

# INUWASAPI

Innovative Urban Water  
and Sanitation Programs  
in India



## Scientific leader

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ASIA-Urbs  
CONTRACT N° ASIE/2004/096-666  
31/12/2004 - 30/12/2006



## ABSTRACT

The objective of the programme is to help and support Indian cities to initiate and develop an integrated and innovative approach for their water supply, sanitation and sewerage expansion projects as well as for rehabilitation and preservation of the environmental qualities of their water systems projects.

To recall the context, in most Indian cities, the conjunction of problems make it difficult for local governments (or water and sewerage boards) to elaborate long term sustainable strategies. Water supply is intermittent (an average of 6 hours a day) and provided with low pressure. A large share of the population is not connected with individual connections (40% for instance in Delhi, the capital) and the coverage for sewerage services is abysmally low. Therefore, investments, in a context of financial constraints, are heavily needed while the cost of energy and transport to build water and sewerage systems expand. In addition, other factors have to be into account while drawing long-term planning solutions. The environmental constraint is becoming more stringent with increased pollution (domestic as well as industrial) and with the fast depleting local groundwater sources. Development projects are also faced with a number of social and economic issues related to historically low water tariffs, affordability problems by a large share of the population among others. Further more, issues of governance are becoming more complex with the large number of public actors intervening at various scales of government (local government, State government, increased role of metropolitan authorities) and the emergence of potentially strong local opposition to any project, often steered by non government local actors.

In this increasingly complex and constrained set up, all studies clearly show that traditional approaches, aiming to increase supply via large infrastructure projects (such as large dams, carrying water from very far, etc..) are very costly, often unsustainable and are also delayed due to the large number of environmental clearances required. Therefore, this traditionnal approach, combines in terms of technico-economic management in a "business as usual" manner needs some rethink.

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This is where our project intends to bring about a difference. Indeed, our project supports the idea that new techniques that are emerging in the water and waste water sector, can be combined with a more traditional approach, and be adapted to a locally specified Indian context, in order to find technico-economically solutions that are both financially affordable, socially affordable and that contributes to the protection of the environment. Our project will therefore try to initiate among local governments a new thinking on their required needs and constraints in order to develop original local solutions, with the support of local entrepreneurs.

To reach this purpose, this project will help and support a selected number of Indian cities to enter into these processes. The tools used will be dissemination of information on a number of themes (new technical solutions, social questions, economic requirements and environment pollution, issues of governance), a series of workshops for each city selected with the objective of choosing the main local issues and to arrive at formulating a long term action plan. In all these workshops, members of municipal councils and (or) water boards will be invited as well as experts in their field, local academic research institutions, local private entrepreneurs and members of the civil society.

## PARTNERS

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