



Searching for sustainability of rural water supply: A snapshot of perspectives of 14 countries in Asia



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The Power of Peer-to-Peer Learning

https://youtu.be/25a6_iTCnV4


Learning event covered:

- 1) service provider management models and post-construction support services
- 2) sustainable financing arrangements
- 3) economic regulation and pro-poor approaches
- 4) monitoring and social accountability

resources available at: <http://rural-water-supply.net/en/resources/details/758>




Opportunity to capitalize on positive changes



higher priority for rural water supply translating in funding

emerging focus piped services and household connections

Recognition of institutional aspects beyond infrastructure



financing limited due to low tariffs

huge capacity development needs

water scarcity undermining sustainability

poor asset management

last mile service delivery to vulnerable groups/poor

Key messages from the event (I)

For rural services to be sustained, complementary roles of actors at *different levels* need to be strengthened:

- service providers
- service authorities (local / sub-national governments)
- national enabling institutions

While *different* management models for service provision will co-exist, key functions need to be put in place:

- institutionalized capacities,
- sustainable financing,
- monitoring and regulation,
- asset management,
- water resource management



Key messages from the event (II)

- Professionalizing service providers and *continuous* post-construction services are key to sustainability
- Sustainable financing is far from a reality in most participating countries:
Capital maintenance and direct and indirect support to providers and local government are largely underfunded
- Tailored regulation and pro-poor policies for rural water are essential - *but often absent* – to realize the equity mandate of the SDGs
- Comprehensive country-wide monitoring systems and social accountability mechanisms are *work in progress*



Directions for Future Learning

- RWSN engagement: Forum, webinars
- South-south exchange and Technical Assistance
- “Hot topics”:
 - decentralization of rural water supply
 - professionalization of CBOs and technical support systems
 - monitoring systems, including water quality surveillance
 - public private partnership models for rural water services
 - tariff setting practices and policies for cost recovery
 - solutions to adapt to climate change.

