

Saph Pani Launched

India has 18% of the world's population, 1.15 billion people, but access to only 4% of world's fresh water resources. Today, 70% of India's irrigation needs and 80% of its domestic water supplies come from groundwater. This practice has led to rapidly declining groundwater tables in most states in India and is no longer sustainable.

Saph Pani is a new EU funded collaborative research project which started in October 2011 with duration of three years involving a consortium of 20 partners from India, European Union, Switzerland, Sri Lanka and Australia. Its full name is "Enhancement of natural water systems and treatment methods for safe and sustainable water supply in India" and it will address the water challenges of the 21st century. Saph Pani will build on already existing Indian projects for natural treatment and storage of water identifying potential for their improvement by applying hi-tech measurement equipment and conducting field trials. For more information, visit: www.saphpani.eu

Saph Pani at the India Water Week

The Saph Pani project will be presented by project manager Anders Nättorp from the FHNW (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz) at the [India Water Week \(IWW\)](#). Also during this week, Saph Pani's first dissemination event, a training course on bank filtration, will be held. The event is organised by the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, India and the University of Applied Sciences Dresden, Germany. The objectives are to provide fundamental knowledge about bank filtration for natural treatment of drinking water and for adopting it on a larger scale in India. More information on the event can be found [here](#).

Saph Pani in the Indian news

The Hindu, one of India's leading English newspapers, reported on the 23rd of March, 2012 about the proposed research at the Chennai study site. You can read the whole article [here](#).

Saph Pani Project presented at DSDS Meeting

Professor Elango from the Anna University Chennai presents the Saph Pani project at the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS). You can download the presentation [here](#). Find a summary about the event [here](#) or follow this [link](#) for more information on the DSDS event.

FUB and Anna University intensify collaboration

A delegation of the FUB (Freie Universitaet Berlin) visited Anna University, Chennai on Friday the 24th February 2012. This meeting was possible due the existing collaboration between these universities under the Saph Pani project. The members of the delegation agreed to establish a Memorandum of Understanding in order to strengthen their cooperation.



Delegates of the Freie Universitaet Berlin are welcomed by the Vice Chancellor of the Anna University Prof P Mannar Jawahar (centre) and faculty members.

DHI-WASY informs partners in German

DHI-WASY informs partners in German about the Saph Pani project and the successful Kickoff-Meeting in Dehli on 3-4 November 2011.

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Impact of Infiltration through Temple Tanks on Ground Water Quality Measured by SPT

Temple Tanks are traditional rectangular rain water storage structures built very near the temples in India for use by the community. Usually there are residences all around the temples and the temple tanks. Though in olden times, the water in the temple tank was used for drinking purpose also, now it is used for bathing and washing only. These tanks helped in recharging the shallow open wells located in households around the tank. In the recent past, initiatives have been taken to divert rainwater from nearby storm water drains for rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. The impact of this system on the groundwater quality is yet to be established.



Agatheeswarar Temple Tank at Nungambakkam

Hence, Saph Pani partner SPT Consultancy Services will study the impact of infiltration through temple tanks on ground water quality in the neighborhood aquifer. Out of the 39 temple tanks in Chennai City four tanks have been selected for this study. The study has started through construction of borewells. Periodically water samples from the tank and from the observation wells are collected and analysed.



Construction of observation borewell (hand bore) near Agatheeswarar Temple Tank – lowering of casing pipe in progress



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