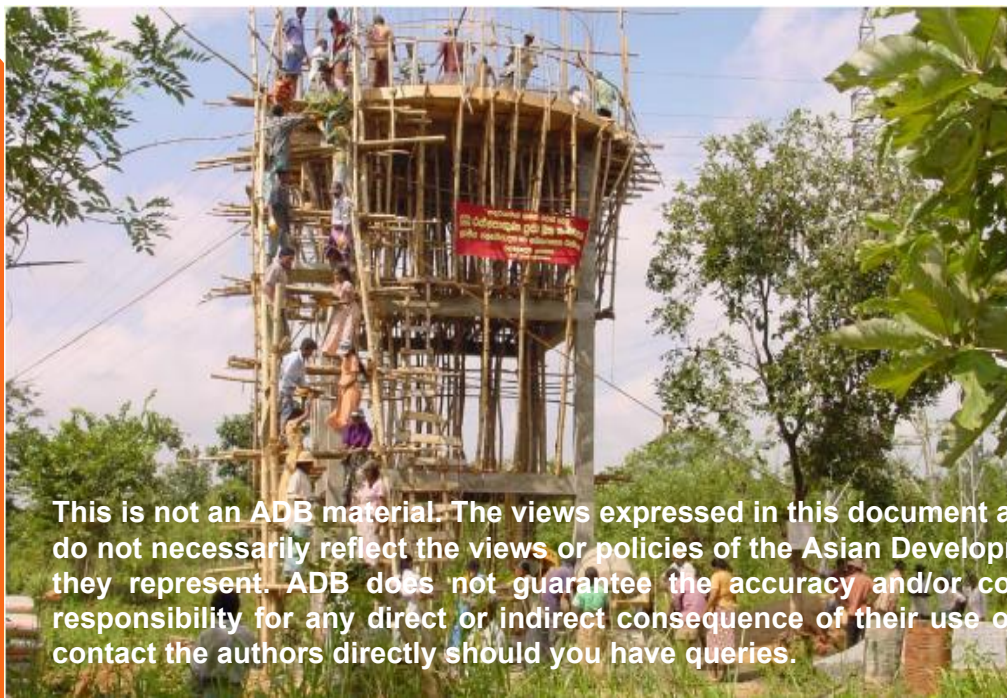


GENDER SKIRMISHES AND OTHER WATER ISSUES



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GENDER & WATER
PLENARY SESSION
15 MARCH 2013
ADB MANILA

KUSUM ATHUKORALA
SRI LANKA WATER PARTNERSHIP /NETWWATER

STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES



- ❖ Dublin Rio principles 3, Useful hook, Global Water Partnership
- ❖ GWP South Asia Regional Council – Gender balanced decision making
- ❖ Sri Lanka Water Partnership – GWP affiliate
- ❖ NetWwater, set-up with support from ADB – SLWP member
- ❖ NetWwater becomes one of WFWP founders

OPERATIONALIZING DUBLIN RIO 3



- ❖ Sustainability is all about attitude and behavioural change.
- ❖ Gender issues and empowerment of women
- ❖ “Power concedes nothing without a demand”
- *Frederick Douglass*

**“The supreme art of war is to subdue
the enemy without fighting”
- Sun Tzu**

OBSTACLES, AMBUSHES AND LAND MINES



- ❖ Deep seated cultural issues
- ❖ No enabling environment
- ❖ No gender desegregated data bases, no interest or funding for same
- ❖ No information for evidence based advocacy
- ❖ No seat at the table
- ❖ Association with “Western feminism”

**“He will win who knows when to fight
and when not to fight”
- Sun Tzu**

COLLABORATORS AND UNLIKELY ALLIANCES



- ❖ Importance of political will and commitment
- ❖ CSR programs – corporates partners e.g. Insurance company and garment manufacturers
- ❖ Knowledge and behaviour change don't necessarily go together
- ❖ Why is capacity building so important and so difficult to fund – tangible vs. intangible

“Build your opponent a golden bridge
to retreat across.”
- Sun Tzu

WEAPONS OF MASS CONVICTION

- ❖ Gender and Water dialogues
- ❖ Management retreats
- ❖ Exposure visits
- ❖ Women and Water empowerment programs – Jalavahini
- ❖ Information dissemination – books , radio talks, translations,
- ❖ Incessant dialogues – policemen and beauty pageant participants
- ❖ Behavioural change communication
- ❖ Building a critical mass of gender sensitive resource persons
- ❖ Training male resource persons
- ❖ Break the stereotype of the gender proponent



**“Treat your men as you would your own
beloved sons. And they will follow you into
the deepest valley.”
- Sun Tzu**

FOOT SOLDIERS OR CANNON FODDER ?



- ❖ Women are the foot soldiers of climate change adaptation but how involved in decisionmaking?
- ❖ A major engagement necessary, but how...?
- ❖ Facilitate attitudinal change, support with funding allocations?

“Supreme excellence consists of breaking the enemy’s resistance without fighting.”

- Sun Tzu

FUTURE ACTIONS FOR ASIA

- ❖ Building a convinced constituency
- ❖ Revisiting ADB activities and outputs for lessons learnt
- ❖ Build political commitment
- ❖ Having an International Women and Water Day?
- ❖ Those who are ready to adapt, survive!



“Build your opponent a golden bridge
to retreat across.”

- Sun Tzu

THANK YOU

