

**STATEMENT BY THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK  
ON  
SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL: A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

1. Lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a global concern. It is a specific concern in Asia and the Pacific where more than 600 million people, mainly poor, lack access to safe drinking water and close to 2 billion to improved sanitation. Managing Asia's water resources efficiently, providing access to those who are unserved, or inefficiently served, investing in safe and sustainable sanitation, and using nature's most life-sustaining resource wisely are key issues in the water and sanitation sector.

2. The key concerns in water and sanitation include (i) the financing of rehabilitation and expansion projects for both water and sanitation to increase service coverage, and (ii) investing in structural reform of water and sanitation utilities and in building their capacities to improve their service delivery performance. To address these concerns, the Asian Development Bank, in 2006, announced a significant Water Financing Program to double its investments in water to over \$10 billion during the period 2006-2010 and to correspondingly increase its technical assistance to help prepare projects and to undertake reforms and long-term capacity building programs across the sector. As a proportion of ADB's overall funding commitments, water and sanitation projects are expected to increase from an average of 8.5% in 2003–2007 to about 17% in 2008–2010. The Program has set a target of 200 million people being provided safe drinking water supply and improved sanitation. ADB has also established a Water Financing Partnership Facility to support the Program implementation through additional financial and knowledge resources from financing partners for preparing projects, implementing policy and institutional reforms and capacity development, and piloting innovative projects.. In 2007, ADB's Water Committee committed to allocate 20% of the Water Financing Partnership Facility's resources to sanitation and related projects and activities.

3. Sanitation and Water for All: A Global Framework for Action aims to: (i) increase political prioritization for sustainable sanitation and drinking water, (ii) support strong national sanitation and water planning, investment and accountability frameworks, (iii) improve targeting and impact of resources, (iv) support effective decision making, and (v) strengthen mutual accountability.

4. As a demonstration of ADB's support to this Initiative, ADB hereby commits as follows:

- (i) ADB will support this Initiative primarily at country level - working with those countries that have committed to participate in this Initiative, which so far include Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, and Timor Leste. ADB's resident missions and project officers working in these countries will liaise with Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) focal points and SWA partners in-country to facilitate convergence of resources and close coordination of activities. ADB considers this as the more practical approach considering that decisions on prioritization of investments take place at country level and donor coordination is best achieved at that level as well.
- (ii) ADB will keep the SWA Secretariat informed of country or regional level dialogues with governments on water and sanitation investments, similar to the high level dialogue on sanitation that ADB convened in 2009 with 17 of its developing member countries to facilitate the formulation and adoption of

national sanitation plans and strategies for expanding their budget envelop to allow increased sanitation investments and adopt a comprehensive approach “from toilet to river”.

- (iii) ADB will provide the SWA Secretariat with information on its lending program for water and sanitation, as may be requested from time to time.
- (iv) ADB will continue responding to future GLAAS surveys and will attend future high level meetings.
- (v) ADB will continue to enhance the volume of development assistance to water and sanitation through its Water Financing Program. Since 2006 when the Program was launched until end-2009, ADB has approved a total lending of \$ 4.4 billion for water supply and comprehensive sanitation systems. Additional \$1.75 billion is expected to be approved in 2010. ADB’s overall lending for water from 2006-2009, including for irrigation and drainage, flood management, and water resources management totaled \$8.6 billion. An additional \$2 billion is expected to be approved by end 2010, thus meeting the Water Financing Program target of over \$10 billion by end 2010.
- (vi) ADB will continue to work towards achieving the Water Financing Program target of 200 million people provided access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation. Based on the approved lending from 2006 to 2009, a total of 109 million people are expected to be provided access to water supply and sanitation.
- (vii) To improve capacity and performance of water utilities in the region in delivering water and sanitation services, ADB will continue to actively implement the Water Operators Partnerships (WOPs) Program. Under this Program, ADB has established and supported the operation of the following water utility networks: (i) Southeast Asia Water Utilities Network (SEAWUN), (ii) South Asia Water Utilities Network (SAWUN), and (iii) Central Asia and South Caucasus Water Utilities Association (CASCWUA). Twinning program between weak and strong utilities has also gained momentum. To date, eleven twins are in place. Continuous performance benchmarking and improvement is also a major WOPs undertaking.
- (viii) ADB is in the process of preparing its successor Water Financing Program 2011-2020 which will continue to underpin expanded investments in the water sector. This successor program will be launched in October 2010 during the ADB and Partners Conference: Water Crisis and Choices.

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