

**33rd WEDC International Conference, Accra, Ghana, 2008**

**ACCESS TO SANITATION AND SAFE WATER:  
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL ACTIONS**

**Demand management for sustainable urban water services  
in cities of developing countries**

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*Whereas the world population is increasing at a high rate, the water resources have not only remained constant, but they are being polluted at a high rate, which inevitably results in fresh water scarcity. The situation will get worse in urban areas of the developing countries where it is estimated that 95% of the world's urban growth will occur in the next two decades. The current urban water management concepts and practices cannot adequately respond to these changes. There is need for water professionals to change the way they manage water resources in urban areas if we are to ensure economic and environmental sustainability. In addition to consideration of supply-side options, we need to apply demand management (DM) tools both on the utility and end-user sides. DM is one of the sub-themes being explored under SWITCH, an integrated EU-funded research project, in which Zaragoza (Spain) acts as the demonstration city. Clearly, the conditions existing in developing countries vary from the research setting for the SWITCH Project. This discussion session will explore the application of DM tools and instruments in order to achieve sustainable urban water services in cities of developing countries.*

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**Session format**

**Introduction to the concept of Demand Management (DM)**

**Introduction to the SWITCH project and Work Package 3.1 on DM**

**Paper presentation**

Integrated Resource Planning – a vital tool for utilities in low-income countries, by Sam Kayaga

**Paper presentation**

Domestic water consumption – A field study in Harbin, China, by Tingy Lu

**Question and answer session on the papers presented**

**Parallel discussion sessions**

***A. Demand Management at the utility level***

- What are the issues in cities of developing countries?
- How could DM play a role in contributing to sustainable urban water services?
- What could be done in the short-term?
- What could be done in the long-term?

***B. Demand Management at end-use level***

- What are the issues in cities of developing countries?
- How could DM play a role in contributing to sustainable urban water services?
- What could be done in the short-term?
- What could be done in the long-term?

**Reporting back to the plenary**

**Summary and conclusion**