the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) are launching two new Help Desks to provide a 24-hour advisory service that will respond to global and regional requests for professionals in the water supply and sanitation sector. Regional Help Desks will be launched out of New Delhi, India and Nairobi, Kenya. The Help Desks will service as a single point of contact for the private sector, government officials, NGOs and other development agencies.

The World Bank is committed to capturing and sharing the knowledge it has gained through decades of development experience. Established in 1998, the first Water Help Desk provides an entry point into this knowledge base for professionals in the water and sanitation sector. Staff at the Water Help Desk, provide timely and relevant information to support professionals engaged in the sector. The helpdesk can be reached at:

<http://www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/water/helpdesk.html>

■ UNICEF WES homepage

The Water and Environmental Sanitation section's webpage contains a range of news, documents and full text reports.

<http://www.unicef.org/programme/wes/>

■ Livelihoods Connect

Livelihood Connect is the Department for International Development's (DFID) new web based resource supporting the ongoing development and implementation of sustainable livelihoods approaches by those working with/for DFID.

"The approach is a way of thinking about the objectives, scope and priorities for development... it is a way of putting people [and their

livelihoods, in a context of vulnerability] at the centre... thereby increasing the effectiveness of development assistance."

Produced by the Institute of Development Studies, the site provides:

- A database of key documents
- Guidance sheets
- Tools
- Distance learning materials
- A discussion 'post-it' board
- Links to other organisations
- An enquiry desk
- Details of forthcoming events

The site is easy to use and almost all documents can be downloaded.

The distance learning material takes you, step-by-step, through the background, objectives, principles and applications of the approach. On a slow connection, it may take some time but is well worth the effort.

The 'post-it board' is an opportunity to learn from and share experiences with other practitioners. More contributions and case studies are welcome. The discussions are moderated. Current themes include livelihood indicators and responsible business.

<http://www.livelihoods.org/>

Livelihoods Connect also has a free email updating service. To subscribe send a blank email to: subscribe-livelihoods-update@lyris.ids.ac.uk

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