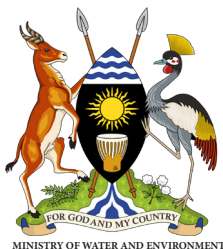


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UGANDA  
**W&E**  
WEEK

# THE WATER FRONT

Newsletter

## Water & Environment Security for Smart Urban Growth

**W**hen it comes to sustainable development, smart urban growth is envisioned. The keynote address and panellists agreed that sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way cities are built and managed.

‘Ensuring water and environment security for sustainable urban growth’ was the sub-theme for day 5 of the UWEWK which began with a dialogue session moderated by Ms. Cate Nimanya, the Country Director, Water for People. Dr. Graham Alabaster, the Head of UN Habitat Geneva made the keynote address in which he pointed out that Sub-Saharan Africa’s large proportion of the urban population reside in slums, adding that two thirds

To page 2



Mr. Pade Joseph Walter, Commissioner for Urban Development –Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and Mr. Edward Kiwanuka, the Town Clerk Gulu City in discussion after the morning session

# Water & Environment Security for Smart Urban growth



Participants during the morning session

## From page 1

of the population live in low income areas.

He noted that among the challenges facing urban growth are poor quality urbanisation, extreme climate events, water stress, water scarcity, pollution and poor standards of sanitation and solid waste management.

Dr. Alabaster further discussed a new paradigm for low cost urban water supplies and sanitation in developing countries. “A new paradigm is proposed for low cost urban supply and sanitation. Provision of water supply and sanitation in urban areas and large villages should be to groups of households and not to individual households,” he said.

In the paradigm, groups of households would form water and sanitation cooperatives.

**“ Only 64% of the solid waste is collected, while the rest remains within the community and destroys the environment.”**

They would have a standpipe and yard tap cooperatives served by community managed sanitation blocks. Very poor

households would be served by community managed stand pipes and sanitation blocks. He noted that there is need to support pro-poor water and sanitation investments in the secondary urban centres in the Lake Victoria region. “There is also need to reduce the environmental impact of urbanisation in the Lake Victoria basin, build institutional and human resource capacities at local and regional levels for the sustainability of improved water and sanitation services,” he noted. In his take away messages, Dr Alabaster explained that understanding urban inequities is key to plan for improved WASH services and building resilient infrastructure. He said that the Lake Victoria water and sanitation programme shows one way to ensure sustainable

finance, reducing borrowing and moving from poorly functioning utilities to world class service levels.

He said that there is a great opportunity presented to completely re-think sanitation provision through a flexible upgradable system with good cost recovery and good prospects for nature based solutions and re-use. He added that advances in monitoring technology will enable water quality in a cost effective manner to reduce risks.

Mr. Pade Joseph, Commissioner for Urban Development – Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development, noted that 20% of Uganda’s population is based in urban areas and is expected to grow to 5.2% per annum. He told the participants that Uganda has a national urban policy which provides for the creation of cities and provision for sustainable water and environment management. “We are supporting the cities in solid waste management infrastructure, which is directly linked to water quality. We are supporting the cities through spatial planning including gazettement and protecting the wet lands,” he explained. Mr. Pale shared that the UN Habitat is supporting the Government to re-organise the national slum upgrading strategy.

Mr Edward Kiwanuka, the Town Clerk of Gulu city noted that the process of wetland demarcation and protection is ongoing. He added that there is need to enforce the environment law so as to improve solid waste management. He noted that involvement of the private sector and continued community sensitisation on waste management is critical



**Grace Wako Katuramu (left), a Consultant on Water and Environment in discussion with Ms Cate Zziwa Nimanya, the Executive Director of Water for People after the morning session**

to the sustainable use and management of water and environment resources. Eng. Johnson Amayo, Deputy Director – Technical Services at National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) noted to participants that to ensure water supply in Kampala slums, NWSC has introduced the pre-paid meter infrastructure in Kisenyi where water is charged at ugx25. He said that NWSC has plans to introduce pre-paid meters in other different slums. He added that NWSC has also constructed 170 public toilets which are run by the community who charged a small fee to access the services. He noted that NWSC is participating in a tree planting campaign and that plans are underway to start generation of power from sewerage. Ms. Jane Sembuche Mselle, the Country Director, WaterAid noted that WASH service delivery requires a multi-sectoral approach and cannot

be achieved by one or two players, and so it’s critical for all players to come on board. Mr. Fridtjof Behnsen, the Head of GIZ NatuReS Tanzania stressed that water and environment are critical to our existence. He recommended the adoption of smart technology and more use of green and nature based solutions in cities. Ms. Chikondi Chabvuta, the Regional Advocacy Adviser, CARE SA noted that urban areas in Africa are growing at an exponential rate thereby affecting access WASH services. She noted that civil society should be modelling practices that can be picked up and also contribute to strengthening the information management system. She recommended awareness creation and the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in all sectors and called for citizens’ participation in the formulation of policies for smart cities.

# SIDE EVENTS



Participants pose for a group photo after the Launch of the WRI Mentorship programme

## Water Resources Institute Mentorship Programme launched at UWEWK 2021

As part of the UWEWK 2021, the Water Resources Institute (WRI) Mentorship Program for young and early career professionals in water and environment sector was launched. The launch was held at the Ministry of Water and Environment Auditorium at the Head Offices in Luzira. It was officiated by Ms. Jane Sembuche Mselle, the Country Director, WaterAid Uganda. The WRI-MENTORSHIP program is a career-development fellowship that seeks to mentor the women, young and mid-career professionals in water

and environmental related fields of practice. The event kicked off with welcome remarks from Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner, Water Resources Planning and Regulation Department, who introduced Rosemita Birungi the moderator of the event. Ms Gwendolyn Zaake explained what WRI does, where it is now and where it is going, saying it is focussing on Applied training in water and environment sector, research, approaches and technologies on Water and Environment issues. A keynote presentation on Mentorship was delivered by

Joyce Nakalema, Chief Human Resource Officer, Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited, who said Mentorship was not a cost, but is meant to propel the organisation. She said the Accelerated mentorship programme tracks what is going on, provides an opportunity for growth, brings together mentors, sponsors and peer networks, self-reflection and thus acceleration in growth. She recommended mentorship for every organisation because it helps in Risk management, increases creativity, innovation, faster problem solving and better decision-making.

## Applied Training on Shit Flow Diagram

The Applied Training on the Shit Flow Diagram (SFDs) and City Service Delivery Assessment (CSDA) tools for enhancing sanitation service delivery: an underlying stepping stone for sustainable urban growth was facilitated by Water For People and GIZ. Participants were trained to

be able to apply the tools on a programme identifying data requirements for the development of SFDs and CSDAs, understanding the screen and how to enter data for the production of SFD and interpreting the SFD and CSDA. Brenda Achiro from Water For People highlighted that partic-

ipants were able to understand the importance of identifying policy and institutional frame conditions for service delivery, start using the tools to develop an SFD and CSDA and learn from different authorities in Uganda on how the tools have applied to advocate for safely managed sanitation services.

# Applied Trainings

On Thursday, March 25th, 2021, the 5th day of the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK), a number of sessions were organized. A total of three side events were held under different organizations and topics. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) held a side event under the topic; Delivering Bonn challenges pledges in a way that benefits people and biodiversity: The Ugandan model. The side event was held at the IREC, National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) offices in Bugolobi. The Ministry of Water and Environment under the International Transboundary and Water Affairs Department held a side event under the topic; Transboundary water cooperation focus on River Nile. The side event was held in Zooka boardroom at Ministry of Water and Environment headquarters in Luzira. The Water Resources Institute (WRI) launched the WRI mentorship program for young and early career professionals in the water and environment sector. In addition to the side events, applied trainings were also held. Two applied trainings were held. Engineers without Borders USA and WiGIS Uganda held an applied training on introducing to GIS asset mapping and surveying. Water For People and GIZ held an applied training; The Shit Flow Diagram (SFDs) and City Service Delivery Assessments (CSDA) tools for enhancing sanitation serves.



Participants pose for a group photo on Thursday afternoon

## Policy, practice and scientific paper presentations

A total of 14 policy, practice and scientific paper presentations, each roughly 7 minutes long, were made by different sector stakeholders during the parallel session held on March 25th, 2021 from 2pm – 5pm under the title, ‘Water and environment security for inclusive growth’. The session started with a presentation from Claude Hellen, titled ‘Sustainable value addition of water and natural resources for increased income and employment through productive use equipment.’ Claude noted that farming is a backbone of Uganda’s development, food security, employment, exports as well as provider of basic raw materials for industrial sectors like manufacturing. The mission of the study is to boost farming for production by use of solar powered irrigation systems that provide these farmers with sustainable food production.

“Specifically we dwell within the field of helping farmers in providing this equipment that will help boost their income. The specific objectives are: encouraging more sustainable ways of farming, improving farming through use of modern agricultural equipment, valuing the environment through use of proper farming techniques that preserve natural resources,” she said. The solar powered water pumps enable farmers to have access to water, without fear of drought or drying of crops therefore increased income. She continued that major goal is to create awareness about clean energy and equipment that is environmentally friendly. The methods used to attain the information were surveys that were done to dialogue with farmers, questionnaires and field visits. The conclusion was that there is a need for government involvement in encouraging use of clean energy.

# Participants' experiences at UWEWK



**Pade Joseph Walter,  
Commissioner for Urban  
Development – Ministry of  
Land, Housing and Urban  
Development.**

I was given the opportunity to present a paper and this has been my first time to participate in the water week, I have actually found it to be very informative. A lot has been going

on that we have not been aware of as indicated earlier on in my submission, the major challenge has been that we have not been working together as Government but I think this provides us an opportunity to know what each entity of Government is doing, what our stakeholders are doing so that we make decisions with that informed point of view.

**Patrick Jaramogi –  
Reporter on Climate  
and Agriculture**

So far the Water week has been good, we are learning



a lot of things despite the COVID-19. The issue of technology is really getting top notch but the issue coming up is the issue of protecting the environment and having water as one of the key factors in promoting environmental change. As the days go on, I hope we shall learn more as the various sub themes get discussed. It was interesting hearing from Dr. Harsh and other panelists, we have really learnt a lot.



**Jane Sembuche Mselle,  
Country Director, WaterAid**

I think there is quite a lot of learning like through the discussions, the keynote presentations and then the platform to be able to exchange and learn from that is quite important. I have seen there have been quite a number of people that have come on board to be able to join so I think we should be able to see how we can expand what we are gaining because even with the way its set up, you have people that are in Geneva presenting, people in different parts which would have been different had it been face to face only but the online platform is allowing for such extensive knowledge sharing and learning. So I think that's what I have enjoyed and picked as a highlight.

**Kulanyi Rashidah, In-  
Country Coordinator,  
Netherlands WASH  
SDG Programme**

UWEWK 2021 has been a great opportunity for learning and sharing within the sector in the new reality of Covid-19. I would to thank the organizers together with MWE for facilitating this event that's drawn participants from different countries as well as sectors. As Simavi, we are glad that we had an opportunity



to share our experiences from the WASH First Programme and WASH SDG subprograms in Agago.



Dr. Florence Grace Adongo, the Director of Water Resources Management at the Ministry of Water and Environment, Dr. Charles Wana Etyem, Warner Consultant and Dr. Hellen Natu, Regional Manager Nile Basin Discourse, in discussion after the session

## Transboundary Water Cooperation: Focus on River Nile

**W**ater and Environment experts have asked for uniform transboundary body to manage the River Nile. This was hatched during the UWEWK 2021 parallel session on Transboundary Water Cooperation with a focus on River Nile.

Justice Ralph Ochan, the Chairperson at the Public Service Commission, said: “All countries where the River Nile passes are supposed to agree on the prevention, control and reduction transboundary impact as they use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way. There is an agreement that has been so far signed by a four of the six countries in East Africa,” Ochan said. Justice Ochan also emphasized the need for transboundary countries on River Nile to cooperate. “The UN

convention obliges us to ensure to use the water bodies in a sustainable way. It is also right for the countries bordering the same transboundary waters to cooperate by having specific agreements and establishing joint bodies,” he added.

The UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (the Water Convention) promotes cooperation on transboundary surface and ground waters and strengthens their protection and sustainable management. The convention role is to strengthen cooperation and prevention of conflicts over transboundary waters.

Professor Ahmed Abdulla, the Executive Director Nile Basin Initiative noted that it is the mandate of all the countries that are sharing River Nile to

agree on the future of the water resource.

Dr. Florence Grace Adongo, the Director of Water Resources Management at the Ministry of Water and Environment explained that River Nile is the source of Uganda’s livelihood.

“Uganda has the source of the River Nile and 40% internally generated rainfall comes from the environment that fills the Nile,” Dr. Adongo said.

Engineers Elicad Elly Nyabeeya, Regional coordinator –The Nile Basin Subsidiary Action Program advised the stakeholders in the Water sector to re-strategize in operation for River Nile sustainability.

Dr. Hellen Natu, the Regional Manager Nile Basin Discourse implored the civil society organisations to network on dialogues to foster transborder cooperation.

# Sponsors and Partners



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