



Cleaning tertiary sewer system (cleaning campaign), Tra Vinh, 02.06.2010

Component: TC Component 2 - Capacity Development in Wastewater Management (WWM Project)
Perspective: Institutional Framework Conditions
Activity: Transfer of Responsibilities for Tertiary Sewerage Systems
Location and date: Tra Vinh, August 2010



Handing over of O&M equipment, Tra Vinh. 17.06.2009

O&M of Tertiary Sewer Systems in Vietnam

Drainage and sewerage activities in Vietnam's urban areas and industrial zones are regulated by Governmental Decree No 88/2007/ND-CP. Concerning the operation and maintenance (O&M) of tertiary sewer and drainage systems the Decree states the responsibility of the system operators which are state owned public service utilities. This new perception contradicts with former (and still prevailing) sewer management practices in most localities where usually the ward administrations took (and still take) the responsibility. Tertiary sewer and drainage systems comprise the network at neighborhood and household level especially along narrow lanes, meaning the sewers, drains, channels or ditches that households away from main roads discharge their wastewaters to.

Significant changes to local sewer and drainage management were made recently in Tra Vinh City. Tra Vinh City's urban administration comprises 9 wards and 1 commune and the responsibility for all public

infrastructure management, including the entire sewer and drainage system and the tertiary system is now with the Urban Infrastructure Management Bureau (UIMB) as requested by the City's Peoples Committee in August 2010. For implementation of daily sewer cleaning activities UIMB is signing an annual management and operation contract with the city's public service utility, the Tra Vinh Water Supply and Sewerage Company (TV WSSC) since 2008 and supervises its daily work performance together with the Ward People's Committees. The needed annual O&M budget is requested by TV WSSC, the request reviewed by the Department of Construction (DoC) and approved by the Provincial People's Committee. O&M budgets are transferred to TV WSSC on a quarterly basis.

TV WSSC commenced its O&M works in 2008 and established a sewerage unit with only 12 workers. Meanwhile the unit has been transformed into a sewerage division with 28 staff. Since its establishment, the sewerage division as well as the entire company received broad support through numerous WWM

project training courses on O&M procedures, labor safety, developing working procedures as well as organizational and internal policy matters. Furthermore, minor O&M equipment was provided and cleaning campaigns in all wards of the city organized in order to raise awareness among the population.

Especially the cleaning campaigns with participation of the public and representatives from local departments have had a positive effect on transferring the responsibility of O&M works on the tertiary system to TV WSSC, because the people saw the company working for them for the first time by cleaning the sewers in front of their houses.

Apart from support through WWM the TV WSSC has been quite active in enabling the sewerage division performing its tasks supported by heavier equipment (2 winches) and 3 trucks with different loading capacity. In future TV WSSC needs further support for equipment procurement (i.e. combined suction vehicle) for improving the capacity and quality of O&M services.