Shifting the Sanitation Paradigm

Discourse at the World Habitat Day

3 October 2005
Human waste is resource

- NPK = fertilizer
- + grey water
- For environment and food security

- versus
- Human excreta is hazard
Agriculture is market for products

versus

Disposal site of residuals
Positive image of sector

- **versus**
  Undercast stigma

- Allows for an assertive PR
- Better chance/basis to involve stakeholders
Inclusive cost-benefit analyses

- **versus**
  Transfer of costs to other sectors

- Optimising efficiency of resource use
Focus on solid waste sector

- versus on Water-born solutions

- We need to study and approach solid waste sector for how they operate, develop and innovate.
Logistic as source of experience

- versus Infrastructure

- Need to apply logistic principles and experience
Variation of combinations

- and…..

- Openess towards mixed systems

- versus Monolithic infrastructure
Short term modest investment

- **versus**
  - Large long-term investment

- Financial sector need to be sensitised for new opportunities
- Need for new financial instruments
Integration of urban services

- versus
  Isolated sectorial approach
- Seeking alliances with various sectors
- Sharing of costs and benefits
Short cumulative innovation cycles

versus
Grand rigid technical solutions

Better and faster exchange of knowledge and experience between practitioners and researchers, around the world
Empowerment of people

- Decrease dependency on external assistance
- People are provided ideas and tools to start solving their problems
Stakeholders in design and planning

- **versus**
  Making choices for stakeholders

- Democratic principles and approach towards planning prevails

- Need for convenience, safety and comfort will need more attention
Adaption of proven wisdom

- **versus**
  Disregard of lessons of the past

- Respect for the knowledge of the elderly
- See what is/was there instead of reinventing the wheel