



Käymäläseura Huussi ry. - Global Dry Toilet Club of Finland

Declaration

We the undersigned took part as the representatives of the Global Sanitet Club of Finland in the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in March 2003. The organisation was chosen as one of the NGO competitors in the water-action competition organised in connection with the forum. All together 150 non-governmental organisations were invited to send a representative to make a poster presentation on their actions to improve issues related to water and sanitation. About 100 organisations arrived in Kyoto to compete for the main prize of 50 000 US \$. The representatives were able to participate in all of the session of the forum.

We thank the organisers for this splendid opportunity. The different events and sessions presented an excellent opportunity to get information on the world's water and sanitation situation as well as on the plans to improve these. At the same time we want to give our thanks to the official Finnish delegation in Kyoto, which allowed us to participate in their discussion and convey our opinions.

One third of the world's population suffers from inadequate sanitation and approximately on fifth of the population gets little or no clean drinking water. One of the main polluters of drinking water is human excreta, which in many cases goes directly unfiltered into drinking water supplies. Ignorance and the lack of knowledge are not the only reasons for this behaviour, local attitudes towards human excreta allows this to happen as the subject is not to be spoken of and it cannot be touched. The ever growing population demands actions to be taken to improve sanitation and to manage waste.

Is clean water a basic human right? If yes, who is responsible to take care of it? This is one of the issues at the forum to which no answer was found. Many different groups of people at the forum presented their appeal for their right to clean water. We support this appeal and further suggest that functioning waste management and proper sanitation are to be added to this basic right.

One of the central goals of the forum was to achieve a plan of action and implementation at local levels. The competing posters presented many different local level action models and implementations. Unfortunately there was no allocation made in the official program to view these. Therefore the posters, the actions, the organisations and the representatives were left to play a minor side role at the forum.

The Global Sanitet Club of Finland submits a proposal that drinking water and sanitation issues are not to be dealt with separately, but to be solved together on local levels. Proper sanitation should be included in the same basic human right as clean water. In many areas today this is also a gender issue. It is the obligation of woman and children to collect and to remove fresh human waste piles out of sight. This cannot anymore be the only way of dealing with excreta. In many of the posters different better ways of action were to be seen and therefore the forum should collect the stories behind these posters together in one document to be distributed to each nation.

Ecological sanitation is one of the future's local action models, where **dry toilets and nutrient recycling** are the key words. Finland must not forget the promotion of dry toilet usage in it's own projects. Traditional Finnish outhouses would be a good solution to sanitation problems in many areas in the world, as well as for waste management in our scarcely populated areas.

To add to the above the Global Sanitet Club of Finland wishes to present and remind you of Finnish know-how, especially in water management research and project management together with local officials and inhabitants. Finnish know-how has a good reputation and reliability. This is one of the reasons our poster received a lot of attention.

On the way back to Finland from Kyoto 24.3.2003

Raini Kiukas

Secretary of the Global Sanitet Club of Finland

Juha Pulkki

Treasurer of the Global Sanitet Club of Finland