

KUALA LUMPUR REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Partners:

KLRTC UPDATE

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A PUBLICATION FOCUSED ON REPORTING OUTCOMES OF KLRTC PROGRAMMES

KLRTC VII: Financing Municipal Water and Sanitation Services – The Creditworthiness Challenge, December 4 – 7, 2005

The seventh Workshop of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC), marked the final programme of the initial three-year partnership between CITYNET, UNITAR, KL City Hall, UNDP, and Veolia Environment. With a focus on “Financing Municipal Water and Sanitation Services – The Creditworthiness Challenge,” it brought together various city and regional stakeholders in a short yet intensive session from 4 to 7 December, 2005.

KLRTC VII was unique in that it sought to bring two representatives from each participating city, to meet the Creditworthiness Challenge with personnel directly involved in the policy and financial decision making processes in regards to water and sanitation services. The Workshop was also shorter than previous KLRTC programmes, focusing more intensively in working groups with the participants as they made assessments on their strengths and weaknesses in achieving creditworthiness.

Participating cities were able to hear from a variety of experts on the delivery of water and sanitation services, as well as the importance of properly managing the financial aspects of these services.

KLRTC will continue on with its success, hosting the KLRTC VIII: “Sustainable Urban Transport in Asia and the Pacific Region,” from 26 March – 1 April 2006. With the extension and expansion of the Agreement of Cooperation amongst the KLRTC’s partners for the next three years, cities can look forward to benefiting from future Training Courses tailored to meet their needs.



Knowledge Management Session: Participants work on self-assessment of their water services



World Bank/ IFC Municipal Fund

The Municipal Fund (MF) is a joint initiative of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). MF has the capacity to make loans and extend financial guarantees to local governments and to utilities owned by local governments in development countries, without the need to ask for a guarantee from the central government.

MF’s objective is to strengthen the local governments’ ability to deliver key infrastructure services such as water, wastewater management, transportation, electricity, and power, and to improve efficiency and accountability. (See <http://www.ifc.org/municipalfund>)

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LESSONS LEARNED



KLRTC VII share their ideas and experiences during a Knowledge Management Session

Key lessons learned from KLRTC VIII include:

- Understanding of methodology to access financing, especially for municipal water utilities
- Learnt the various elements of creditworthiness analysis
- Greater understanding of good asset management
- Application of the experience of Kuala Lumpur to participants' own communities
- Both maintenance and planning for long-term use of utilities for the community
- Improvement of services mechanisms and preparation of action plans
- Obtaining future loans for new projects
- Modalities of changes from public to privatisation and methodologies adopted in water and sanitation services



Knowing more about Kuala Lumpur City – its history and development

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Representatives of various local governments participate in a working group discussion

ACTION PLAN

The restructuring of Nepal Water Services Corporation (NWSC) for better participation and quality services on city's water and sanitation services will organize the new organizational structure and KMC [Kathmandu Metropolitan City] will be large and active partners of it. After KMC's involvement in newly formed organization on water services, the financial assistance of bilateral and multilateral kinds will be needed. The workshop's outcomes, as we have just enhanced, will be highly considerable on that said situation.

- *Padma Raj Regmi, Chief Executive Officer, and Nama Raj Dhakal, Finance Officer Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Nepal*

The knowledge gained from the experiences of the participating cities has given the Bulacan Team a wider perspective on the possibilities of jumpstarting the project [Bulacan Bulk Water System Project]... Now, IFC and the provincial government is trying to come up with possible schemes on how the IFC can participate in the project

- *Nerissa Bautista, Planning Officer IV Provincial Government of Bulacan, Philippines*

Note: These action plans were extracted from the post-training reports submitted by the participants. Participants who have not sent their reports to CITYNET Secretariat are requested to submit them as soon as possible.

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KLRTC Executive Board Meeting

Following the KLRTC VII Workshop on "Financing Municipal Water and Sanitation Services – The Creditworthiness Challenge," an Executive Board Meeting was held among the partners of CIFAL Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Centre (KLRTC) to reflect on the success of the last three years of KLRTC Training Workshops, and to share the continued vision of KLRTC for the next three years.

The meeting, chaired by Ms. Norma Binti Malik, Deputy Director General, City Hall of Kuala Lumpur, was attended by various representatives from Kuala Lumpur City Hall, UNITAR, CITYNET, Veolia Environnement, and UNDP. The World Bank Institute also participated as an observer. Reports were made on activities of the first three years since KLRTC's inception, planned activities for the next three years, and the financial information of the programme. Important strategic input for the future was also discussed, including the formation of an alumni network, increased publicity and participation, forming more partnerships, and greater cooperation with other CIFAL Centres.

The board members worked on reviewing, discussing, and editing the draft Agreement of Cooperation to be renewed for the period of 2006-2008, and to continue the successful Training Courses. Furthermore, WBI agreed to offer its expertise and resources as a permanent KLRTC partner. With this expanded partnership, all the stakeholders can look forward to continued success of the programme in the future.



KLRTC Update is published by CITYNET Secretariat in collaboration with all KLRTC partners. Articles can be reproduced; citing of the source is requested.

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