

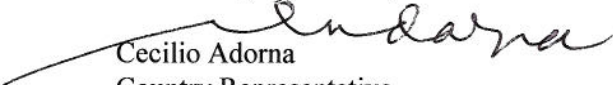
MEMORANDUM

United Nations Children's Fund
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Date: 11th June 2007

To: All Country Offices Representatives

From: 
Cecilio Adorna
Country Representative
UNICEF India.

Alan Court 
Director, Programme Division,
UNICEF, New York.

**Subject: International Learning Exchange in Water and Sanitation sector in India
18-28 September 2007**

India is implementing one of the largest national water supply and sanitation programmes among developing nations with five-year resource outlay of over two billion dollars. UNICEF provides strategic inputs through the Child's Environment Programme (CEP) and contributes to the improvement in infant and child wellness, their growth and development and in narrowing the equity gap for access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene behaviour.

At a time when India still faces serious challenges of fresh water scarcity, groundwater depletion and environmental pollution, there is so much to be learnt from current and past experiences to fulfill the promise of "safe drinking water and sanitation for all".

UNICEF India Country Office is committed to share India's efforts to achieve the MDG's for water and sanitation by 2015 with other countries. Therefore, in consultation with Government of India, UNICEF India Country office together with UNICEF New York is organizing its second *International Learning Exchange* on four different thematic areas **from 18 to 28 September, 2007**. Participants can choose among four modules, each module will entail 5-6 days of field visits to two states to observe implementation under diverse cultural and geo-political conditions. The programme concludes with a one-day analytic review in Delhi. This will provide all participating countries an opportunity to reflect on new learning and their application possibilities.

In November 2006, 34 international and 11 national professionals from Water, Sanitation and Education sectors (for WASH in schools) participated in the 10-day International Learning Exchange conducted in five states in India. Notably, the feed-back from participants ranked the ILE as very useful and enlightening.

For the 2007 ILE, four learning modules have been developed each with a core theme that includes visits to two states each to observe activities in the field. A brochure giving details of the learning package will shortly be hosted on the UNICEF India Website – <http://www.unicef.org/india>.

The modules offered are:

- (A) Arsenic in water supply: Challenges and Opportunities (Bihar & West Bengal)
- (B) WASH in Schools (Tamil Nadu & Uttar Pradesh)
- (C) Rural Sanitation (West Bengal & Maharashtra) and
- (D) Wise Water Management and Fluoride Mitigation (Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan)

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Sponsoring country offices are encouraged to nominate a team rather than individuals. To ensure that there is space for meaningful interactive learning it is suggested that each country limit the number of delegates to a maximum of six persons. In addition to the cost of international travel which will vary from country to country, the cost per participant will be approximately US\$ 3,500 towards domestic travel, DSA, resource materials and resource persons.

We urge you to take this opportunity to the fullest and nominate teams that can apply the lessons learned.

With best wishes