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IAWPRC/PAHO Regional Symposium on "Drinking Water Supply and Sanitary Disposal of Excreta in Urban Slum Areas."

Santiago, Chile. 5 - 9 November 1984.

FINAL REPORT

This report has been prepared by the Secretariat of IAWPRC but it includes also the final report on the Symposium prepared by PAHO (as attachment A) and a copy of an article prepared for the IAWPRC Newsletter.

A proposal to organise a joint symposium by IAWPRC and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) as a contribution to the Water Decade was put forward by Professor R S Engelbrecht (President, IAWPRC) in 1981. From then on the proposal developed slowly, largely because of major personnel changes in PAHO.

In 1983 IAWPRC's Executive Director met with PAHO and recommended that water supply and sanitation in urban slum areas should be the topic. Furthermore, the need was stressed to avoid the conventional 'passive' conference approach in favour of highly participative workshop style sessions based on the solution of case study problems. The topic should not be considered purely on technological grounds but should include socio-economic, financial and institutional aspects. The case study work should be augmented by papers presented by expert speakers on the various topics, which would be used to help solve the case study problems. IAWPRC would contribute by providing the technology speaker. The Association also persuaded the World Bank to contribute a very wide range of their technical publications relevant to the symposium and the services of one of their specialists in low cost water technology to act as an expert adviser during the symposium.

These concepts were all accepted and PAHO did the detailed symposium organization, aided to some extent by USAID. PAHO was responsible for most of the paperwork (including the case studies), on site conference facilities including registration, expenses of speakers (except the technology one) and selection, invitation and all expenses of the delegates. PAHO runs a special symposium every 2 years and similarly pays all the costs. The World Bank paid for their specialist to attend and provided all publications free of charge.

IAWPRC entered into this project in the hope that the approach could be used elsewhere in the world, using the Santiago symposium as the prototype. Dealing with the required aspects of the IAWPRC conference report:-

1. Finance

The symposium was not organized on the normal self-financing basis. No overall costings are available since most of the expenses were borne by PAHO. IAWPRC's contribution lay in

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expenses incurred attending meetings to plan the symposium and the expenses of the Executive Director and Professor M B Pescod (UK) in attendance at the symposium itself. There were 2 planning meetings in Washington attended by the Executive Director. The planning meetings were in association with other business in the USA and the cost is spread across these. Overall it was estimated that IAWPRC expended approximately £4000 on this event.

2. Final Programme

See PAHO report attached.

3. Delegate List

See PAHO report attached.

4. Analysis of Delegates

All delegates were i) high ranking officials from water enterprises and government departments of Latin American countries; ii) officials from WHO/PAHO; iii) representatives of other international organizations (see PAHO report for details).

Argentina	5	Gutemala	6
Bahamas	3	Guyana	2
Brazil	9	Honduras	4
Bolivia	4	Haiti	1
Colombia	4	Mexico	7
Costa Rica	3	Panama	4
Chile	19	Paraguay	2
Dominican Republic	2	Peru	6
Ecuador	2	UK	1
El Salvador	3	Uruguay	2
		USA	1

WHO/PAHO 7

Other international organizations 9

Total: Delegates 106
Countries 24

5. Successes and Failures

The failures were few. Some of the expert speakers were not as good as had been hoped, excepting Professor Pescod. Otherwise planning, organization and running went well. The case studies could have been better and more time for the presentation and discussion of the case study reports would have been advantageous.

As to successes, there are two levels on which judgements can be made, relating to the IAWPRC objectives (see attached

Newsletter article). These are the successes during the week of the workshop itself and the longer term impact of the work done.

There is little doubt that there were many successes during the workshop. The delegates, mostly senior management and top officials, were given fresh insights into the problems of introducing and maintaining reliable water supply and sanitation facilities in urban slum areas. Many had viewed this as a purely technical exercise, restricted by the people's ability to pay. Many had not realised that a major problem is insecurity of tenure on the houses in which urban slum dwellers live and that many slum dwellers pay 10 times more for their water than others with regular house connections. Some delegates did have experience of introducing schemes in urban slum areas and were successful in passing on their experience to other delegates. One observer also commented that some of the top managers of water enterprises who were at the symposium were designing a low cost scheme for the first time.

The presentation of results to the government panel brought out some very good points. Shortage of time prevented the groups from making the sort of comprehensive presentation which a real life situation would have permitted. Some of the panel's criticisms would have been overcome by a longer presentation time. These are detailed criticisms though and overall this particular session went very well. The Government officials were mostly sharp and to the point and strongly emphasized the need for clear presentation of facts supported by good evidence and cost/benefit statements.

As to the longer term impact of the workshop, it is too soon to pass judgement. Whether any of the senior managers present will return to their cities and begin to implement new low cost schemes remains to be seen. Whether IAWPRC will repeat the symposium elsewhere also remains to be seen. An examination of the PAHO report pages 6 - 8 will show that PAHO took the symposium results very seriously. Many of their senior staff attended the symposium and spent long hours afterwards distilling the main conclusions from it into their report (as enclosed) and incorporating these into their next 5-year plan. If the latter brings successes as a result of PAHO's efforts then we might suppose that the symposium could have good results far outside its initial sphere of activity.

Summarising, the symposium is felt to have been very successful overall. Although it probably does not represent a 'watershed activity', in terms of the problems of water supply and sanitation in urban slum areas, it may well be that its influence is greater than was envisaged at the planning stage.

IAWPRC could not have run the symposium alone; our Secretariat

resources are far too small. Much credit must go to Guillermo Davila and Horst Otterstetter of PAHO and John Austin and Fred Rosensweig of USAID for their help. The World Bank also made a significant contribution through Richard Middleton and Augusto Guimaraes. Professor M B Pescod, one of IAWPRC's Regional Editors, did a first class job of the technology input.

IAWPRC should repeat this symposium in another part of the world, central or S E Asia perhaps, but we could not do so alone and would require the resources of a major international or regional organization to assist.

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
Drinking Water Supply and
Sanitary Disposal of Excreta in
Urban Slum Areas****Santiago - Chile, November 5-9, 1984****FINAL REPORT**

REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITARY
DISPOSAL OF EXCRETA IN URBAN SLUM AREAS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Regional Symposium on Drinking Water Supply and Sanitary Disposal of Excreta in Urban Slum Areas, was convened by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), co-sponsored by the International Association on Water Pollution Research and Control (IAWPRC), and supported by the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS).

The Symposium was held in Santiago - Chile from 05 through 09 November 1984, and was attended by 105 participants from 22 countries of the Region and 9 international and bilateral agencies. Most of the participants were funded from national resources; others benefitted from assistance offered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and USAID.

The purpose of the Symposium was to provide an appropriate forum in which to examine the main obstacles to more rapid progress in providing water and sanitation to marginal urban areas and to define practical alternatives which can solve the problems identified. The specific purpose was to find viable solutions to institutional, economic, technical and social problems which hinder the provision of adequate water supply and sanitation services to low-income urban settlements. Thus, participants had the opportunity to work general informations into specific project proposals, and to present them to a panel of political decision-makers in order to evaluate the political viability of these technical socio-economical and institutional proposals.

The keynote of the Symposium was that the solution of the problems of water supply and sanitation services for low-income urban settlements requires a new socio-technical approach in which community participation should be seen in the broadest perspective possible.

Another issue dealt with at the Symposium is related to the institutional responsibilities for providing potable water supply and sanitation services to the low-income settlement. In this particular, the conclusions and recommendations are very clear, in the sense that the already existing water and sanitation agency of the city shall be entrusted with this responsibility.

2. PROGRAM AND COORDINATION

Monday, November 05

09-12:00

14:00-15:00

PROGRAM

Registration

Opening Ceremony

. Dr. Mario Muñoz
Chief, Environmental Service,
Ministry of Health,
Chile

. Dr. Miguel A. Aguila
Country Representative, PAHO
Chile

. Mr. Norberto González
Assistant Executive Secretary
for Economic and Social
Development - CEPAL

. Mrs. Evelyn de Carazo
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. Ing. Guillermo Dávila
Coordinator, Environmental Health
Program - PAHO

. Eng. Anthony Milburn
Executive Director - IAWPRC

. Eng. Guillermo Cortez
President of the Organizing
Committee of the XIX AIDIS Congress

Keynote Paper

"The Urban Slum Areas in Large Cities

. Tim Campbell - U. S. A.

15:00-15:30

Orientaci6n

Horst Otterstetter - PAHO

15:30-18:00

Workshop 1 - "Problem Analysis"

Tuesday, November 06

09:00-11:00

Technical Session 1
"Technological Aspects"

- . Warren Pescod - United Kindom
- . Sergio A. Guimaraes - Brazil

11:00-12:00

Paper review

14:00-18:00

Workshop 2 - "Technological Aspects"

- . Ricardo Jordán - ECLA
- . Jorge Gavidia - UNCHS
- . Alastair White - IRC

11:00-12:00

Paper review

14:00-18:00

Workshop 3 - "Socio-cultural Aspects"

Thursday, November 08

09:00-11:00

Technical Session 3
"Institutional Aspects"

Abrahamo Fainzilber - Brazil
Guillermo Ruiz - Chile

11:00-12:00

Paper review

14:00-18:00

Workshop 4 - "Institutional Aspects"

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Friday, November 09

09:00-12:00

Workshop 5 - Preparation for project
proposal presentation

14:00-17:00

Presentation of project proposal
to panel

- . Eng. Odyer Sperandio - OMS
- . Eng. Walter Soto - Chile
- . Eco. José Pedro Algorta - IDB
- . Eng. Luis Linares - IDB
- . Eng. Marcelo Astoreca - Chile
- . Eng. Juan Lobos - Chile

17:00-17:30

General discussion and approval of the
final conclusions and recommendations of
the Symposium.

17:30-18:30

Closing Ceremony

- . Dr. Miguel A. Aguilar
Country Representative PAHO/Chile
- . Eng. Guillermo Dávila
Coordinator, Environmental Health
Program - PAHO
- . Eng. Anthony Milburn
Executive Director - IAWPRC
- . Eng. Carlos Solares
Representative of the participants

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Coordination of the Project Groups

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Eng. David Araúz
Eng. Celso Bredariol

Moderators of Plenary Sessions

Eng. Guillermo Dávila
Eng. Terrence Lee
Eng. Carlos Solares
Eng. Nora Cabrera
Eng. Odyer Sperandio

Secretariat

Eng. Walter Tabosa
Eng. Nora Cabrera
Eng. América González

3. FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants in the Regional Symposium on Drinking Water Supply and Sanitary Disposal of Excreta in Urban Slum Areas,

CONSIDERING:

1. that the regional goals and strategies adopted by all the governments to attain "Health for All by the Year 200" call for the protection and promotion of the health of special groups more vulnerable and exposed to higher health risk, therefore assigning priorities to populations living in extreme poverty in urban areas;
2. that the plan of action for "Health for All by the Year 2000" and the goals of the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade emphasize the importance of providing safe water and sanitation services to as many as possible by 1990 and to extend this coverage to the total population by the year 2000;
3. that the growth of urban population is applying strong pressure upon the physical and social structure of the cities, specifically in relation to education, transport, housing, sanitation, nutrition and health;
4. that the problems of unemployment and underemployment are becoming acute, both in the urban and in the rural areas, with an increasing repercussions in the rate of marginal growth of the marginal urban centers;
5. that one of the most significant changes in the demographic evolution of the Region, and very specifically in Latin America, is the geographic distribution of its population. This is reflected in the fact that in 1970, 57.6% of the total population was urban; in 1980, it was 64.5% and for the year 2000 it is estimated that 76.9% of the total population will be urban, representing 435 million inhabitants;
6. that the problems generated by this situation will be enormous and complex, requiring from the health sector, including the water and sanitation agencies, a more adequate coverage for a demand much higher than what is presently being served;
7. that the low-income urban settlements, where about 40% of the urban population presently lives, are exposed to serious health risks;
8. that a more realistic "socio-technical approach will require new standards, a strategy of gradual improvements and a high level of community participation;
9. that the low-income settlements are of several types, from slums and provisional settlements to quasi-legal quarters, with different degrees of complexity and history, and different socio-economic conditions. In these settlements, the common factors are precarious housing and public services, as well as intermittent, unequal and uncertain incomes.

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RECOMMENDING:

1. that the Governments, conscious of the magnitude of the problem of urban low-income settlements, establish strategies to serve these areas with a more realistic social and technological approach, including:
 - a) the multisectoral approach to the problem, encompassing all aspects pertinent to the social and cultural situation of the population,
 - b) the commitment of the community, using its organizational structures, aiming at active community participation in all phases of implementation of the services,
 - c) the development of educational programs aiming at creating awareness among the population for the benefits to assure an adequate use of the services, and promoting sanitary habits,
 - d) the link to the overall development of the economy, specially job creation, in order to make sure that the projects take into consideration the socio-economic and demographic growth of the target area,
 - e) the political decision that these segments of the population are to be supplied with drinking water and excreta disposal services.
2. that the drinking water and sanitation institutions establish policies to serve the low-income settlements, including:
 - a) the coordination of actions between the institution and the other organizations responsible for planning, health, housing and urban development,
 - b) the optimization of management, increasing substantially its efficacy and efficiency in order to improve the utilization of available resources;
 - c) the incorporation within the institution of the functions necessary to provide services to the low-income settlements, including well-defined policies, strategies and objectives, as well as more flexible standards;
 - d) the assignment within the budget of specific resources to provide services to low-income urban settlements;
 - e) the institutionalization of applied research aiming at the use of appropriate low-cost technology to optimize the use of local labor and materials without affecting the quality of the services;
 - f) the establishment of programs to reduce to acceptable levels unaccounted-for water in order to optimize the installed capacity.

3. that the financial institutions, including the national and international donor agencies make positive contributions toward the attention to urban low-income settlements by:
 - a) the use of soft loans and grants for the financing of potable water and sanitation systems for these areas, speeding up the procedures to obtain loans and considering the economic and financial feasibility of these projects;
 - b) accepting more flexible criteria and standards for design, which are adaptable to the socio-economic conditions of urban low-income settlements;
 - c) the granting of nonreimbursable technical assistance for the development of water and sanitation institutions responsible for urban low-income areas and for institutions responsible for applied research.
4. that PAHO/WHO and other international and bilateral institutions for technical cooperation grant support to the countries for the:
 - a) study and development of solutions for low-income areas;
 - b) preparation of programs to develop the human resources necessary for these areas;
 - c) production and dissemination of information, including bibliography, related to experiences and solutions developed in the countries of the Region;
 - d) planning and development of programs for health education related to aspects of personal hygiene, and the sanitation of the housing environment;
 - e) development and dissemination of appropriate technology.

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