



Clean Water  
for Nepal, Inc



Nepal 2003

## Group Members

Project Supervisor: Susan Murcott  
Project Advisors: Heather Lukacs  
Tommy Ngai

### MEng Group

---

- Melanie Pincus
- Rob Dies
- Hillary Green
- Georges Tabbal
- Xanat Flores
- Saik-Choon Poh
- Mandy Richards

### Sloan School

---

- Laura Ann Jones
- Bobby Wilson
- Steve Perreault

### Friends

---

- Ralph Coffman
- Tetsuji Arata
- Sophie Walewijk

## Outline

- Nepal Introduction
- History of MIT Nepal Projects
- Drinking Water Group
- Wastewater Group
- Questions

## Nepal Statistics

- Population: ~25.8 million (2002)
- Growth rate: 2.4%
- Life expectancy: 59 years
- Children < 5 mortality: 101/1000
- Children under height for their age: 54%
- Literacy: 27.5% total population
- GDP (\$PPP) per capita: \$1,224/capita  
(USD \$239/capita)

## MIT Nepal Project 1999-2003

- Previous work:
  - Methodological Evaluation
  - Site Investigation (water quality testing and monitoring)
  - Technology Evaluation: (household scale drinking water treatment system design and evaluation)
  - Implementation programs (Biosand, chlorination pilot study based on CDC Safe Water System)
- This year:
  - Product Development and Marketing (Ceramic Filters/SLOAN)
  - Development and Evaluation of Novel Technology (Biosand Pitcher Filter, SC-SODIS)
  - Social Evaluation (Arsenic)
  - Wastewater (Carpet dye, Detergents, Wetlands)

## Group Projects

- Drinking Water
  - Ceramic Water Filter
  - Biosand Filter
  - Semi-Continuous SODIS
  - Arsenic
- Wastewater
  - Carpet Dyes
  - Detergents
  - Constructed Wetlands

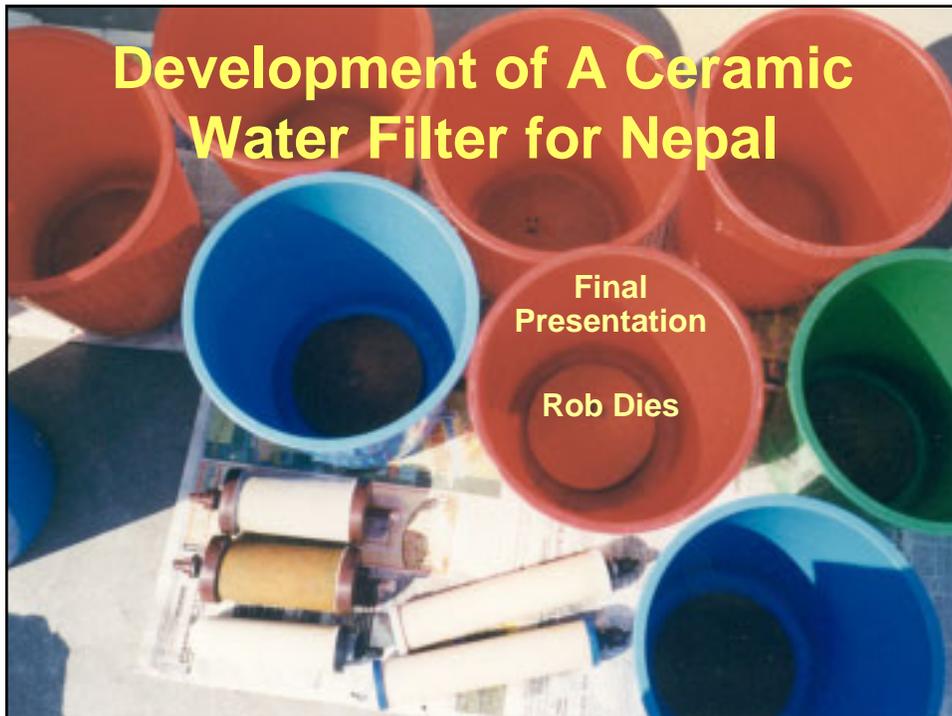
## Motivation for Clean Drinking Water

- 1.1 billion people (5 million Nepalis) lack access to improved water supply (WHO, 2000)
- Millennium Development Goal
- Human Right to Water
- Household Water Treatment

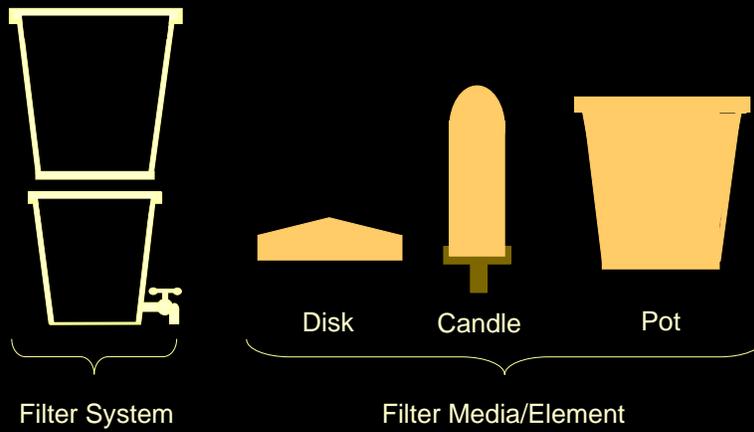
## Development of A Ceramic Water Filter for Nepal

Final  
Presentation

Rob Dies



# Ceramic Water Filters



# Examples of Ceramic Filters



## Prior MIT Ceramic Filter Work in Nepal & Nicaragua

Junko Sagara, 2000

- Study of Filtration for Point-of-Use Drinking Water Treatment in Nepal

Daniele Lantagne, 2001

- Investigation of the Potters for Peace Colloidal Silver Impregnated Ceramic Filter

Jason Low, 2002

- Appropriate Microbial Indicator Tests for Drinking Water in Developing Countries and Assessment of Ceramic Water Filters

Rebeca Hwang, 2003

- Six Month Field Monitoring of Point-of-Use Ceramic Water Filter by Using H<sub>2</sub>S Paper Strip Most Probable Number Method in San Francisco Libre, Nicaragua

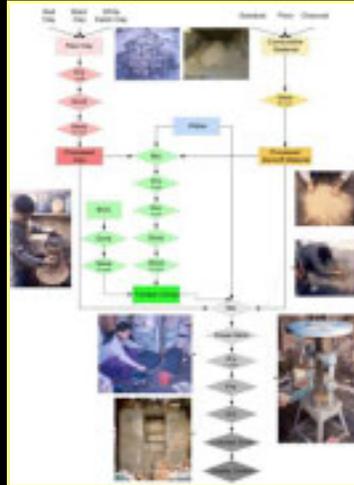
## 2003 Nepal Ceramic Filter Research Objectives

- Continued Laboratory Research (Dies)



## 2003 Nepal Ceramic Filter Research Objectives

- Continued Laboratory Research (Dies)
- Documentation of Production Process (Dies)



## 2003 Nepal Ceramic Filter Research Objectives

- Continued Laboratory Research (Dies)
- Documentation of Production Process (Dies)
- Prototype Development (Cheung)

## 2003 Nepal Ceramic Filter Research Objectives

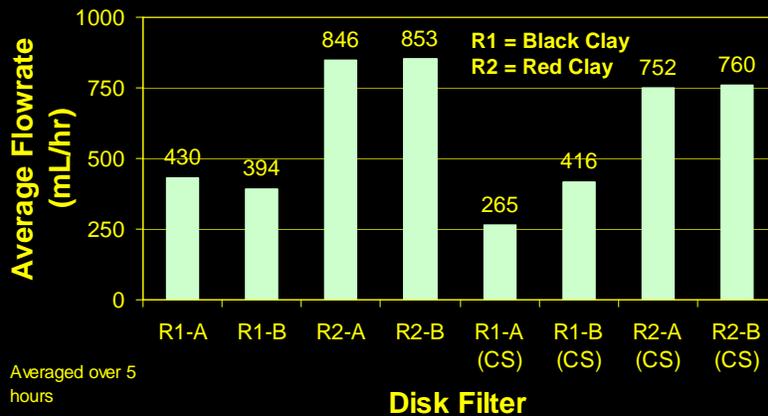
- Continued Laboratory Research (Dies)
- Documentation of Production Process (Dies)
- Prototype Development (Cheung)
- Preliminary Market/Consumer Analysis (Sloan Team)



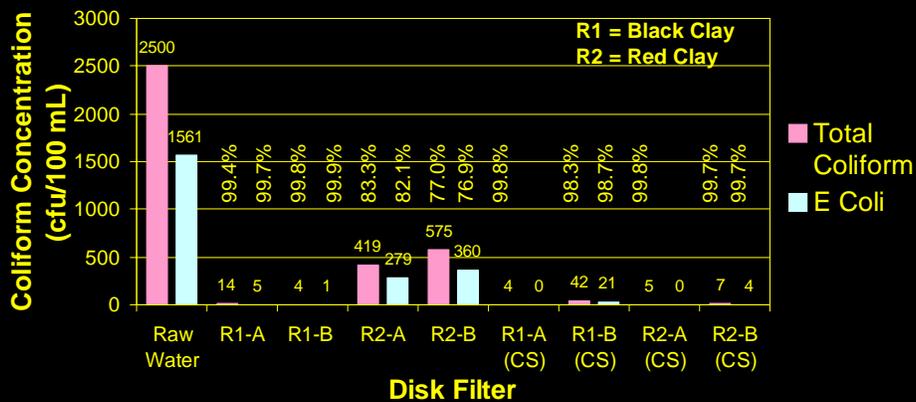
## Laboratory Research

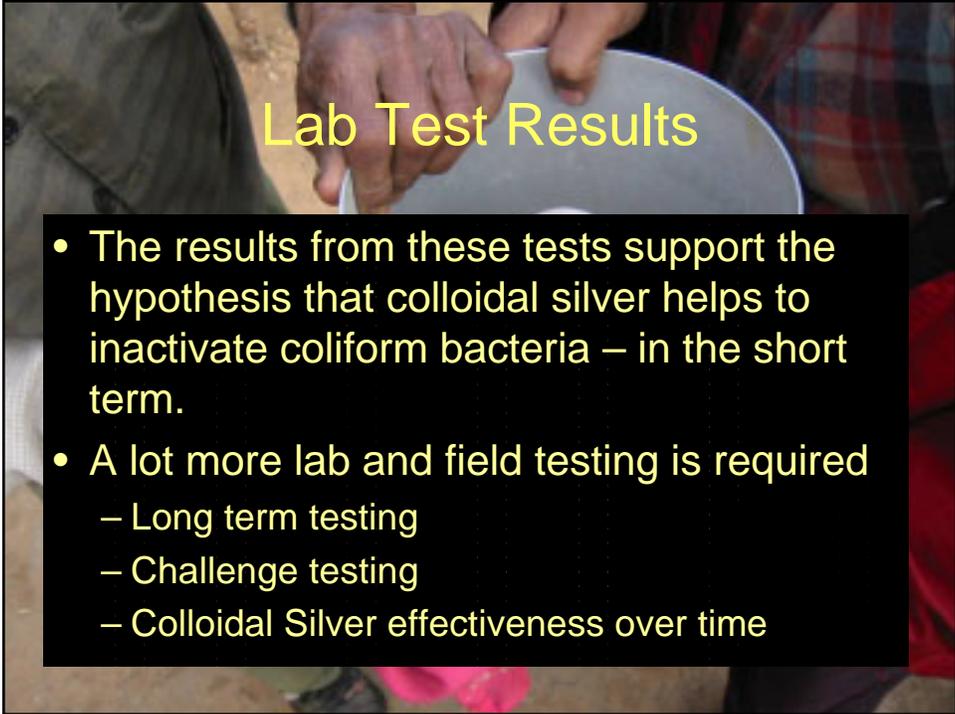
- Tested 5 candle filters:
  - Ceradyn (Katadyn), Gravidyn (Katadyn), Hari White Clay Candle (w/ & w/out colloidal silver), Hong Phuc
- Tested 3 Disks
  - Hari White Clay Disk (2 w/ colloidal silver; 2 w/out)
  - Reid Harvey Red Clay disk (2 w/ CS; 2 w/out)
  - Reid Harvey Black Clay disk (2 w/ CS; 2 w/out)
- Tested for:
  - Flow rate
  - Removal of total coliform and E. coli

## Reid Disk Filters Average Hourly Flowrate



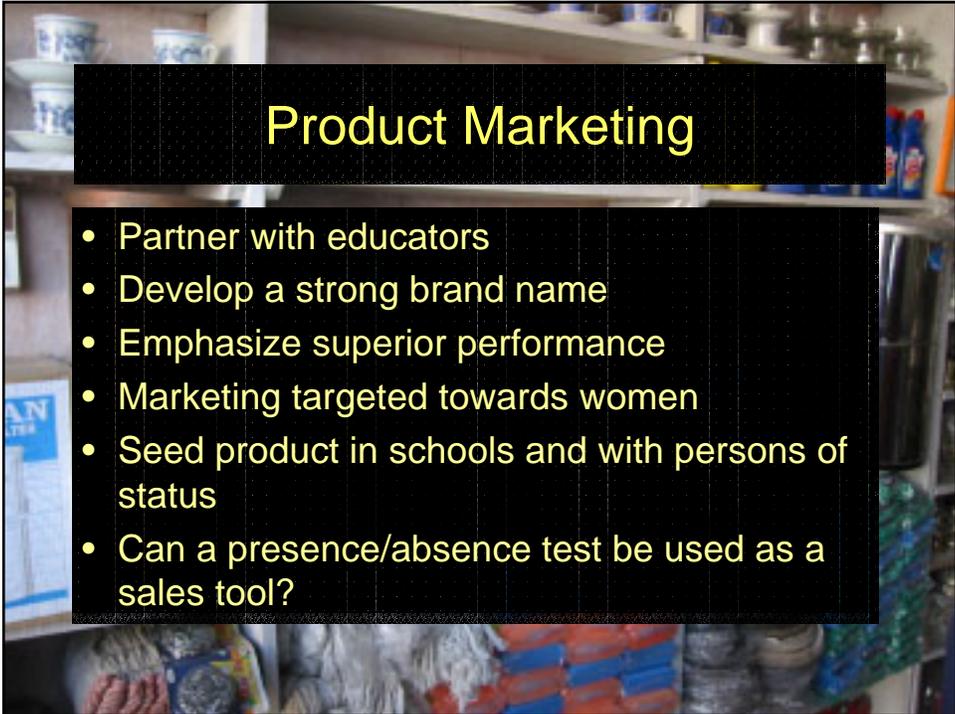
## Reid Disk Filters Microbial Removal





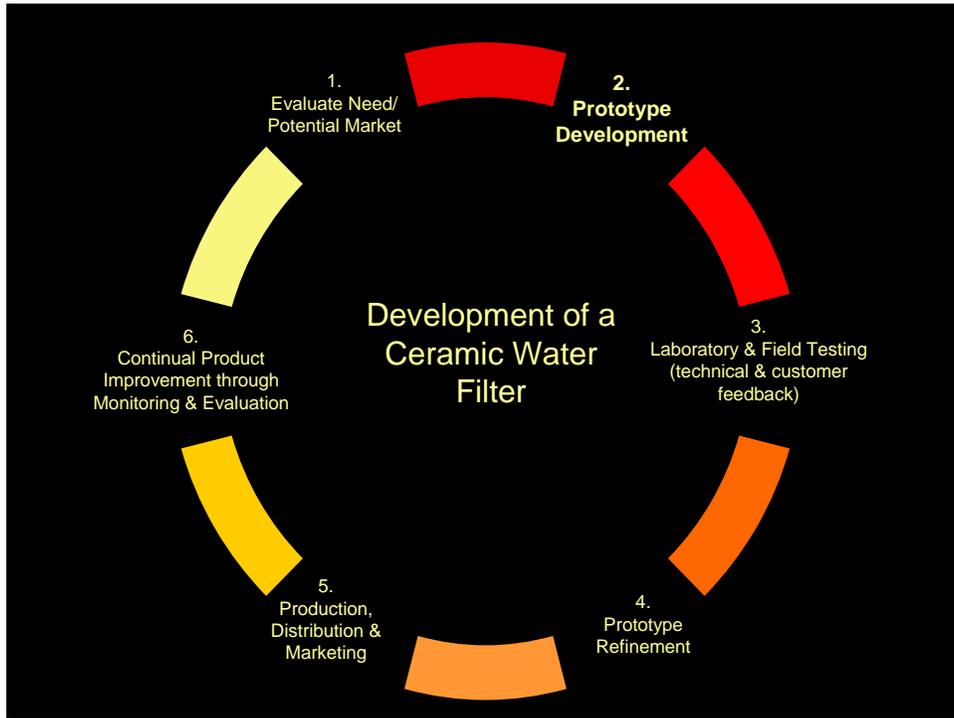
## Lab Test Results

- The results from these tests support the hypothesis that colloidal silver helps to inactivate coliform bacteria – in the short term.
- A lot more lab and field testing is required
  - Long term testing
  - Challenge testing
  - Colloidal Silver effectiveness over time



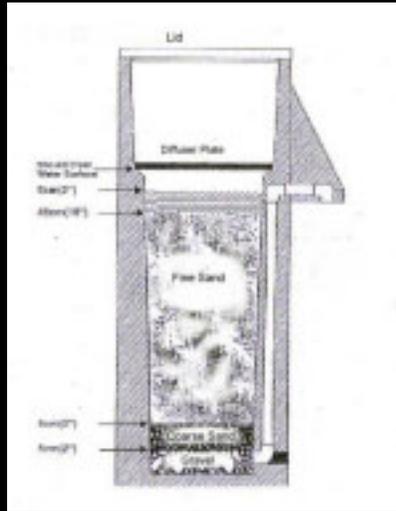
## Product Marketing

- Partner with educators
- Develop a strong brand name
- Emphasize superior performance
- Marketing targeted towards women
- Seed product in schools and with persons of status
- Can a presence/absence test be used as a sales tool?



Safe Household Drinking Water via BioSand Filtration  
Pilot Project Evaluation &  
Feasibility Study of a BioSand Pitcher Filter  
Melanie Pincus

## BioSand Filter Overview



- Designed by Dr. David Manz at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- Specifically for use by poor people in developing countries.
- Relies on natural biological, chemical and physical mechanisms to purify water.

## Pilot Project Evaluation



- Evaluate performance of recently installed concrete BioSand filters.

## Pilot Project Potential

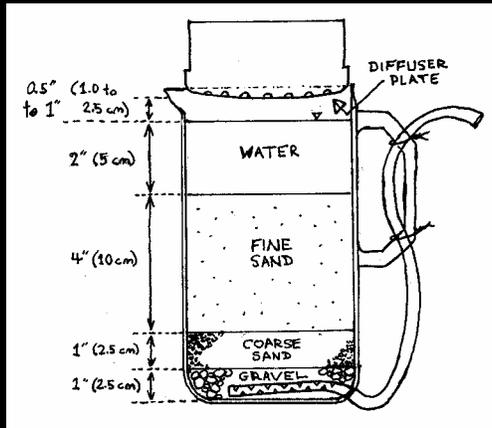
- Communities interested in and accepting of BioSand technology.
- All filters had high turbidity removal.
- Flow rates varied from 1.0 – 37.5 L/hr.
- Results from microbial analyses mixed (n = 9).
  - 2 filters at 99% *E. coli* removal from highly contaminated raw water.
  - 3 filters contaminating relatively clean source water.
- One day of testing insufficient to adequately characterize BioSand filter performance. Regular, repeated samplings of source water, filtered water and water in collection buckets should be performed on these household units.

## Feasibility Study of a BioSand Pitcher Filter



- Conceptualized as a smaller, cheaper alternative to the concrete BioSand filters.
- A potential interim measure as households mobilize funds for a larger capacity water filter.
- Field and laboratory experiments to evaluate pitcher filter viability by cross-checking performance with concurrent performance of commercially available filters.

# Pitcher Filter Potential



- Microbial (*E. coli*) removal of pitcher filters comparable to existing BioSand filtration technology

	<u>Nepal</u>	<u>MIT</u>
Pitcher filters	80% 86%	97% 97%
BioSand filters	81% 87%	95% 87%
Ripening period (d)	8-10	30-40

- Strong correlation between biofilm maturation periods & source water quality.

**Technical and Social  
Evaluation of Three Arsenic  
Removal Technologies in  
Nepal**

## Research Objectives

- Technical Evaluation: Arsenic removal and flow rate.
- Social Evaluation: Survey Questionnaire to evaluate arsenic awareness and social acceptability of each filter
- Economic Evaluation: willingness-to-pay

## Three-Kolshi Filter



- First studied in Nepal by Jessica Hurd in 2001

## 2-Kolshi



First studied in  
Nepal  
by Jeff Hwang  
in 2002

## Arsenic-Biosand Filter



- Invented by Tommy Ngai (M.Eng.2002)
- Won Lemelson International Technology Award (2002)
- Pilot Scale implementation in Fall 2002

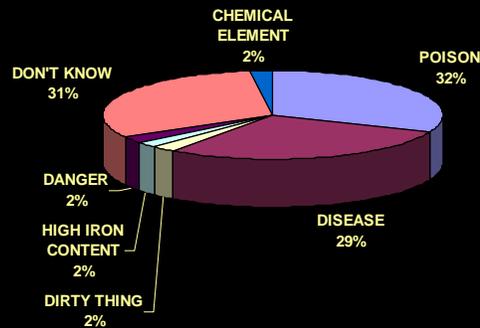
## TECHNICAL EVALUATION

- All filters have good arsenic removal rates (>90%)
- Flow rates differ:
  - Arsenic-Biosand: 10 to 20 L/hr
  - 3-Kolshi: 0.5 to 3L/hr
- Confirmation of previous studies

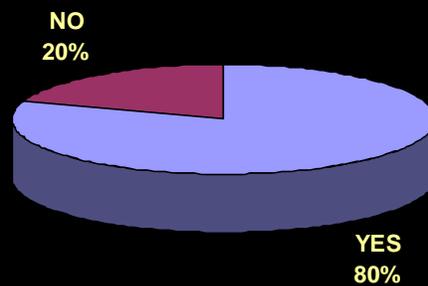
## SOCIAL EVALUATION

- Surveyed 54 families
- 3 Districts
- 3 Different Technologies
- Used a survey questionnaire of 10-20 questions depending on technologies

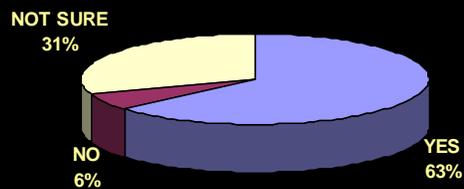
## What is Arsenic?



## Are you aware of any arsenic contamination in your water?



## Do you think that using the filter will protect your health?



## How often do you skip filtration?

TYPE OF FILTER	SKIP FILTRATION
ARSENIC-BIOSAND	0%
THREE-KOLSHI	25%
TWO-KOLSHI	11%

## CONCLUSIONS

- Good level of arsenic awareness
- Good social acceptability of each filter
- Arsenic-Biosand Filter is most appropriate.
- However, cost is above willingness-to-pay
  - If filters distributed for free or subsidized:  
Arsenic-Biosand is best option
  - If filters sold: 3-Kolshi for small families and  
Arsenic-Biosand for big families.

## Semi- Continuous Solar Disinfection System

Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology  
Xanat Flores

## What is Solar Disinfection?

- Inactivation of microorganisms present in water due to:
  - UV-A radiation ( $\lambda$  from 315 to 400 nm)
  - Synergistic effect with temperature
- Variations:
  - Exposure time
  - Clear, black or reflective surface

## SODIS

PROS	CONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Simple</li><li>2. Very cheap (almost free)</li><li>3. Easy to understand</li><li>4. Simple to maintain</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Small amounts of water treated</li><li>2. Difficulty in getting bottles (problem in Lumbini)</li><li>3. Waste management of empty bottles</li><li>4. Social acceptability (hard work for housekeepers)</li></ol>

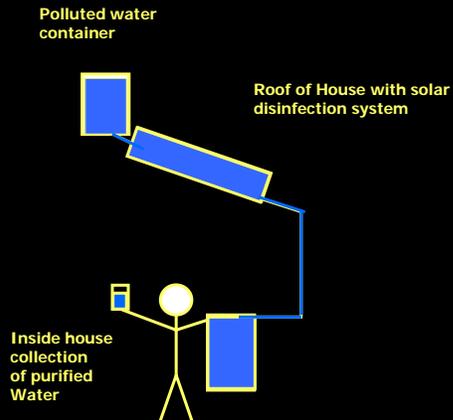
## CONTINUOUS SOLAR DISINFECTION SYSTEMS

PROS	CONS
1. Larger quantities of water purified in a given time.	1. More difficult to maintain and operate. 2. More expensive. 3. Requires more sophisticated operator

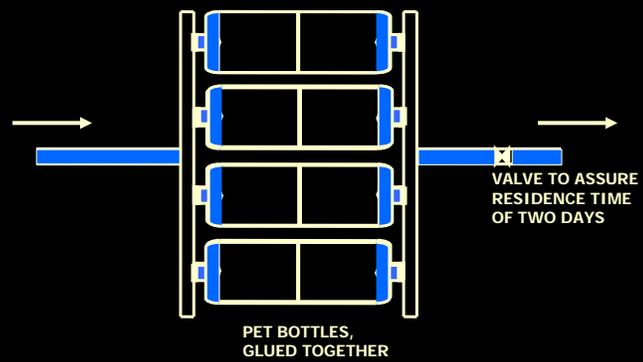
## SEMI-CONTINUOUS SODIS

PROS	CONS
1. Larger amounts of water treated. 2. Inexpensive 3. PET bottles are not replaced as often as in SODIS. 4. Relatively simple to maintain and operate	1. Mechanism needs to be very well understood. 2. Flow rates have to be established for different weather conditions.

# SEMI-CONTINUOUS SODIS



# SEMI-CONTINUOUS SODIS



## OBJECTIVES OF MY RESEARCH

- Technical feasibility of SC-SODIS system
  - Construction
  - Performance
  - Use of local materials.
- Social acceptability
- Economic feasibility

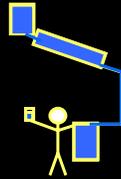
## Constructed System



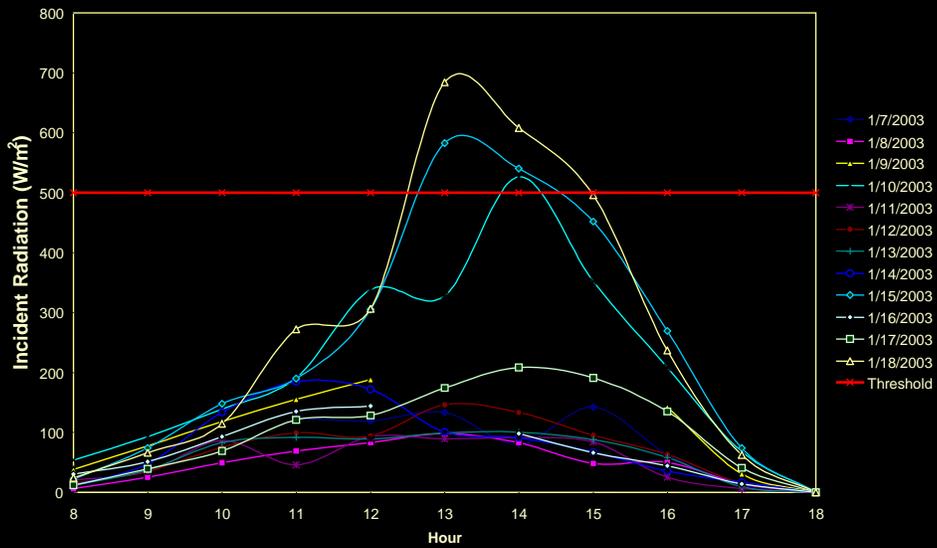
# RESULTS



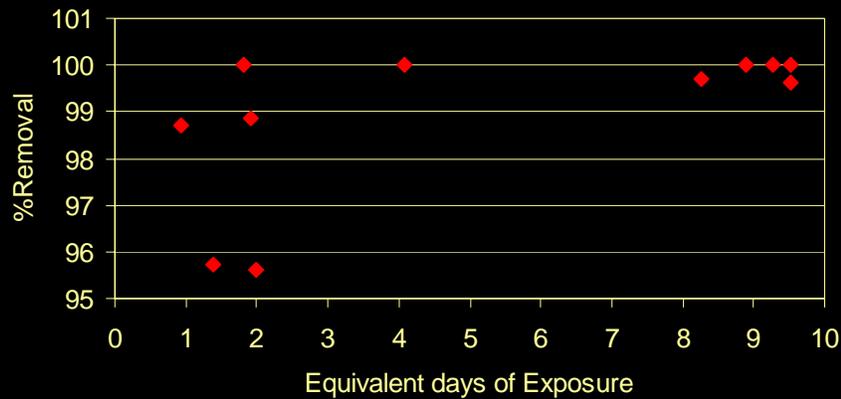
SC-SODIS



## Solar Radiation Results



## SC-SODIS Removal Efficiencies



## DIFFICULTIES FOUND

- Lack of E. coli due to extreme cold.
- Finding the “right” materials.
- Three week study -- limited data set and many variables:
  - Solar radiation
  - Flow rate
  - Concentration of pollutants

## CONCLUSIONS

- Technical: SC-SODIS is technically feasible in region studied based on data collected.
- Construction: Found local materials (Butwal and Lumbini).
- Social: Preliminary feedback showed local people preferred SC-SODIS to SODIS.
- Economic: Construction costs below \$0.50 (NRs 300).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Find a local manufacturer of SC-SODIS system to reduce construction time.
- Further study of flow rates.
- Study during monsoon season.

# **Nepali Wastewater Solutions**

**The Effects of Carpet Dye on the Bagmati River**

*Hillary Green*

**Effects of Detergent Use on Water Quality in Kathmandu, Nepal**

*Amanda Richards*

**Assessment of Constructed Wetland System in Nepal**

*Saik-Choon Poh*

## **Wastewater Situation In Nepal**

### **Introduction**

- Surface water pollution is one of the most serious environmental problems in Nepal
- Wastewater treatment plants almost non-existent
- Hardly any action taken towards WW treatment by the Nepalese government

## **Wastewater from Kathmandu**

- **Domestic Wastewater**

Population (year 2000) : 1.43 million

Wastewater Generated: 124 MLD

Sewerage System Coverage: 38%

Wastewater Collected: 47 MLD

- **5 municipal wastewater treatment plants**

Total Treatment Capacity (year 2000) : 19.9 MLD

Capacity Deficit : -27.1 MLD

(ADB TA Number 2998-NEP, Feb. 2000)

## Overview of Wastewater Treatment Plants

Plant	Reported Capacity MLD	Status	
		ADB Feb.2000 Report	MIT Nepal Team Jan. 2003
Guheshwori	17.3	Under Construction	Operating
Hanumanghat	0.5	Partially operating	Not operating
Sallaghari	2.0	Partially operating	Not operating
Kodku	1.1	Partially operating	Partially operating
Dhobighat	15.4	Not operating	Not operating

(Arata, 2003)

## Guheshwori WWTP



## Hanumanghat WWTP



## Sallaghari WWTP



## Kodku WWTP



## Dhobighat WWTP



# Carpet Dye in Nepali Surface Water

Hillary Green



## Carpet Industry in Nepal

- One of Kathmandu Valley's largest industries (50 carpet manufacturers)
- Dye wastewater often sent directly to rivers
- Synthetic dyes are usually preferred over natural dyes
- Most synthetic carpet dyes contain chromium, copper or cobalt

## Do Carpet Dyes Cause Significant Water Quality Deterioration of the Bagmati River ?

- Identify sites of carpet manufacturers along the Bagmati
- Test and collect relevant water quality data
  - absorbance
  - chromium
  - COD
  - DO

## Sampling Points Along the Bagmati



## Chromium Results - Water Samples

- Out of 12 water samples, 8 had chromium levels <0.01 mg/L
- The other levels were as follows

Sample Location	Cr Concentration (mg/L)
Pashupatinath	0.01
Tilganga	0.03
Sundarighat	0.02
Chovar	0.03

- WHO guideline for chromium in drinking water is 0.05mg/L

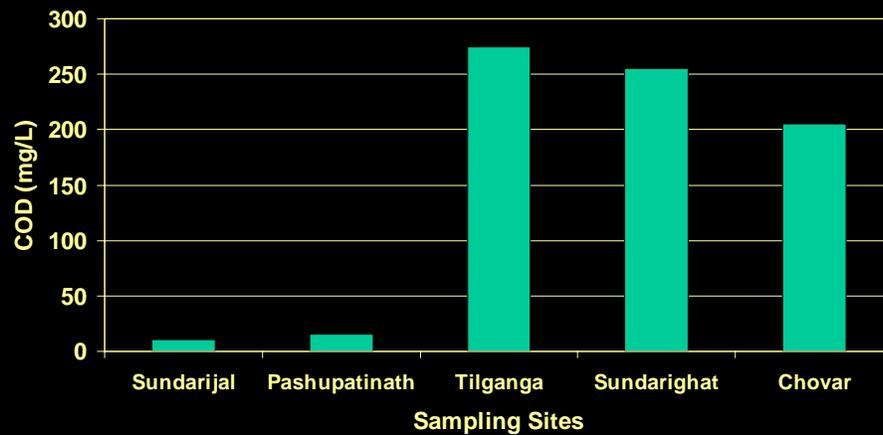
## Chromium Results - Dye Samples

- Dye samples acquired from Mount Everest Dying Company
- Chromium levels in dyes as follows

Dye Color	Cr Concentration (ppm)
Indigo	55.3
Red	1,270
Navy	2,400
Black	2,400

- An increase in dye waste to the river could increase the Cr levels in the river

## COD in the Bagmati River



## Conclusion

- Decreasing dye waste to the Bagmati river will help decrease COD levels in the river
- Presence of color does not necessarily mean presence of chromium and vice versa
- Further studies needed to determine possible chromium problems

## Effects of Detergent Use on Water Quality in Kathmandu, Nepal



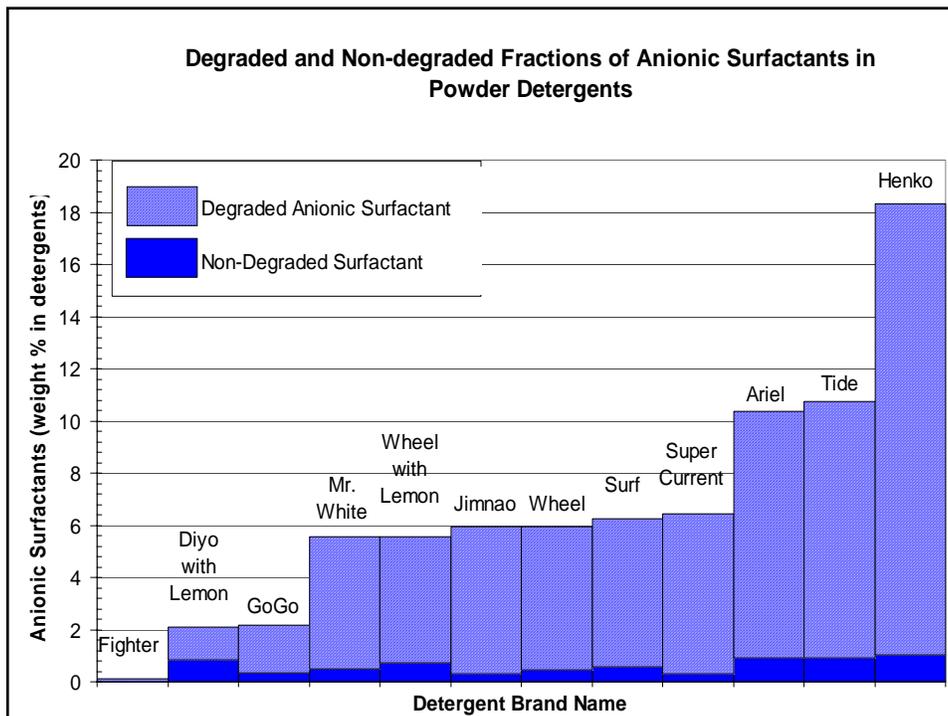
Amanda Richards

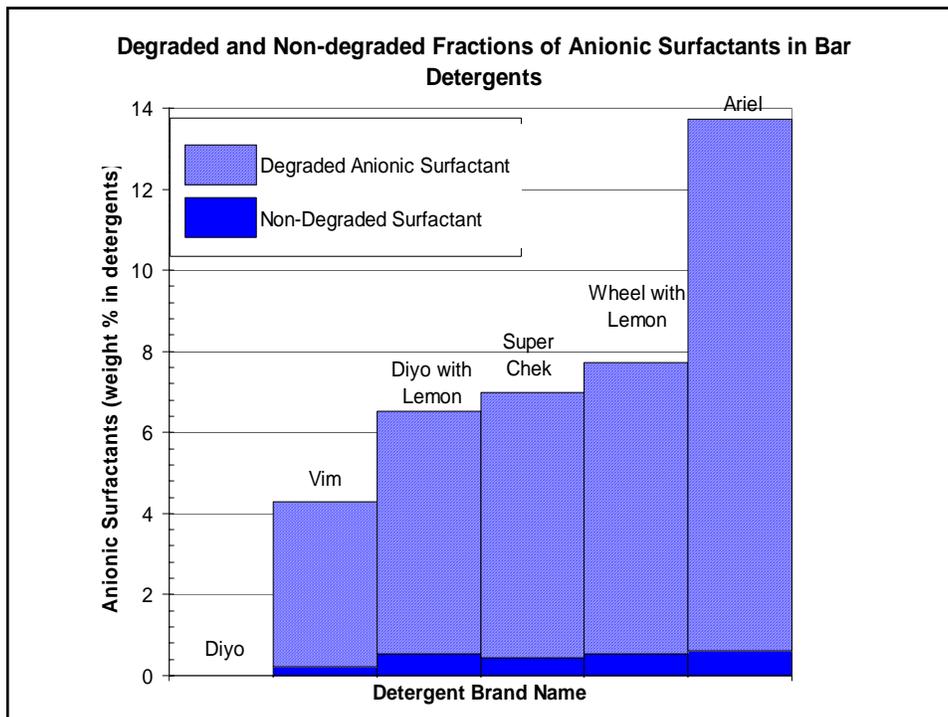
## Overview of Guheshwori WWTP

- Only operating municipal WWTP in Nepal
- Activated sludge process with 17.3 MLD capacity
- Foaming problem in aeration tanks, location of oxygen supply
- Possible culprits:
  - Filamentous bacteria
  - Anionic surfactants in synthetic detergents

# Surfactant Analysis

- Two classifications of anionic surfactants:
  - Very slowly degraded, causes foaming problems (ABS)
  - Easily biodegraded, no foaming problems (LAS)
- Surfactant Analysis
  - 19 laundry detergents collected from Nepal
  - Test for total anionic surfactants
  - Monitor surfactant degradation with time
  - Remaining surfactant considered to be ABS





## Surfactant Analysis, Continued

- Estimate detergent effects:
  - Instructions suggest 1 handful detergent/half-bucket water
  - Approximately 25 g detergent/4 L water (6.25 g/L)
  - With persistent surfactant levels of 5 mg/g detergent, estimate **32 mg ABS/L** wash water
- ABS foaming limit is **~0.5 mg ABS/L** water
- Difficult to estimate the frequency of household laundry washing (# loads/family-wk)
  - Analysis done assuming 1 load/family-wk, 5 loads/family-wk and 10 loads/family-wk

## Surfactant Conclusions

- Laundry detergent not a likely major contributor to foaming at Guheshwori WWTP
  - Probable dilution to concentrations below foaming limit
  - Detergent biodegradability meets standards set by United States and European Governments
- Other possible causes of foaming for future study:
  - Surfactants used in industrial detergents (textile and carpet industries)
  - Filamentous bacteria

## Phosphates Analysis

- Detergents analyzed for phosphates
  - Evaluate contribution to eutrophication in the Bagmati River
- Average concentration of 402 mg PO<sub>4</sub>/kg detergent, or **2.5 mg PO<sub>4</sub>/L wash water**
- PO<sub>4</sub> levels from washing laundry are insignificant compared to Bagmati River concentrations (reach as high as **1.6 mg/L**)
  - Analyzed at 1, 5 and 10 loads/family-wk

## Assessment of Constructed Wetland Systems in Nepal



Saik-Choon Poh

## Constructed Wetland Systems in Nepal

- Reasons for failure of large treatment plants:
  - High Cost
  - Inefficient gov't water/ WW bureaucracy
  - Inappropriate transfer of 1<sup>st</sup> World technology to 3<sup>rd</sup> World conditions
- Small and decentralized treatment plants are high in demand
- Constructed Wetlands introduced in Nepal in 1997 by a local NGO research institute, ENPHO, as a cheap alternative (Laber, Haberl, Shrestha 1999)

# Constructed Wetlands (CW)

## Types (CW):

- Free Water Surface
- Vegetated Submerged Bed

## In Kathmandu, Nepal:

- 5 existing CW
- Sub-surface
- Combination of Horizontal Vertical Flow Bed

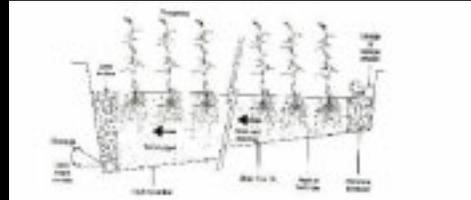


Figure 1: Typical Cross-Section of Horizontal Flow of Constructed Wetlands

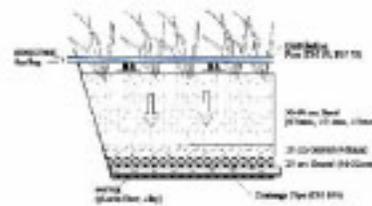


Figure 2: Typical Cross-Section of Vertical Flow Constructed Wetlands

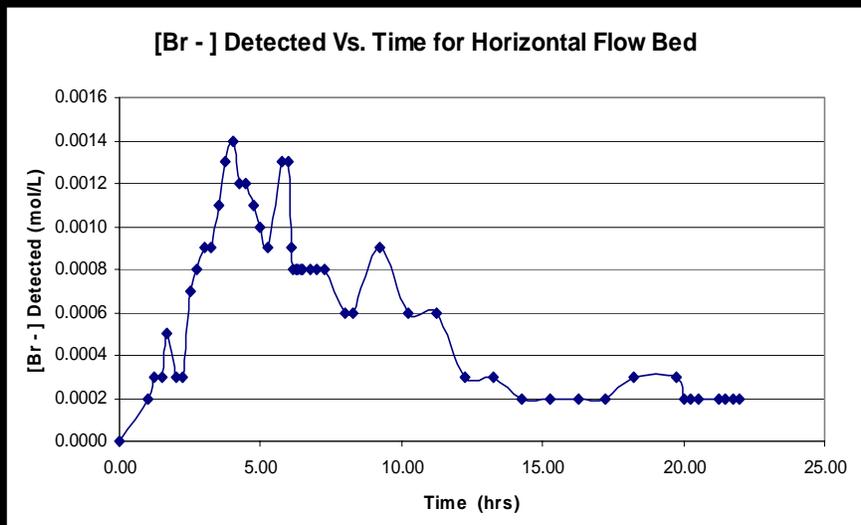
# Existing CW Systems in Nepal

No	Project	Types of Constructed Wetlands
1	Dhulikhel Hospital	Horizontal & Vertical Flow Bed
2	Grey Water Recycling	Vertical Flow Bed
3	Septage Treatment for Kathmandu Municipal Corporation	Vertical Flow Bed
4	Malpi International School	Horizontal & Vertical Flow Bed
5	Sushma Koirala Memorial & Reconstructive Surgery Hospital	Horizontal & Vertical Flow Bed

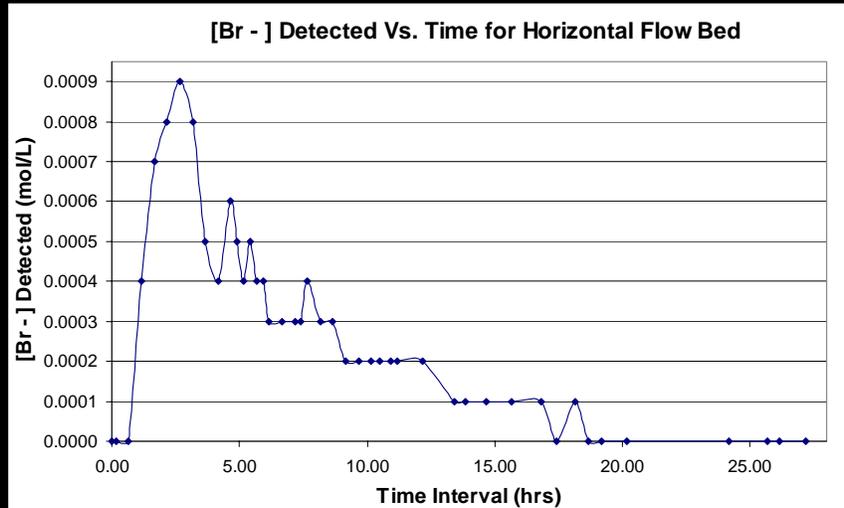
## Project Objective

- Investigate the treatment efficiency through hydraulic studies
- Determine the water retention time in the wetland bed (Bromide as Tracer)

## SKM Hospital (HFB)



## Dhulikhel Hospital (HFB)



## Theoretical Background

Residence Time Distribution Function:

$$RTD(t) = \frac{QC(t)}{\int_0^{\infty} QC(t)dt}$$

Detention Time:

$$T_{det} = \int_0^{\infty} tRTD(t)dt$$

# Detention Time

## Sushma Koirala Memorial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Hospital

### Detention Time For Horizontal Flow Bed

Constant Q T-Rule  hrs

With Q factor  hrs

### Detention Time For Vertical Flow Bed

Constant Q T-Rule  hrs

With Q factor  hrs

## Dhulikhel Hospital

### Detention Time For Horizontal Flow Bed

Constant Q T-Rule  hrs

With Q factor  hrs

### Detention Time For Vertical Flow Bed

Constant Q T-Rule  hrs

With Q factor  hrs

# Theoretical Background

Reaction in CW modeled as 1st Order reaction:

$$\frac{C(t)}{C_0} = \exp(-krt)$$

Average Concentration of Pollutant Remained in CW:

$$\frac{\bar{C}_e}{C_0} = \int_0^{\infty} \text{RTD}(t) \exp(krt) dt$$

# K<sub>r</sub> Value vs. %Removal Efficiency

## Dhulikhel Hospital

### K<sub>r</sub> For Horizontal Flow Bed

<b>k<sub>r</sub> (1/day)</b>	10.0	12.2	15.0	17.5	22.5	35.0	50.0
<b>R.E (%)</b>	80.0	84.8	88.3	90.7	94.0	97.6	99.0

### K<sub>r</sub> For Vertical Flow Bed

<b>k<sub>r</sub> (1/day)</b>	5.0	7.0	9.0	11.0	13.0	20.0	25.0
<b>R.E (%)</b>	84.0	89.5	92.5	94.5	95.8	98.1	98.9

## Sushma Koirala Memorial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Hospital

### K<sub>r</sub> For Horizontal Flow Bed

<b>k<sub>r</sub> (1/day)</b>	9.0	11.0	14.0	17.0	20.0	28.0	45.0
<b>R.E (%)</b>	81.5	86.0	90.5	93.2	95.0	97.4	98.9

### K<sub>r</sub> For Vertical Flow Bed

<b>k<sub>r</sub> (1/day)</b>	7.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	17.0	22.0	25.0
<b>R.E (%)</b>	80.5	83.8	88.7	92.0	96.4	98.3	98.9

# Summary of CW's Performance

## Dhulikhel Hospital

Date	Parameters											
	BOD(mg/l)			COD(mg/l)			TSS(mg/l)			PO4(mg/l)		
	In	Out	% Removal	In	Out	% Removal	In	Out	% Removal	In	Out	% Removal
12-Jul-02	62	2	98	122	20	84	66	3	95	3	4	-
24-Sep-02	84	5	94	131	23	82	106	5	95	4	1	75
15-Nov-02	72	2	97	98	22	78	46	5	89	3	2	45
14-Jan-03	349	14	96	680	50	93	380	25	94	9	5	43
<b>Average Removal %</b>			96			84			93			54

(ENPHO, 2003)

## Summary of CW's Performance

### SKM Hospital

Date	Parameters													
	BOD <sub>5</sub> (mg/l)			COD (mg/l)			TSS (mg/l)			NH <sub>3</sub> (mg/l)				
	In	Out	% R	In	Out	% R	In	Out	% R	In	Out	% R		
37043	436	18	96	1746	71	96	225	8	96	148	26	82		
37159	737	5	99	1416	71	95	520	5	99	131	1	99		
37445	212	2	99	433	20	95	160	3	98	111	2	98		
37512	475	23	95	1110	83	93	655	6	99	26	1	97		
37577	279	3	99	766	40	95	146	10	93	45	3	94		
Elimination Rates %			98				95				97			94

(ENPHO, 2003)

## Conclusions

- Treatment performance of CW is good
- More accurate determination of Kr value and detention time will enable even better performance and improved design in future
- CW has a high potential to address wastewater treatment needs in Nepal

Questions ?

## Acknowledgments

- ENPHO
- IBS
- IDE
- RWSSSP/FINNIDA
- Dr. Eric Adams
- Reid Harvey
- Simon Johnson/Global E-lab
- Hari Govinda Pajapati
- Mt. Everest Dyeing Company
- Ram Deep Shah

# References

Arata, Tetsuji. *Wastewater in the Greater Kathmandu*. Japan Association of Environment and Society for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century 2003

Laber, Johannes; Haberl, Raimund; Shrestha, Roshan R. *Two-Stage Constructed Wetland for Treating Hospital Wastewater in Nepal*. *Wat. Sci. Tech*, Vol. 40, No.3, pp. 317-324, 1999. Elsevier Science Ltd: Great Britain. 1999.

Metcalf & Eddy, Inc. with CEMAT Consultants, Ltd; *ADB TA Number 2998 – NEP*, “Urban Water Supply Reforms in the Kathmandu Valley”, Volume 1, February 18, 2000.

Shah, Ram Deep and Das Sunil Kumar. “Performance of Deep Oxidation Ditch”, 28<sup>th</sup> WEDC Conference, 2002.

Shrestha, Roshan R.. *A New Step Towards Wastewater Treatment in Nepal*. *A Journal of the Environment*, Vol. 6, No.7, 2001. Ministry of Population and Environment, Nepal. 2001

WHO, 2000.