

Preface

This *IDS Bulletin*, ‘Some for All?’ was born out of the STEPS Liquid Dynamics II Symposium held at IDS in March 2011.¹ This second water and sanitation symposium of the STEPS Centre brought together a range of practical, policy and academic perspectives on global water and sanitation issues, with an avowed aim of looking at pathways from past to present since the New Delhi Statement in 1990. Through this lens the meeting hoped to address critical challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and to offer a ‘pause for thought’ as the global community rushes to mark the end of the Global Freshwater Decade 2005–15 (alongside the MDGs) and, this year, Rio+20 and the sixth World Water Forum.

The editors thank all the contributors to this symposium, whose thoughts, arguments and critical insights shaped the final form and content of this *IDS Bulletin*. In particular we thank contributors who completed articles for inclusion – but also recognise the efforts of those whose articles could not be part of this issue. These articles alongside the commentaries and presentations at the symposium contributed intellectually to the two days of debate. Overall, the range and span of the articles is unusual for a publication of this sort, and we believe this adds strength in terms of range of insights provided into major policy and practice issues. Some of the pathways taken, as noted, have been up blind alleys and around cul-de-sacs – and there is clearly much

Notes

1 STEPS (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability) is an interdisciplinary global research and policy engagement hub, funded by the Economic and

still to do. Having called for ‘Some for All’ over two decades ago, the global community still has a major collective action problem to address in overcoming the huge inequities of basic service provision.

This publication would not have been possible without the initial Liquid Dynamics II event, for which we appreciate Harriet Dudley’s application of her copious organisational skills (STEPS Coordinator). We also thank Melissa Leach, STEPS Director, for her overall support, and Nathan Oxley and Samantha Reddin for contributing important communications outputs.² The IDS and STEPS doctoral students Maria Teresa Armijos, Tim Karpouzoglou, Phemo Kgomotso, Shilpi Srivastava, Anna Walnycki and Kathi Welle played a significant role in organising, planning and recording the event. We are truly grateful to them for helping to ensure the symposium was a success. In addition we acknowledge the important inputs provided by Shweta Srinivasan, Digvijay Singh and Andrea Brower (MA students). We are grateful to Alison Norwood for her support and patience during the publication process.

Finally, and most importantly, without Naomi Vernon’s tireless copy-editing and production skills we would not have reached this stage. Her unstinting professionalism and dedication to the issue made this publication a reality.

Social Research Council (ESRC). See www.steps-centre.org/aboutus/index.html

2 See www.steps-centre.org/events/watersym2011.html