



Workshop on
*Promotion of Women's Participation
in Water Management*

23 - 24 February 2005

Convened by
*Regional Centre on
Urban Water Management - Tehran*
under the auspices of UNESCO

with cooperation of
*Bureau of
Promotion of Women's Role in WRM*
Ministry of Energy, I.R. Iran

Introduction

Promotion of Women's role in different aspects of water management is one of the most important measures to be carried out in compliance with meeting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) goals. In this respect, some great endeavours and proceeds have been taken within the international, regional and national levels in recent years.

In this respect the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM – Tehran) under the auspices of UNESCO held a workshop on "Promotion of Women's Participation in Water Management" in cooperation with the Bureau of Promotion of Women's Role in WRM, Ministry of Energy, I.R. Iran in Tehran, 23 – 24 February 2005.

Seventeen technical papers including 10 national and 7 papers from outside the country on women's participation in water management were submitted by Representatives, Managers, Directors and Experts of Governmental and Non-governmental



Organisations from different countries including Germany, Jordan, Iran, TIWA-Norway, RCTWS-Egypt, GWA-The Netherlands, UNESCO and UNESCAP.

This workshop was highly received by around 150 participants including representatives of the Ministry of Energy, I.R. Iran and the affiliated companies, NGO's and some regional water authorities and other organisations.

The main themes of this workshop were as follows:

- How to workout strategies on women's participation in water management issues
- Promotion of women's role in decision making on water resources management issues
- Capacity building

- Case studies, outcomes of women's participation in water management

The workshop was followed by three technical sessions by the national and international lecturers

Wednesday, 23rd February

Opening Session



This session including three speeches was held with statements deliberated by Dr. Ardakanian, the deputy minister of energy for water affairs, I.R. Iran and director of RCUWM – Tehran, then it was followed up by Mrs. Najafi's remarks, the consultant of minister of energy for women's



affairs and finally and as the opening speech by Dr. Shojaee, the I.R. Iran's president consultant and head of Women's Participation Affairs Centre.



First Technical Session

This session included 4 papers presented by Ms. Roestel, the managing director of Urban Dewatering, Dresden, Germany with the title of "Water management and role of women in this sector in Germany, Ms. Khosla, from Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) with a paper under the title of "Gender initiatives and programming at the 3rd World Water Forum, Kyoto, Japan, March 2003, Ms. Torabi, from Water Resources Management Organisation (WRMO), I.R. Iran with a paper under the title of "women's contribution to measurement and decision making levels in water" and Ms. Jalali from Rooyan Consulting Engineering Co, I.R. Iran with a paper under the title of "Women's participation in optimising water consumption pattern in urban areas" respectively.



Second Technical Session

The first technical session was followed by discussion and lunch and the second technical session was held by presenting 6 papers, as follows:



A paper under the title of "Mainstreaming gender in policies, institutions and projects on water resources management" by Ms. Rikke Munk

Hansen from UNESCAP. The second paper presented by Mr. Mahmoudi, the director of Tehran's Water and Wastewater Company under the title of "Women's role in urban water management in Tehran". Third paper was



presented by Ms. Dina Abdel Hamid, the representative of the Regional Centre on Training Water Studies from Egypt, under the title of

"Women's participation in integrated water resources management in Egypt". Next lecturer was Ms. Annuka Lipponen

from UNESCO-IHP and presented her paper under the title of "IHP views on promotion of women's participation in water management".



The fifth lecturer was Mr. Ghasemi, director of the Irrigation and Drainage Network Operation Company, Ghazvin, I.R. Iran and presented his paper under the title of "Women's role in Ghazvin irrigation communities management". Last lecturer



was Ms. Jazani, the representative of the Research and Training Institute of Ministry of Energy, I.R. Iran and presented her paper under the title of "Gender mainstreaming in water management"



Thursday, 24th February

Third Technical Session



Third and last technical session was held by presenting 7 papers as follows:

First paper presented by Prof. U.A. Gurgens, from the International Water Academy of Norway under the title of "Water for the Poorest, the Women's Role". Second paper under the title of "Women's participation in agricultural water management" was prepared by Mr. Esfandiari and Ms. Kahrizi, the representatives of WRMO, I.R. Iran. Third paper was presented by Mr. Mohammed Ayesh, the representative of the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer from Jordan, under the title of "Role of women in water management & conservation in Jordan".



Forth paper presented by Mr. Azarmsa, director of Irrigation and Drainage Network Operation Co., Gilan-I.R. Iran and presented by his representative, Ms. Rashtci, under the title of "Women's participation in water management in Gilan province". This session was followed by presenting three other papers by the Iranian



lecturers. Ms. Roostaei, the representative of Environmental Conservation Organisation, I.R. Iran presented her paper under the title of "Role of women in environmental management". Then Ms. Aryan, the representative of Mahab Ghodss Consulting Engineering Co., I.R. Iran presented

a paper under the title of "Role of Women in Water Resources Utilization and Irrigation in Iran. The last paper belonged to Ms. Sabetraftar, director of water resources quality management office of WRMO, I.R. Iran and presented by Mr. Mushirvaziri under the title of "Role of women in improvement of water quality and quantity management in Iran"



Closing session



This session was held with Mr. Jahani, the senior advisor of RCUWM – Tehran as the chairman and the panel members including Ms. Hansen, Ms. Abdel-Hamid and Ms. Torabi, during which the mentioned panel members deliberated their points of view as conclusions, the most important of which have been presented within the last page. Then Mr. Jahani stated his remarks on the workshop conclusions and recommendations and highlighted the necessity of implementing more integrated operational plans with specific objectives and reiterated that, to gain these goals, in addition to applying more integrated systems, some more factors concerning institutional, managerial and capacity building prospective should be taken into consideration.

The closing remarks were submitted by Dr. Ardakanian, during which he referred to water as an ever challenge which has been always a factor for developing technology. He also pointed out the important and vital role of women in both supply and demand management aspects and added that clarifying the women's participation concept requires holding scientific and technical conferences. At the end of his speech, Dr. Ardakanian appreciated all national and international participants due to presenting their precious papers. Finally certifications were delivered to the lecturers by Dr. Ardakanian.



Technical Tours, Sightseeing

In addition to the above-mentioned workshop sessions which were held in 23 and 24 February, the foreign guests were taken to Saad-Abad Complex, Water Museum on 24 February afternoon and also they were taken to Isfahan for two days including 25 and 26 February and visited Isfahan water and wastewater company structures and Zayanderood dam, while they visited some historical places of the city.



Concluding Remarks

The most important remarks which were presented by the panel members as the wrap-up of the workshop were as follows:



- Establishing a conducive environment for women's participation;
- Reiterating the necessity of making more cooperation as operational means aimed at gender mainstreaming;
- Emphasising on creating more opportunities for women in managerial and decision-making sectors;
- Promoting women's training in different technical fields;
- Establishing women communities within governmental organisations;
- Establishing a unit of gender information in water affair section of Ministry of Energy or in other Ministries to provide the possibility of generating opinions and gender performance assessment in water resources management projects;
- Increasing women's participation requires taking the importance of religions, customs, cultures and governance into consideration while the interdependence and interaction among them must be explored.

