

WASH (water, sanitation & hygiene) COALITION PILIPINAS



Philippine Center for Water and Sanitation
WASH Coalition Pilipinas
www.itnphil.org.ph

WASH Coalition Pilipinas



Started in 2004 through a partnership between the NGO Center for Water and Sanitation – ITN Foundation (www.itnphil.org.ph) and the Geneva-based professional association Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (www.wsscc.org). It remains a loose coalition of organizations, LGUs, NGOs, communities and individuals working to achieve improved access to WASH for all. Coordinated by the PCWS-ITNF, the Coalition has local chapters in Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Davao and ARMM.

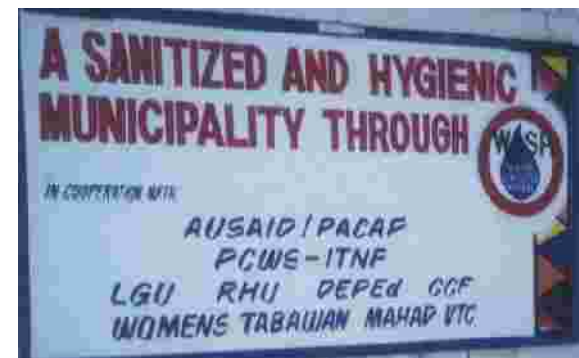


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Objective

To improve the water supply and sanitation situation in urban and rural poor communities through advocacy, awareness raising, multi-stakeholder partnerships, action research, introduction of low-cost water supply and sanitation technologies and capacity building for community managed WASH



Structure of the WASH Coalition

Members decided during its 2008 strategic planning workshop that:

- The Coalition will remain a loose organization (not a legal entity) flexible enough to allow ease in implementing projects and achieving goals.
- The PCWS Executive Director is appointed National Coordinator .
- The National Coordinator is assisted by 4 small working groups on:
 1. Program Development and Resource Mobilization
 2. Advocacy and Networking
 3. Knowledge Management and Research
 4. Institutional Strengthening
- The PCWS serves as the WASH Coalition Secretariat.
- The formation of local chapters is encouraged, recognizing that the Philippines is an archipelago with diverse ethnic groups facing varied WASH situations and realities.
- The Coalition taps catalytic funding support from both WSSCC and PCWS.



Activities of the WASH Coalition

- Advocacy for well maintained toilets and wash facilities in schools
- Information materials development for WASH advocacy & awareness raising
- WASH capacity building
- Research and knowledge management
- Networking and building partnerships
- Promoting environmental sanitation
- Introducing low-cost, culturally acceptable WASH technology options for schools, households and communities
- Working with the media
- Constructing water supply and sanitation facilities for communities and schools
- Establishing Coalition chapters in the provinces for a localized approach to building stronger partnerships for WASH



Some Accomplishments

- Compilation and dissemination of Philippine laws and regulations on water and sanitation for IYS 2008
- Fund raising art exhibits for the implementation of water and sanitation projects in far flung communities
- WASH Radio Campaign 2009 with Silliman University
- Two members of the Coalition got elected to the WSSCC Steering Committee
- A Study on Personal and Home Hygiene in Flood Prone Communities in the Philippines was presented at the South Asia Hygiene Practitioners Workshop held in BRAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh in Feb. 2010; published at the websites of WSSCC, BRAC and IRC.



Some Accomplishments

- Construction of over 300 low-cost water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities for schools, mosques, communities and homes
- Production of various WASH information materials



Strengths

- Members have diverse expertise, knowledge and experience
- Enhanced collaboration and partnerships beyond the WASH sector
- Availability of low-cost WASH technologies
- Trust and friendship among the members
- Social capital

Challenges

- Political intervention
- Lack of appreciation for low-cost, environment-friendly WASH technologies among policy makers
- Enhancing the WASH capacities of local governments, NGOs and communities
- Promoting social justice.



WASH Coalition Pilipinas seeks INNOVATIONS on

- Strengthening each other's efforts for WASH
- Developing effective strategies so that the importance of WASH for improving the quality of life and alleviating poverty gets fully recognized
- Capitalizing on the July 2010 UN declaration of water & sanitation as basic human rights
- Calling for greater investments for improved WASH in schools
- Promoting WASH for poverty reduction, health improvement, environmental protection, gender equality and long-term social and economic development

WASH Coalition Pilipinas members believe that even a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals has the power to change the situation for the better.



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For more information please contact



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PCWS and the WASH Coalition Pilipinas are active partners of the global WASH campaign of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (www.wsscc.org).