

Citizens Forum Session: 8th World Water Forum, Brasília

Thursday, March 22th, Room SC2 (number 17), 16:30–18:00

LOW COST, ENVIRONMENTALLY BASED WATER PURIFICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Synthesis

This session will examine experiences where environmentally based water purification technologies have been able to provide a reliable supply of good quality water in rural and informal settlements, offering autonomy and improved living standards regardless of the lack of centralized water infrastructure.

With experiences using different low cost technologies in widely different contexts, what lessons can we learn from their success and eventual failures? Are there common aspects in these experiences that may be used to guide the choice of appropriate technologies? What benefits and obstacles exist for a decentralised approach to water provision?

Context

A large percentage of the world population lives apart from centralized water infrastructure, which demands large sums of financial resources to implement, operate and maintain, take a lot of time to implement, and are, most of the time, unable to cope with increased consumption demand, or even with quick adaptation to changes in water quality at the source. It is paramount, thus, to design strategies that take advantage of the various benefits that a decentralized water provision infrastructure can offer when implemented alongside appropriate technologies that offer empowerment and independence from external control.

Objective

This session aims to identify technologies and implementation strategies that have been able to bring about success for the provision of appropriate water quality in communities isolated from centralized water infrastructure.

Speakers

Luciah Monchere, Human Needs Project (Kenya) - Human Needs Project is a NGO whose main office is located in the slum neighborhood of Kibera, the largest slum area in the world with 2.5 million inhabitants. Its “Kibera Town centre” provides the nearby population with a variety of services, including microcredit, parenting, health, nutrition, adult education, and others. Its main focus

though is providing water for toilets, laundry, showers and drinking to its nearly 800 users, where Luciah collects a variety of data.

Eklavya Prasad, Megh Pyne Abhiyan (India) – Eklavya Prasad leads Megh Pyne Abhiyan (MPA, a grassroots public charitable trust) literally meaning Cloud Water Campaign. Through MPA, Prasad is working on issues concerning resilience and adaptability amidst extreme weather conditions, participatory groundwater management, safe and secure drinking water processes and technologies, and hygienic and contextual sanitation technology and management, through collective accountability and action. He is committed towards behavioural change amongst the rural and urban communities, to effectively revive, innovate and institutionalize water-based engagements.

Ricardo Silveira Bernardes, Memorial Chico Mendes (Brasil) – Civil and Sanitary Engineer (Unicamp/IHE), has completed Masters and Doctorate studies at USP and WAU, and holds a + 40-yr experience with teaching and varied sanitation works. Currently working in flood-prone regions of Amazonia with the provision of water from community based infrastructure dealing with surface water, rainwater, and groundwater through iron and organic matter filters, associated with modified slow sand filters.

Session Coordinator and Keynote Speaker

Guilherme Castagna, Brazil – Civil engineer and permaculture designer, founding partner of São Paulo based Fluxus Design Ecológico. Member of the Aliança pela Água SP, and co-founder of Cisterna Já! (Cistern Now!), a civil society led movement that promoted the large scale adoption of rainwater harvesting in São Paulo during its peak crisis between 2013 and 2016. Works alongside NGO's and others on the design and practical application of integrated water management strategies and technologies that offer positive environmental impact and social inclusion for vulnerable communities.

Tentative Agenda

16:30 - Introduction, Keynote Speaker (5 min)

16:35 - Short film: "Citizen's Voice" (5 min)

16:40 – Luciah Monchere (15 min)

16:55 – Eklavya Prasad (15 min)

17:10 – Ricardo Silveira Bernardes (15 min)

17:25 - Question and Answer (25 min)

17:50 - Conclusions, Keynote Speaker (10 min)