



Recent activities of India Water Foundation

India Water Foundation is a non-profit civil society and think tank established on 27th March, 2008. It is engaged in enhancing public awareness in Asia-Pacific region in general and India on water, energy and the environment with specific emphasis on sustainable development. It has Consultative status with UN-ECOSOC and observer status with several UN Bodies including UNEA, UNCCD, UNFCCC, IPBES and CBD. It is a part of technical advisory of the National Wetlands Committee and recently became a member of CTCN, IUCN, UN Global Compact Network, Global Partnership on Marine Litter and the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP). It is a member of the South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (SANS), a key resource hub of networking with the National Council of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and sector partner to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India for implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Summarized below are few of our initiatives:-

The 1st high level webinar on 'The Future of Liquid Waste Management amidst Covid 19' on 23rd October, 2020. The webinar was organized in collaboration with United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP). Inaugurated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and chair Executive board World Health Organization (WHO), the webinar included discussions with Secretary of D/o Water Resources, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti; Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Dr. Arvind Kumar, President India Water Foundation, Mr. Atul Bagai, Head, UNEP India, Ms Payden Deputy WHO Representative, India, Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy, Operations Manager, Crisis Management Branch, UN Environment Programme, Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon, Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific UNEP, Bangkok, Thailand, CPCB and ICMR. The main objective of the webinar was to understand the challenges affecting liquid waste management systems in India due to the Covid 19 pandemic and effective and innovative waste management solutions. The outcomes of the webinar included a range of actions promoting the development of liquid waste management systems especially design of appropriate technologies, sanitation facilities like toilets, waste water drainage systems, monitoring of biomedical waste, urban water augmentation, water quality monitoring and formulation of waste water policies also release a joint report.

India Water Foundation jointly celebrated World Wetlands Day on 2nd February, 2021. Coinciding with 50th year of the Ramsar Convention the theme was 'Water, Wetlands, Life: Inseparable Coexistence: Safeguarding biodiversity, delivering water & Food in the face of changing climate'. The event was organized in collaboration with National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti. The main aim of the event was to develop a holistic understanding of wetland management in India; linkages with water, food security, biodiversity and climate change; linkages between wetlands and river systems; initiatives of the Government of India and the need for public awareness. Some of the key recommendations included capacity building of multiple stakeholders, conservation and rejuvenation, and their integrated management. To attain the vision of our hon'ble PM Sh. Narendra Modi under the leadership of our hon'ble union Minister of Jalshakti Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat we are committed to turn Water Conservation and Wetland Restoration into a public movement. More than 10,000 people were connected from all over India and simultaneously programs were organized at district level too across the country.

India Water Foundation has undertaken a study for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for collection of information on water supply and sanitation in selected 50 representative slum samples out of around 5200 urban slum areas of Delhi in 2021-22. The objective of the study was to analyze the achievements and lessons learnt in water supply and sanitation sector in urban slum areas through reviewing related central and state government policies, programmes and activities by other development agencies; reviewing and analyzing various JICA funded representative projects in the sector and proposing assistant policy/implementation plan for future project formulation etc. The study will be helpful in planning for future project formulation in the water sector.

India Water Foundation with its network of partners and more than 50,000 Jal Mitras are committed to meet the unprecedented challenge of the water. While, we annually create awareness amongst school children on water conservation, biodiversity conservation, climate change and plastic waste management in the Delhi-NCR region; however, due to COVID 19 restrictions most of the events were conducted online. During this period we coordinated with numerous schools in Delhi for collection and compilation of articles on Water conservation initiatives in their schools. These articles have been published in Our Biannual Chronicle.

We have participated in numerous panel discussions and dialogues organized by institutions like the National Clean Ganga Mission (NMCG), World Wide Fund (WWF), IUCN, TERI, IMPRI, Center for Policy Dialogue, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), World Food Trust, World Bank, UNEP, NTPC, AKP Healing, Economic Times SDG Leadership Council, India National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The chief functionary of India Water Foundation was elected as a member in the Governing Council of UN Global Compact Network India and is committed to contribute towards amplifying and integrating SDG's.

India Water Foundation is a member to the Board of Governors at the World Water Council and is represented by Dr Arvind Kumar, Governor and Ms Shweta Tyagi, Alternate Governor. We have participated in all the Board of Governors meeting of the World Water Council held since April, 2021. We also participated in the 9th World Water Council held in Dakar, Senegal and organized a special panel discussion on Ecosystems based Adaptation and Complete Water Security. The panelists included representatives from the World Bank, FAO, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority and India Water Foundation. The session was inspired by the latest book of Dr. Arvind Kumar on Ecosystem based adaptation: Approaches to Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources. We are also signatories to the World Water Council Declaration on 'No water security without ecological security / No ecological security without water security" and are coordinating with multiple organizations to ensure its implementation.