World Toilet Organization
Webinar: International Water Resources Association

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About The World Toilet Organization

The World Toilet Organization (WTO) is a global non-profit organization established in 2001, committed to enhancing sanitation and advocating for safe and hygienic toilets worldwide. One of its significant achievements is establishing the UN World Toilet Day. In collaboration with the Singapore government, the WTO proposed dedicating a day to raise awareness about the global sanitation crisis and the importance of toilets in promoting health, well-being, and human dignity.

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly officially recognized November 19th as World Toilet Day, aiming to inspire action to address the sanitation crisis.

Through partnerships with governments, NGOs, and private sector organizations, the WTO implements innovative sanitation projects, promotes best practices, and empowers communities to address their sanitation needs. The organization strives to break the sanitation taboo, advocating for clean and accessible toilets for all. Ultimately, the WTO works towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of universal access to sanitation by 2030.
Why Sanitation?

Global Sanitation Challenges:
- 3.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation and almost 8% globally practice open defecation.
- Despite progress (2.4 billion gaining improved sanitation by 2020), 1.7 billion still lack basic services.
- Sanitation was a major off-track Millennium Development Goal, indicating a significant global challenge.

Urban Sanitation Challenges:
- Almost 100 million urban residents practice open defecation.
- Urbanization amplifies poor sanitation, with 57% of urban dwellers lacking full sanitation services.

Environmental Impact:
- Improper wastewater and faecal sludge disposal contributes to pollution, impacting water resources and ecosystems.
- Faecal sludge and wastewater offer valuable resources and economic opportunities in urban and water-scarce areas.

Economic Consequences:
- Lack of sanitation costs the global economy US$222.9 billion (LIXIL, 2015).
- Economic losses include premature deaths, healthcare costs, lost productivity seeking treatment, and access to sanitation facilities.

Urgency of School Toilet Maintenance:
- Unilever-supported research for World Toilet Day reveals a US$1.9bn lost infrastructure cost and an additional US$10bn hidden economic cost across Ecuador, India, Nigeria, and the Philippines.
- Globally, almost 540 million children lack usable school toilets, emphasizing the critical need for maintenance to prevent 'toilet loss' and a US$1.9bn infrastructure setback.
The World Toilet Organization (WTO) is a credible, independent, and authoritative voice championing sustainable sanitation solutions. Fearlessly, we challenge taboos and dare to verbalize the unspoken, igniting empowerment and inspiration for a future where dignity, health, and hygiene are universally accessible.

Our impact in raising global awareness of sanitation has been significant. Through compelling white papers and thought-provoking talks on sustainable sanitation, we have sparked crucial conversations worldwide. Memorable events like The Urgent Run have galvanized communities, fostering a shared commitment to addressing sanitation challenges. Movie screenings of "Mr Toilet" have captivated audiences, bridging the gap between entertainment and advocacy. Moreover, our influential presence on UN World Toilet Day has elevated the discourse around sanitation as a fundamental human right.

As the global authority in sanitation, we have played a pivotal role in establishing and elevating sanitation standards in countries such as China, India, Brazil, Nigeria, and beyond. By collaborating with key stakeholders, we have made significant strides in improving the quality and accessibility of sanitation facilities worldwide. Our dedication to professionalizing the sanitation workforce has led us to train and empower 20,000 sanitation workers through the esteemed World Toilet College in India.

Our approach is defined by its non-confrontational, witty, and honest nature—a recipe for making sanitation history. By fostering partnerships based on trust and collaboration, we have effectively informed and influenced government policies in Brazil, China, and India. Through these efforts, we have catalyzed positive change and paved the way for sustainable sanitation practices to become a priority on the global agenda.

The World Toilet Organization's journey is one of unwavering commitment and tireless advocacy. By fearlessly addressing the sanitation crisis, we have inspired a future where everyone can enjoy the benefits of proper sanitation. As we continue to champion this cause, we hope to embolden generations to come, working together towards a world where dignity, health, and hygiene are a reality for all.
Vision

A world with a clean, safe toilet for everyone, everywhere at all times.

Mission

Our mission is to continue to build the global sanitation movement through collaborative action that inspires and drives demand for sanitation and provides innovative solutions to achieve sustainable sanitation for all. We do this through:

- Advocacy that mobilizes people to action,
- Education, advisory and capacity building,
- And working with the public, people and private sectors to deliver sustainable sanitation solutions.
World Toilet Summit - NIGERIA

Nigeria was chosen to host the 2022 World Toilet Summit, aiming to tackle sanitation challenges and create a lasting impact by showcasing Nigeria's efforts. The theme, "boosting the sanitation value chain and creating a circular economy," highlighted the positive economic outcomes of improved sanitation practices in various sectors. Nigeria intended to utilize the summit as a platform to mobilize the private sector and other key stakeholders in addressing open defecation challenges.

The official announcement came in February 2022, with Engr Suleiman Adamu, the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, expressing gratitude for the selection. Nigeria's hosting coincided with concrete plans to eliminate open defecation and transition to a nation that upholds proper sanitation practices. The minister emphasized the launch of the ODF Campaign in November 2019, which aimed to garner political support, resources, and public participation to foster a new sanitation culture. The World Toilet Summit was anticipated to provide a significant platform for engaging critical actors and driving change, boosting the economy, and establishing sustainable sanitation practices for the future.

Ms. Amina Mohammed, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, highlighted the urgent need for action on sanitation and emphasized the importance of strong leadership and private sector involvement.

World Toilet Organization
World Toilet Summit - Hall of Fame Awards
World Toilet Summit - NIGERIA

Keynote Address and Summit Opening by President Muhammadu Buhari

Address by Honourable Minister of Water Resources

Technical Session Ending Open Defecation in Nigeria: Government and Partners Perspective

Technical Plenary Session - Scaling up of Sanitation Economy for National Development
World Toilet Summit - EXHIBITION
IMPACT of the WORLD TOILET SUMMIT

China:
- “Potty Parity” policy – gender equality in toilets
- “Toilet Revolution” – mindset change of toilets as cost to toilets as profit – improvements in public toilets’ sanitary conditions & therefore tourism

India:
- “Total Sanitation” campaign
- “Clean India” – building 100million+ toilets creating huge political support & international investment

Brazil:
- “Government bill for sewerage treatment – attracted US $4Billion investment – predicted to reach US $100Billion

Nigeria:
- African “Toilet Revolution” – to be open defecation free by 2025
- 36 states declared to be open defecation free already
Established in 2005, the World Toilet College (WTC) is a social enterprise that addresses the need for an independent global body to ensure best practices and standards in toilet design, cleanliness, and sanitation technologies. While the lack of toilets remains a pervasive issue, equally serious problems arise from poor management and hygienic maintenance. WTC's unique approach focuses on training toilet caretakers in cleaning, maintenance, sanitation marketing, hygiene promotion, behavioral change, public policy, social entrepreneurship, and minor repairs. This comprehensive model boosts their self-confidence, providing them with professional mastery and increased productivity. WTC caters to individuals at various levels of the sanitation value chain, empowering them through capacity-building programs led by certified trainers and experts. By fostering a supportive network of sanitation stakeholders, WTC enables personal and professional growth within the field.

World Toilet College (WTC) has formed partnerships with esteemed institutions like Singapore Polytechnic and received accreditation as an Approved Training Organization. In collaboration with RB, Global Interfaith Wash Alliance (GIWA), and WTO, WTC expanded to India, launching India's First World Toilet College in Rishikesh in 2015. Over 5,000 individuals were trained in the initial 24 months. WTC further expanded to Maharashtra, establishing Harpic World Toilet College (HWTC) in Aurangabad in partnership with RB and Jagran Pehel. HWTC aimed to uplift the lives of sanitation workers, eliminate hazardous manual scavenging, and provide dignified livelihoods. Training centers were also set up in Mumbai and Pune. Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, WTC continued training via digital platforms, successfully training and placing over 2,700 sanitation workers in 2020-21.
Who are the sanitation workers and what type of the work they do?

They are around 5 million full-time workers, out of which 2.5 million routinely face high occupational hazards.

Over 90% of these workers are from the lowest-Dalit Sub castes.

Out of these 5 million, 60-70% are from the Urban areas.

50% of whom are women.

To break the intergenerational poverty trap, we need to skill the youth in caste-neutral occupations and provide them with entrepreneurial opportunities. Sanitation Workers face life-threatening diseases due to their daily exposure to human waste. It is crucial to address these risks for their safety.
The training course covers the content on technical and safety aspects as well as associated soft skills.
In 2022-23, the Harpic World Toilet College Programme expanded its footprint to 15 states across the country, rehabilitating more than 30,500 sanitation workers.
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