

# FAN's activities at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Mexico

## **FAN's stand at the Water Fair**

FAN's stand served as a crucial space for the different NGOs to meet up and strategize, to display their publications and promote their work.

Members found it to be a useful space to conduct informal meetings and a welcoming place to take time to unwind between sessions.

## **Right to Water event**

Together with the Latin American Water Studies Centre (CLAEH), the Women International Network on Water and the Government of Mexico City, we hosted a successful afternoon discussion on *Progressing the Right to Water and UN General Comment 15* at the local, national and international level.

The event attracted many local people as it was free and held in downtown Mexico City. The speakers were all excellent but the main attraction was Abel Mamani, Bolivia's new Minister of Water and a former water activist

[Read Henri Smet's account of the right to water in Mexico here](#) (PDF, 182 Kb)

## **FAN, FANCA, ANEW and FAN-Mex sessions**

FAN, FANCA, ANEW and FAN-Mex convened five CSO sessions at the Forum. FAN members presented local actions from South Asia, Africa, Central and South America and should be congratulated for the high quality of their work and presentations. We received very positive reports from people who enjoyed our sessions and the emphasis on real local actions.

Click on the titles below to read the session reports:

[MANEJO COMUNITARIO DEL AGUA EN AMERICA LATINA](#) (PDF, 18 Kb, Spanish)  
COMMUNITY WATER MANAGEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA  
Convened by la Red Centroamericana de Accin del Agua (FANCA)

Central American civil social organizations demonstrated how it is possible for civil society, governments, national congresses and donor organizations to come together and reach agreements regarding the development of water laws that adequately reflect the concerns of multiple stakeholders.

[IMPLEMENTING THE 2002 JOHANNESBURG COMMITMENTS](#) (PDF, 26 Kb)

African Civil Society facilitating meaningful participation for IWRM  
Convened by African Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)

African CSOs shared their experiences about public partnerships for effective participation in implementing IWRM at community level.

[RIVERS and WETLANDS: A NEGOTIATED APPROACH](#) (PDF, 22 Kb)

Convened by Ecoa/Pantanal Network, Brazil, Both ENDS, The Netherlands, AEDES Peru

Presentations demonstrated how bottom up, eco-system based approaches have effectively influenced decision making on national and river basin levels and are suitable for replication and scaling up.

[VOICING PEOPLES' INTERESTS - CIVIL SOCIETY INNOVATING CHANGES IN WATER AND SANITATION POLICY](#) (PDF, 21 Kb)

Convened by Freshwater Action Network (FAN) (Global)

CSOs shared successful examples that demonstrate the value of organized and informed local civil society, who are able to listen to communities they work with and contribute to progressive policy formulation in their countries.

[ASIAN CIVIL SOCIETY INNOVATING CHANGE](#) (PDF, 10 Kb)

Convened by NGO Forum on the Asian Development Bank and FAN

CSOs presented sustainable solutions to their urban and rural water and sanitation problems which can be replicated on a large scale and demonstrated the importance of the participation & community management, social inclusion, financial sustainability, cost sharing and the use of appropriate technology.

### **FAN Network Meeting**

FAN organized an official meeting for all FAN members in Mexico to discuss ideas of how to take FAN forward. It was a very successful discussion with lots of good ideas.

Read minutes of the meeting. [English](#) (PDF, 39 Kb) [Spanish](#) (PDF, 29 Kb)

### **The Kyoto Grand Water Prize**

Congratulations to FAN member, Gram Vikas of India who were awarded the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize at the Forum.

The Kyoto Grand Water Prize received over 400 applications and 30 were shortlisted to present in Mexico City. The winners, [Gram Vikas](#), were praised for their excellent contribution to building peoples' dignity through community-managed rural water and sanitation with poor and marginalized people in Orissa, one of the poorest states of India. Gram Vikas received a prize of JPY5,000,000 to be spent on furthering their project.

FAN was also delighted that nine out of the thirty finalists invited to Mexico were FAN members and that four of them made it to the top ten as semi-finalists! This demonstrates the value of FAN members' participation in the Forum and recognizes that FAN members are involved in successful and sustainable local solutions to water-related problems.

**GramVikas, India: First Prize**

*Building dignity through community managed rural water and sanitation in Orissa*

**Anjuman Samaji Behbood (ASB), Pakistan: Second Place**

*Community involvement in provision of water and sanitation*

**Gana Unnayan Sangstha (GUS), Bangladesh: Semi-finalist**

*CBO turns into development in the SW coastal region of Bangladesh*

**Maji Na Ufanisi (Water and Development), Kenya: Semi-finalist**

*Kiambui Water and Environmental Sanitation KIWESA project*

**Ulew Che Ja, Guatemala: Finalist**

*Traditional forest and natural resource stewardship of the Maya Quiche in Totonicapn*

**Bread of Life Development Foundation (BLF), Nigeria: Finalist**

*Integrating pro-poor policies into PPP: Lessons from Nigeria's water reform process*

**Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS), Ghana: Finalist**

*The Mole Conference Series: A Rallying Point for Civil Society Advocacy in Ghana*

**Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE), Egypt: Finalist**

*National Community Water Conservation Programme  
NCWCP*

**Uganda Water & Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET): Finalist**

*UWASNET NGO Capacity Building Programme / The role of UWASNET in building capacity of NGOs to effectively contribute to the sector goal in Uganda*

*Congratulations to them all!*

### **Alternative Forum: International Forum in Defence of Water**

Some FAN members also participated in the Alternative Forum. Organized by the Coalition of Mexican Organizations for the Right to Water (COMDA), this event created an alternative space in parallel to the Forum. They held workshops, strategy sessions and cultural events.

300 water activist organizations signed a Declaration in support of recognition and enforcement of the human right to water delivered by publicly managed utilities, and urged for government support for the development of public-public partnerships.