

GLIMPSES OF THE EXHIBITION IWW 2019



Improved water conditions can lead to improvement in the economy



L to R Shri G Asok Kumar, Executive Director - Projects, NMCG, Mr. Dirk Steffes-Enn, Deputy Head of Economics Co-operation and Development, Germany Embassy, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General, NMCG, Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director, CSIR-NEERI and Shri Rajneesh Chopra, Global Head, Business Development, VA Tech Wabag

Rejuvenation of the Ganga – From Planning to Action

The session was chaired by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga. The speakers for the session were Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director, CSIR – NEERI, Mr. Dirk Steffes-enn, Deputy Head of Economic Cooperation and Development, German Embassy.

The speakers stated rivers are not dirty it's the civilisation near the river basins and the people living in those civilisations that make rivers dirty. They stated that Ganga is an experimental lab and the methods of rejuvenation that work there would be applied to other rivers in the country.

The panel talked about the concept of "Aviral Dhara" and "Nirmal Dhara" under

Namami Gange – the flagship program launched in 2015.

Technical presentation on the various aspects of Ganga Rejuvenation plan were delivered by Shri G. Asok Kumar, Executive Director – Projects, NMCG, Shri Rajiv Kishore, Executive Director (Admin), NMCG, Shri D.P. Mathuria, Executive Director – Technical, NMCG, Shri Rajneesh Chopra, Global Head – Business Development, VA Tech WABAG Ltd. and others.

Water Resources Development for Rural Economic Growth

This session was chaired by Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary, MoRD. The other panelists for the session were Dr. Alok Sikka, Representative, IWMI, Shri K.C. Naik, Chairman, CGWB, Dr. Tushar Shah, Senior

Fellow, IWMI, Shri Raghvendra Pratap, Director, MGNREGS, Shri K. Vohra, Commissioner (SPR), DoWR, Shri Rajeev Ahal, Director, NRM, Shri B. Rath, Technical Expert (WM), NRAA, MoAG, Shri Kamran Rizvi, Dr. A.R. Khan and Shri R.K. Agarwal, Superintending Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Chhattisgarh.

The panel highlighted the aspect of Water



Resources Development & Rural livelihood in the country. They stated that water-provision depends on self-provision. They also talked about the policy of MGNREGA and PMKSY and how they can play a major role in helping the irrigation sector of the country despite the constraints of energy availability and expensive diesel.

The session laid out discussions on ending poverty and bringing inclusive growth and emphasised that activities related to agriculture need to be closely integrated with the SDG targets, as agriculture is highly dependent on water.

Participatory Irrigation Management (India-NPIM)

The special session was chaired by Shri Sanjay Belsare, Vice President, India NPIM



and co-chaired by Shri Puneet Kumar Mittal, Sr. Joint Commissioner, SJC, CAD, Ministry of JalShakti. The panelists also included Shri Y.D. Sharma, Secretary, India NIPM and Shri Mohan Sharma, India NIPM. The importance of participation of the farmers was a highlight of the session since they identify most with the issues discussed. The discussions started with emphasis on 99 prioritised projects under PMKSY (Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna). The focus was then shifted to water user associations where the progress in many states is not up-to-date and the drawbacks for the associations

were brought to the forefront. Policy reformations along with establishment of support services were suggested as the remedial options for reoccurring issues. For full participation from management and farmers, counseling was proposed as a viable solution. The management of irrigation would be better only when the farmers are independent, self-motivated & confident, and the State and Central Governments are transparent about the information being transmitted.

Focused Role of Federal Government in Ensuring Sustainable Water Resources Development

The brainstorming session was chaired by Shri A.B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID, and co-chaired by Shri Navin Kumar, Member (WR), CWMA & Chairman, CWRC. The speakers highlighted several actions and initiatives taken up by the Union Government, State Government as well as the local administration. They also stated that a unified strategy is required to be adopted to achieve the desired results in the future, for sustainable development of water resources.

unsustainable practices and co-ordination between the government and community.

Moving Towards Integrated Planning and Management of Waters and Institutional Arrangements

The seminar was chaired by Shri S.K. Haldar, Member (WP & P), CWC along with Dr. Jonathan Quebbeman, RTI International USA, Ms. T. Rajeshwari, Additional Secretary, WR, RD & GR and Ms. Brigit Vogel, India-EU Partnership, GIZ India was a



presenter at the seminar. The panel highlighted the importance of looking at water from an integrated perspective, i.e. the coordinated development and management of not just water, but land and resources as well, in order to maximise economic and social welfare. It was noted that India faces uneven rainfall throughout the country hence river basin management, flood control, adequate investment by the government, active participation by all relevant stakeholders, etc. were highlighted by the speakers as certain key elements for successful integrated planning and management of water. They also emphasised how river basins are considered as the most scientific, suitable and hydrological unit for water management. Ms. Brigit Vogel spoke in detail about the joint planning and managing of river basin issues which can vary from state to state. Multiple methods of flood control emerged as another important theme which could be extremely beneficial for

the management of water. Along with the key elements for successful management of resources, planning and implementations of the programs were also emphasised by the panel.

Learning from Best Practices in the Water Sector

The session was chaired by Shri K.P. Bakshi, Chairman, Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority. The other speakers for the session were Dr. Yella Reddy, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology, ANGR, Shri G.R. Kulkarni and Shri Pradeep Kumar, Former Member, CWC.



E-Governance in the Water Sector

The session was chaired by Shri N.K. Mathur, Former Member CWC. The other



speakers for this session were Dr. Ranjna Nagpal, DDG, NIC, Shri D.S. Chaskar, Shri B. Khapre, Hydrology Expert, Mechatronics systems Pvt. Ltd., Shri Ashok Kharya, CWC, Dr. S.N. Sankhua, Chief Engineer, NWDA, Shri Parag Agarwal, CMD, Janjal and Shri C.M.S. Adhikari, Group Lead, ESRI India Technologies Ltd.

The panel highlighted that e-governance in the water sector can provide efficient gathering, managing and reporting of water resources data to promote effective public participation.

The speakers talked about the various aspects in e-governance. They stated that there is a need to redefine the rules for data collection, processing storage, dissemination of information, decision making etc.

The aspect of mobile governance and the way it complements e-governance was also highlighted by the panel. The speakers also discussed the SMART model of e-governance.

The session laid out various suggestions on what the best course to implement e-governance could be.

Ever Increasing Complexities in Adjudication of Water Disputes

The brainstorming session was chaired by Shri Suresh Chandra, Former Chairman, CWC and co-chaired by Dr. Srinivas Chokkakula, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. The panelists for the sessions included Shri A.B. Pandya, Secretary General, ICID, Shri R.S. Prasad, Former Chairman, CWC & Assessor, KWDT II, Shri R.K. Jain, GRMB, Dr. Avdhesh Pratap Singh, CCU University, Meerut among others. The panel noted how water demands and availability in India are variable for every State and how rivers have been a State subject even though most rivers are inter-state in India. They observed that climate change has a negative impact on future water availability and future water demand resulting from different agro-climatic scenarios. They also highlighted that problems related to water dispute are rarely



presented in front of the Tribunal by the States, listing some infamous water disputes (Ravi-Beas, Godavari, etc.) and the stagnation within the Tribunal.

The issues that the session brought to the forefront were those of a single standing Tribunal, no presence of technical officers in the panel and inefficiency of the State in reporting disputes. The Inter-State Water Dispute Amendment 2019 was an important part of the session where regulated discussions went on about the advantages and disadvantages of the Amendment as well as the improvements that can be made.

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