



Water and Heritage

The session was divided into two sessions, where Session 1 was chaired by Shri. A.B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID and co-chaired by Dr. Vivek Saxena, Country Representative, IUCN with Mr. Pankaj Satija, Chief Regulatory Affairs, Tata Steel, Ms. Nupur Prothi Khanna, ICOMOS, Ms. Arushi Nishank, Sparsh Ganga and Ms. Meena Narula, Country Director, Water for people India as the panelists. The second session was chaired by Shri T.B.S. Rajput, ICAR and co-chaired by Ms. Archana Chatterjee, National Coordinator, IUCN along with Ms. Anupama Madhok, Director & Editor, Water Digest, Mr. Monish Sirupuram,



ANT Studio, Mr. Divay Gupta, Architecture Heritage INTACH, Ms. Nidhi Madan, Secretary, ISOLA and Shri A Mridul, Birkha Bawari as the panellists. The discussion saw presenters talk about several programs to preserve the old water bodies of India like Ganga, and using learnings from the past to create better opportunities for the future. Community participation emerged as a highlight during this discussion, along with revival of heritage sites. Some interesting insights were brought into the discussion such as the landscape approach to water and heritage, and reverting to old methods of air-cooling using water.

The panel recommended that professionals and organisations should contribute to a revision in policy protection measures, setup guidelines for CSR, considering both our natural and cultural heritage, and set up funding to tie up with engineering and technology for innovative solutions relevant to the Indian context. The session

brought together professionals from diverse backgrounds, presenting their views, proving the relevance of water heritage to achieve the UN SDGs.

The cheerful presence of the torchbearers of the next generation, school children, made the session interactive and more meaningful.

Cultural Programme organised at Dr. B R Ambedkar International Centre on 25th September 2019 in New Delhi



Looking back and forward: Relying on tech and traditions for water crisis solutions



L to R Shri R K Jain, Chief Engineer, NWDA, Shri A D Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC and Shri M K Sinha, Former Executive Member, NCA

Inter-Basin Water Transfer – Planning to Implementation

The session was chaired by Shri A.D. Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC. The other people on the panel were Shri M.K. Sinha, Former Executive Member, NCA and Shri R.K. Jain, Chief Engineer, NWDA.

Speaking on the Interlinking of Rivers Programme, the panelists discussed the aspect of Spatial Rainfall and Temporal Variation in the country.

Shri R.K. Jain highlighted how the large variation in the rainfall pattern in the country leads to droughts, floods, scarcity etc. He discussed various Indian IBWT Project case studies which are still successful in India.

The session touched upon Peninsular and Himalayan Rivers Development projects

which comprise of 16 and 14 links. The progress made by the National Water Development Agency and their prioritisation of the interlinking of rivers to solve water related issues was also discussed.

The need for interlinking of rivers and how it would be beneficial to the various sectors in the country like agriculture, industrial and also solve the issue of water scarcity by filling all the dams in the country, was the core learning of the session.

Improvement and Innovation in Reuse & Recycle Practices & Technologies

The speakers for this session were Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Govt. of UP, Shri D.P. Mathuria, Executive Director (Technical), NMCG, Mr. Lahnsteiner Josef, Director Technology

R&D, VA Tech WABAG Ltd., Ms. Martina Burkard, Programme Director, GIZ (Support for Ganga Rejuvenation) and Ms. Henriette Faergemann, Counsellor Environment, Energy and Climate Change-EU Delegation to India.

This panelists spoke about how water recycling, also referred to as water reuse or water reclamation, is an effective method of treating captured or conveyed wastewater



and redistributing it to benefit other water-dependent applications.

They suggested that India should learn from the proficiencies of the EU and Spain with regards to the treatment of wastewater. Discussions on the efforts taken by the National Mission for Clean Ganga in the state of Uttar Pradesh, also took place. Shri Manoj Kumar Singh talked about the various STPs in the State of Uttar Pradesh funded by NMCG. Various Case Studies were also presented. Ms. Nupur Bahadur, Fellow, Water Research, TERI presented a case study on Advanced Oxidation Nanotechnology.

The seminar provided an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas and discussion of appropriate approaches, including the technologies for addressing the issue of wastewater.

Water Quality and Public Health Issues

This session was chaired by Shri Shalab Kumar, Member (WS), DJB. The other speakers for this session were Shri Amit Banswal, Senior Scientist, NEERI and Dr. A.K. Susheela, Former Professor of AIIMS.

The opening remarks were delivered by Shri Kumar who brought to the forefront the efforts taken by the various departments of the government and stated that people should be made aware of it and that certain norms and guidelines should be formed for the same.

Shri Amit highlighted the two crucial aspects



of water availability and water quality, with regards to the subject of water and how these are linked to human health.

The session addressed the issue of water quality from a systems perspective with a view of protecting and promoting health.

Research Needs in the Water Sector

This session revolved around the theme of "Research Needs in Water Sector".



The panellists for the session were Shri Y.K. Sharma, Former Member, CWC, Dr. V.V. Bhosekar, Director, CWPRS, Shri S. Masood Husain, Former Chairman, CWC, Shri S.L. Gupta, Director CSMRS and Mr. A. K. Ganju, Former Member, CWC.

The discussion saw presenters talk about sustained research and development being necessary and that the concept of research is also important. They listed conservation, distribution and utilisation as important aspects of the same.

The session laid out views about the increasing population and that there is a need for more water in stressed conditions. Importance of Rainwater and the need for desalination technologies being made cheaper in coastal states for increased usage was also discussed.

Innovations in Water Management

The chair Dr. T.B.S. Rajput, Senior Scientist, ICAR for the seminar stated, "Challenge can be taken up only through innovation." The session was co-chaired by Dr. Sahdev Singh, AGRI and Dr. Neelam Patel, Principal Scientist, IARI. This discussion specifically discussed new technologies being used in the sector of agriculture and water management. Several presentations by distinguished

panelists mentioned the adaptable efforts made by farmers according to the changing situations and the introduction of scientific methods for irrigation by scientists and engineers. The use of drones as a tool for irrigation and agriculture was presented in the discussion along with technologies for land drainage. The seminar also mentioned the need for involving and training female farmers on irrigation practices and turning to agriculture practices which are cost effective and good for the environment.



Development of Waterways and Navigation

The session was chaired by Dr. Amita Prasad, IAS, Chairperson, IWAII. The other speakers for this session were Shri Pravir Pandey, IA & AS, Vice Chairman, IWAII, Shri M.U. Ghani, Former Member, GFCC, Consultant, IWAII, Patna, Prof. Nayan Sharma, Ph.D Adjunct Professor, CTRANS, IIT, Roorkee, Shri Saibal Ghosh, General Manager, Farakka Barrage Project Murshidabad (WB) and Prof. K Murali, Oceanography Dept., IIT, Madras.

The speakers discussed the benefits of having an Inland Water Transport System in the country, since it is one the cheapest means of transport and eases trade. Various problems with regards to nature and infrastructure faced by inland water transport systems were also discussed. The panel also stated how various recent technologies can act as game changers.

The session laid out the aspects and appropriate recommendations of eco-friendly modes of transport.



Flood Management- Future Challenges and Strategies

The session was chaired by Shri A.K. Sinha, Chairman CWC with Shri M.S. Dhillon, GFCC Patna and Shri Bibhas Kumar as



measures (flood forecasting methods) as well as government initiatives to control floods were discussed in detail, with the support of case studies.

Rainwater Harvesting for Sustainable Water Supply

The seminar was chaired by Shri Sriram Vedire, Advisor to Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti and co-chaired by Shri G.C. Pati, Member, CGWB. Hon'ble Chair, Shri Vedire, commenced the session by discussing the importance of rainwater, as it is the most abundant source of water for this country. He also showcased pictures of traditional rainwater harvesting methods.



co-chairs. The Chair explained the concentration of flood prone areas in India. The concepts of flood protection, community participation and insurance for flood prone areas were highlighted during the seminar. The causes for floods such as extreme climate change, inadequate drainage and high variability in rainfall all around the country were discussed by the panellists.

The panel agreed that a shift in engineering based approaches for flood management to more inclusive approaches, which involve the beneficiaries, would be effective in the long run. Further, certain structural (reservoirs, embankment, channelisation of rivers, etc.), non-structural

The speakers noted how the Jal Shakti Abhiyan is working on several schemes and missions to improve water conservation/augmentation. The discussion emphasised encouraging proactive behaviours and attitudinal changes towards rainwater harvesting, e.g. how different techniques are employed in rainwater harvesting for different regions, depending on their terrains and traditions. The session highlighted different methods which could promote these practices further and integrate them into our cultures yet again.

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