

Technologies for Arsenic Removal from Drinking Water

A compilation of papers presented at the International Workshop on
Technologies for Arsenic Removal from Drinking Water organized by
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET),
Dhaka, Bangladesh and The United Nations University (UNU), Tokyo, Japan

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The factual information and views expressed in the papers are those of the authors, not of the editors nor of the Universities they belong.

Published by:

The Editors on behalf of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and The United Nations University.

May, 2001

ISBN 984-31-1305-6

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Printed by: Matiar Manush,
106 Fakirapool, Dhaka-1000
Tel: 017-661841

Cover by : Color Graphic

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PREFACE

Arsenic contamination of groundwater in the alluvial aquifer underlying Bangladesh and India has been recognized as a major problem of catastrophic proportions. Groundwater extracted by shallow tubewells from this aquifer has been found to contain high levels of arsenic which are unsafe for drinking and cooking purposes. Thousands of people have already been identified to be affected by arsenic poisoning, in addition to the millions potentially under threat from drinking contaminated water. Provision of arsenic free water is urgently needed for immediate protection of health and well being of the people living in arsenic affected areas. In most situations, substitution of tubewell water by an alternative safe and reliable source of water supply is not an easy task. Treatment of arsenic-contaminated tubewell water is one prominent option in the acute arsenic affected areas in Bangladesh and India.

This publication comprises a compilation of papers presented at the BUET-UNU International workshop on *Technologies for Arsenic Removal from Drinking Water*. The papers describe a broad range of activities in the areas of research, development and evaluation of various arsenic removal technologies. It is anticipated that the information contained in this document will be useful in understanding the current technological developments in arsenic removal as well as their limitations. This effort is also useful in identifying the areas needing further improvement for successful implementation and adaptation of technologies to rural conditions. We hope that this publication of BUET-UNU workshop will be useful to the scientists, engineers, researchers, policy planners and decision-makers working for arsenic mitigation in various parts of the world, including Bangladesh and India.

The editors would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to all the contributors of this publication. The editors acknowledge the sincere efforts of Farhad Ahmed, Zobayer A. Shaurav, Miah M. Hussainuzzaman and others who directly or indirectly helped to publish this document.

Editors