

Dear All,

World Bank signs \$120 million Loan Agreement to improve access to Water Supply Services in the Hilly State of Uttarakhand

The Government of India, Government of Uttarakhand and World Bank Board signed a \$120 million Loan Agreement which will help increase access to improved water supply services in Peri-urban areas in the State of Uttarakhand.

The Uttarakhand Water Supply Program for Peri-Urban Areas will help the state increase water supply coverage as well as ensure sustainable water supply service delivery in these areas. It will develop and implement a service-oriented and efficient water supply policy for these areas, strengthen the current monitoring and evaluation systems, and provide dedicated incentives for preparation and adoption of water supply 'master-plans' in peri-urban areas. Due to this project, the peri-urban population in the state, especially the women will have easy access to regular water supply services, thus freeing- up their time for other more socially and economically productive activities.

The Program will focus on increasing coverage, quality and reliability of water supply services in all peri-urban areas of the state. Services would be provided through piped network and metered service connections with a focus on improving the operation and management (O&M) of it. Some of the efforts at improving services under the Program will include ensuring a minimum 16-hour water supply which meets the Government of India water quality standards, supplied at a minimum pressure of 12m, for no less than 300 days in a year; 100% customer metering and volumetric tariffs; and sustainable water supply systems which recover O&M costs through user charges with transparent subsidies, if any.

The \$120 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 5-year grace period, and a maturity of 17 years.

Please contact for any query related to this mail to Ms. Abha Chauhan, Research Associate at abha.chauhan@phdcci.in with a cc to Dr. S P Sharma, Chief Economist at spsharma@phdcci.in and Ms. Megha Kaul, Associate Economist at megha@phdcci.in , PHD Chamber of

Commerce & Industry.

Warm regards,

Dr. S P Sharma
Chief Economist

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry
PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area
August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016
Ph.: + 91-11-26863801-04, 49545454 Ext (135)
Fax: +91- 26855450, 49545451
Email: spsharma@phdcci.in
Website: www.phdcci.in

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PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110 016 (India) • Tel. : +91-11-2686 3801-04, 49545454, 49545400
Fax : +91-11-2685 5450 • E-mail : president@phdcci.in • Website : www.phdcci.in, CIN: U74899DL1951GAP001947