

India Water Foundation

Annual Report



2012-13

Foreword

It gives me immense pleasure in presenting a cumulative brief report on the activities of India Water Foundation (IWF) since its inception in early 2008 till the end of 2012. Prelude to the establishment of IWF was provided by many significant developments as envisaged in the report in theoretical terms and the establishment of a civil society without adequate financial resources was almost a Herculean task. Imbued with missionary zeal and humanitarian passion to contribute to the society and the nation, we embarked on this mission. Undoubtedly paucity of fiscal resources proved a major hindrance in fulfilling our yeoman mission; nevertheless, I and a couple of my associates remained undaunted and continued our onward journey.



Since we were trying a unique experiment through this civil society by generating awareness among the people on water-related issues, sans any glamour and monetary advantage, we were bound to face odds of various sorts. It was difficult to convince the government as well as corporate sector about the worth of making people – the genuine and ultimate stakeholders – aware about the programmes and policies in water and environment sectors with a view to ensure their involvement. There exists a big hiatus between policy-making and its implementation process. Policy making is facilitated at the Central Government level of State Government level and its implementation takes place at grassroots level in the village and municipal level in cities.

No policy can be said to claim its successful implementation unless the people are made aware about the very purpose and objective of that policy through capacity-building programmes. The government is well-equipped in fiscal and technological resources but lacks in trained personnel who can make people aware and build up their capacities. Here lies the role of a civil society which has a pool of trained personnel to generate awareness and build up the capacity of the people. Efforts of the IWF to convince the government and the corporate sector to attach importance to these twin tasks of generation of awareness and capacity-building with the help of civil society have failed to yield any fruitful results. However, we have continued to march onward in our mission.

Frankly speaking, within a span of five years IWF has not been able to make a big mark at the national level in terms of its annual financial turnover; nonetheless, it gives us satisfaction that whatever we have done in the form of hosting three major conferences, we have been able to set new trends. The International Conference on Innovative Ancient techniques in Resolving the Current Crises of Soil, Water and Environment co-hosted by IWF at New Delhi on 14 February 2010 proved instrumental making people aware of the advantages of organic farming. Similarly, another International Conference on Water Use Efficiency in Industrial Sector co-hosted by India Water Foundation on 9 November 2011, at Jaipur, Rajasthan had the salutary impact, which was discernible when the State Government of Rajasthan announced its new Water Policy. Besides, the state government also announced allotment of separate plots to those industrial units which would install wastewater treatment plants. In a way, IWF was instrumental in influencing water policy of the government of Rajasthan to some extent.

The third conference co-hosted by India Water Foundation was “Regional Workshop on Water Quality Monitoring in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges & Opportunities”, which was held on 5-8 November 2012 at New Delhi. This Regional Workshop proved instrumental in generating synergies between national and international agencies in the realm of water quality monitoring through exchange and sharing of data and networking.

Finally, we strongly feel that ideas and notions pioneered by IWF in water sector viz., capacity-building, inter-sectoral convergence, holistic and collective approach, equal emphasis on soft approach along with hard or technical approach etc are equally applicable to other sectors as well.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arvind Kumar', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

(Dr Arvind Kumar)
President, India water Foundation

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Prelude

At the cusp of the 21st Century, occurrence of water and environment related disasters viz. the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami; the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes in the Caribbean, the west Pacific and the United States; floods and extensive droughts in many parts of the globe, were seemingly a constant reminder of both the destructive power of water and the misery deriving from lack of it in so many regions of the world.

Undoubtedly, availability of financial and technological resources at the start of the 21st century could have enabled the developing countries to consign the water, environment and sanitation related crises to history just as developed countries did a century ago; nevertheless, what had been lacking was a concerted drive to extend access to water and sanitation for all through well designed and properly financed national plans, backed by a global plan of action to galvanize political will and mobilize resources.

In the backdrop of these and other related developments in water and environment sectors, the UN-Water and other allied agencies of the UN, along with some international civil society organizations, started paying attention on water and environment related problems with the avowed objective of finding viable solutions to them. The significance of water was emphasized in Chapter 18 of Agenda 21, adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which also defined the overall goal of water policy developments.

While recognizing the importance of water, the United Nations (UN) Millennium Declaration 2000 called upon all UN members. “to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.”

The UN environmental report *GEO 2000* stated that global water shortage represents a full-scale emergency, where ‘the world water cycle seems unlikely to be able to adapt to the demands that will be made of it in the coming decades.’ Similarly, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) emphasized that ‘freshwater is essential to human health, agriculture, industry and natural ecosystems, but is now running scarce in many regions of the world.’





Thus, each passing year of the first decade of the 21 Century witnessed increasing emphasis on water related problems and seeking solutions to those problems. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg (South Africa) in August/September 2002, while describing water as integral to sustainable development, also asserted that, water is relevant to all three strands of development – social, economic and environmental.’

The subsequent period witnessed water as the major theme of many UN agencies’ publications. The theme of UN World Water Development Report 2003 was “Water for People-Water for Life.” The second UN Water Development Report released in 2006 had the theme of “Water: A Shared Responsibility”, which placed greater emphasis on water governance issues. Interestingly, the Human Development Report 2006 was also devoted to the global water crisis.

The decade 2005-2015 was designated by the UN as International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Life’, with the objective of focusing on the implementation of water-related programmes and projects, while striving to ensure cooperation at all levels, including the participation of women, to achieve the internationally-agreed water-related goals.

These developments in water sector taking place in the international arena were prone to wield some impact on water related issues in India as well. The National Water Policy adopted by Government of India in 2002 offered an inappropriate modeling of supply and demand scenarios, and other issues such as social inequalities and inappropriately defined property rights. Besides, it was also characterized by its failures to incorporate the national and international political environment, and failure to consider water policies within a dynamic economic, technological, and social environment.

Such a scenario was bound to augment India’s water and environment related problems at the outset of the 21st Century. Subsequently, in June 2008, Government of India released India’s first National Climate Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) outlining existing and future policies and programs addressing climate mitigation and adaptation. The plan identified eight key ‘national missions’, including National Water Mission, running through 2017. In the wake of water scarcity projected to worsen in India as a sequel to climate change, the National Water Mission set a goal of a 20% improvement in water use efficiency through pricing and other measures.

India Water Foundation: Brief Activities (2008-2011)

Water is a State subject under the Constitution of India. It is cumbersome for the government to effectively confront the many intertwined issues concerning water. Not only is it difficult for departments within national government and State governments to collaborate effectively, but problems are compounded when many management decisions have to be taken at sub-national and community levels, as the linkage and cooperation between different levels of government is often tenuous at best. The challenges for government agencies to link to civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs and the private sector for resolving water issues further complicate management and decision-making, especially in the absence of clear mandate in this regard.

The administrative and functional structure of the government departments at the Centre and States in India is such that the subject of water is dealt with multiple departments and ministries thereby leading to sectoral approach which is bereft of inter-departmental or inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation in water sector. This lack of convergence in water sector leads to the failure of realizing objectives enshrined in the national water policy.

It was in the backdrop of these developments that India Water Foundation (IWF) was registered as a non-profit civil society to be engaged in enhancing public awareness on water and related environment issues in India to begin with and then in the Asia-Pacific region subsequently, regarding the vital role water and environment play in human lives, their impact on health, economic growth, livelihoods of the people and calamities that wreak havoc due to non-judicious harnessing of these natural resources.

Generation of this awareness was to be facilitated through seminars, conferences, symposia, outreach and personal contact programs etc. Water being an essential component of power generation and food production, therefore, IWF also assumed unto itself the task of engaging in ensuring environmental security, water security, energy security and food security which are essential for sustainable development.

At the time of its inception, the IWF was faced with fiscal constraints which inhibited its activities and there was also no encouraging response either from the government or the corporate sector. Undaunted by these constraints, the President of the IWF and his small band of supporters who were motivated by the missionary zeal and humanitarian spirit to alleviate the water-related woes of the people in larger national interest, continued their voluntary endeavours through the Internet and Social Media to make the people aware about water and environmental related issues.

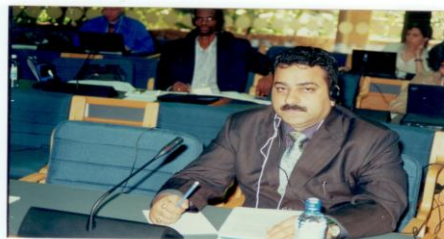
Over the years, the IWF has adhered to harnessing the Internet and Social Media strategically and dynamically to motivate, involve and generate enthusiasm among the people about water related issues. Various forms of social media like blogs, Twitter, Face-book, Linked-in etc have been have been harnessed as a form of grassroots community organization that enables global communication of water and environment related ideas in ways that can resonate on a local level. We are convinced that institutions are less powerful and people are more powerful, and we make use of the social media to empower the people in their own society to effect the change they want to see in water, environment and other related sectors.

The year 2008, the very year of the founding of India Water Foundation, witnessed IWF dealing with the concepts of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) vis-à-vis water sector in India. Emphasis on CSR and PPP was stressed through blogs and messages tweeted as well as two write ups in prominent magazines to impress upon the corporate sector the need for chip in water-related activities as part of the CSR. An article was published in a prominent magazine of Delhi penned by IWF President in July 2008, which focused on the looming water crisis at the global level, with specific emphasis on the adverse impact of the looming water crisis on India. It had launched the publication of its online e-magazine Focus Global Reporter in 2008 and more than couple of issues were brought out during this period.

IWF Brief Activities 2009

In mid-January 2009, IWF circulated a Report on Water Situation in North-East India to various ministries of Government of India and the media. The report, which was based on personal observations gathered by IWF president during his visit to the North-eastern states of India from 30 December 2008 to 6 January 2009 and supplemented by media reports, aimed at highlighting the water-related problems of the region and put them in a proper perspective so that efforts to resolve these problems were put in place.

India Water Foundation was represented by its president, Dr Arvind Kumar, at the 25th session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-25/GMEF), which took place from took place from 16-20 February 2009, at the UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya. The final decision of the meeting called upon governments to improve the scientific basis of their own environmental management and to demonstrate strong leadership individually and collectively to implement effective policy responses. The IWF was the only civil society from India to be represented at this meeting. It was rare honour for the newly formed IWF.



The efforts of IWF to promote inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial convergence in water sector proved partially successful, when in April 2009, two convergence conferences were organized by the Ministries like Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture etc., thereby leading to the emergence of a new line of action, which entailed pooling together of the resources of the main ministries dealing with water-related issues to focus attention on water conservation, capacity-building, rainwater-harvesting, making available water-related latest technology etc.

With a view to keep River Yamuna free from pollution and save the 90-km long stretch of Yamuna River bed from illegal encroachment, the IWF wrote to the then Chief Minister of Delhi and Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, suggesting to develop some strategic areas in the River-bed stretch for water sports. This could help in containing pollution level of Yamuna River as well as opening new vistas in the realm of sports.



Keeping in view the occurrence of perennial nature of water-induced disasters as a recurring phenomenon in Uttarakhand and the irreparable havoc caused in terms of loss to human lives and property, IWF mooted a project proposal on Water-related Problems in Uttarakhand, India, in December 2009, copies of which were sent to Government of Uttarakhand and Central Government. The proposal also contained some suggestions and offer of cooperation by IWF to help the State government in chipping in UNEP and other UN and international agencies to garner technological support and expertise in dealing with water-induced disasters.

During 2009, IWF made extensive use of print as well as electronic and social media to disseminate information and awareness amongst the people on water and environment related issues with specific focus on environmental governance *vis-à-vis* India, implications of climate change, Social Audit in water Sector, South-South Cooperation in water sector, water and national security and implications of China's Hydro-Politics for India etc. A vast variety of topics pertaining to water, energy, environment and other related topics found wide coverage in IWF's mouthpiece *Focus Global Reporter* during this period.



IWF Brief Activities 2010

In the early months of 2010, especially in January and February, India Water Foundation made hectic efforts to garner support from the government of Uttarakhand and various Central ministries to generate water related awareness and persuade the devotees to keep River Ganga free from pollution on the sacred occasion of Kumbh Mela which was held in Haridwar in March-April 2010. The IWF also suggested government agencies and private sector to utilize Kumbh Mela opportunity for projecting image of Modern India and focusing attention on Water and Environment situation in India. IWF made extensive use of the Internet by sending mails and social message to convey this message to the broad spectrum of the people and agencies. However, there was no encouraging response to this initiative.

During the year under review, India Water Foundation was able to forge institutional cooperation with other organizations and educational institutions like INTACH, IGNOU, ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI, Action For Food Production (AFPRO), and NACDOR etc. in water sector. While participating in the seminars/symposia/workshops organized by these institutions, the presentations made by the IWF focused on CSR in water sector, water conservation, water use efficiency, water quality and other similar related issues. Besides, many communications were addressed to the people who mattered in the society apprising them about the India Water Hub.

India Water Foundation in collaboration with WAPCOS (Ministry of Water Resources GOI), Five-fold Path, Germany and Dev Sanskriti Vishwa Vidhyalaya Haridwar Uttarakhand, hosted an **International Conference on Innovative Ancient techniques in Resolving the Current Crisis of Soil, Water and Environment** at New Delhi on 14 February 2010. Participants included scientists and extension workers from different fields such as: ICAR, Ministry of Water Recourses, State Agriculture Universities, and National Rain-fed Area Authority, representatives from state departments, Ground Water Board, Pollution Board, International Organizations, International Water Management Institute, South Asia, etc. This conference proved instrumental in generating opinion in favour of organic farming.





A presentation made by India Water Foundation at World Water Day Celebrations on 20 March 2010 at Nairobi (Kenya) jointly hosted by UNEP, UN-Habitat, the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), and the Government of Kenya, evoked positive response from participants from other countries. The presentation dwelt on the theme of challenges and solutions especially water quality, with specific reference to India and the prospects of a Regional Water Hub located in India to tackle the water-related issues in South Asian region.

Having espoused the cause of a Regional Water Hub located in India at the UN World Water Day at Nairobi, IWF launched a campaign for establishing India Water Hub in India in cooperation with other ministries/ department of the Government of India, India Water Foundation and other like-minded civil societies. Realizing that effective implementation of water management and conservation programmes depend on effective interaction amongst all the stakeholders followed by education, awareness and training, it was also felt that there was a need for concerted efforts to promote studies in key areas which could have significant impact on policy matters. So a need was felt to develop common premises for all the stakeholders with the broad objective of bringing sustainability to water sector. The establishment of Hub could also help in showcasing various achievements in water sector in the international arena and be a learning place to the population of all age groups. It could attract the planners, scientists, engineers and all other stakeholders i.e. farmers, industries, NGOs, VOs, WUAs etc. equally.

In order to effectively meet the challenge of development and management of country's water resources in an integrated and sustainable manner, there was a dire need to bring technology, learning and networking under one roof. The IWF emphasized that setting up of a Water Hub at New Delhi with zonal constituents in various states would, therefore, be very effective, which could act as a 'Centre of Excellence' for bringing professionalism and competence in respect of various stakeholders in the water sector. IWF continued to espouse the cause of the establishment of the Hub throughout the year within means available at its disposal.



India Water Foundation participated in the National Seminar on “Water Management in Armed Forces”, organized by the three wings of the Armed Forces of India at New Delhi on 7 June 2010. The IWF presentation on “Armed Forces and Water Security”, was highly appreciated. Motivated by this, IWF made efforts in ensuing years to forge cooperation with para-military forces in water and environment sectors.



The IWF presentation at the Regional Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management organized jointly by the Central Ground Water Board, Government of India and the Government of Meghalaya at Shillong, Meghalaya on 1-2 November 2010, afforded an opportunity for IWF to forge close cooperation with Government of Meghalaya which matured in IWF cooperation in managing water resources under the aegis of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA).

In 2010, IWF made efforts to generate awareness about social inclusion in water sector, water use efficiency in agriculture, water conservation and emphasized on water quality through its writings in the print media as well as disseminating similar messages through social media. Concomitantly, similar emphasis and priority was accorded in IWF's online e-magazine in almost all issues brought out during this period.



IWF Brief Activities 2011

IWF President was officially invited as Expert and civil society nominee to participate in a talk with French environment delegation organized by UBI-FRANCE The French Agency for International Business Development along with other Ministry of Water Resource & Jal Board on 7th March, 2011 in the French Embassy to establish synergy between India and French Government.

He was also invited as Panelist in technical session in 3rd National Ground Water Congress on March 22-23, 2011 New Delhi on the occasion of World Water Day 2011 where he also presented a paper on “Urban Water Use Efficiency in civil Society in India”.



During 2011, India Water Foundation mooted the suggestion of forging synergy between IWF and Para-Military forces like ITBP, BSF, CRPF, CISF and SSB on Water-related Issues. In various communications addressed to the headquarters of the para-military forces, the IWF mulled the idea of imparting training to security personnel in water conservation, rainwater harvesting, keeping surface and groundwater resources free from pollution, reviving wells, natural baolis and springs, maintaining existing lakes etc. The avowed objective was to enable the security personnel to help the local populace in tackling the water-related problems in water-stressed areas. It was emphasized that undertaking of such activities by the security personnel could help improve the public image of the security forces and also help in winning the hearts and minds of the local population.

Continuing its tryst with North-East region, IWF's president presented a paper on **“Water Resource Management in North East Region With Special Reference to floods: A Civil Society Prospective”** in National Training Workshop in April, 2011 at Shillong, Meghalaya organized by Centre for Flood Management Studies, National Institute of Hydrology, Dispur, Guwahati. Chief Guest of this conference was the then Union Minister of Water Resource and Chief Minister Meghalaya presided over it.



The IWF had VIP invitation from Provincial Government and people of jilin Province of China for Global Economic Leadership Summit 2011 dated 4-6 September 2011 at Hotel Shangrila Changchun City, jilin Province of China.

The IWF participation in the First International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations held on 26-28 October 2011 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand was facilitated by a special invitation from United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). The Forum was organized by UNEP in cooperation with the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and in partnership with many relevant stakeholders. It afforded ample opportunity for IWF to forge rapport with other regional CSOs and other like-minded agencies.

India Water Foundation in collaboration with Rajasthan Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO), jointly organized an International Conference on **Water Use Efficiency in Industrial Sector** on 9 November 2011, at Jaipur, Rajasthan. The then Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources delivered the Inaugural Address at this conference. Ministers and senior officials from Rajasthan Government, experts from the Planning Commission, GOI, best of Who's Who in water and industry sectors, media and experts from other fields also graced the occasion. The salutary impact of this conference was discernible when the State Government of Rajasthan announced its new Water Policy. Besides, the state government also announced allotment of separate plots to those industrial units which would install wastewater treatment plants. In a way, IWF was instrumental in influencing water policy of the government of Rajasthan to some extent.



While making extensive use of social media along with print media in disseminating the messages with a view to generate awareness among the people on water, energy and environment related issues, the IWF also devoted adequate attention to its monthly online e-magazine *Focus Global Reporter* to reach its online readers and make them aware of issues having direct bearing on their lives.

IWF Brief Activities 2012-13

India Water Foundation had remained persistent in its efforts in persuading the Government of India to establish India Water Hub and on 13 February 2012, a meeting to discuss the setting up of an India Water Hub was held at conference room of Union Ministry of Water Resources GOI, with the aim of networking various stakeholders in the water sector and to act as a knowledge highway so as to aid the water governance in the country. While pursuing the matter further, IWF in a communication addressed to the Union Ministry of Water Resources along with a note on “**Sustainable Development and Water in India**” as a way forward in establishing **India Water Hub**.

In January 2012, India Water Foundation had sent a proposal to the Union Ministry of Water Resources to impart training to MPs about water related problems. It was further stated that the success of this proposal could be replicated in training MLAs in each State headquarters. Undoubtedly, this proposal was highly appreciated and it evoked favourable response as well, but this proposal failed to see the light of the day for unknown reasons.

The IWF was represented by its President at **UN-ESCAP’s High Level Sub regional Forum Meeting on Accelerating Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in South Asia** held in New Delhi on 17-18 February 2012. This afforded an occasion for IWF to interact with foreign participants and share the views on issues of mutual interest.

True to its commitment to ensure all-inclusive approach in water and sanitation sectors, IWF in a communication addressed to the then Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs on 28 February 2012, sent a brief note on “**Minorities, Sustainable Development and Water & Sanitation**.” It further stated that in the absence of a uniform policy or national perspective to deal with water and sanitation related problems of the minorities, especially in rural areas, it was essential to ensure clean drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities for them in order to bring the minorities into the national mainstream and make them active participants in sustainable development. The IWF expressed its willingness to cooperate with the Ministry in whatever manner it was deemed appropriate, however, no further progress was reported in this regard.



In early March 2012, India Water Foundation sent a proposal to the Union Ministry of Water Resources for **“Organizing State Level One-Day Workshop for Water Use Efficiency and its Role in Sustainable Development”**, at every State Headquarters which would bring the State Government officials and other stakeholders together to discuss issues and plan activities relating to improving the quality as well as efficient use of water. However, this proposal could not be materialized for want of funds.



The IWF participation at the International Seminar on **“Disaster and Environmental Management: A Global Perspective”**, held on 19-20 March 2012 at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi (U.P.) was of crucial importance. The IWF was represented by its president, who as a Keynote Speaker also presented a paper there on **“Environmental Challenges and National Security: An Indian Perspective”**. The IWF viewpoint regarding environmental challenges vis-à-vis national security in the India context was highly appreciated.

Observance of India Water Week under the aegis of Union Ministry of Water Resources had almost become an annual ritual since its launch. The IWF, represented by its president, made a presentation on **“Water Resource Management and Capacity Building: A Conceptual Approach”**, at the India Water Week held under the aegis of Union Ministry of Water Resources at New Delhi on 12 April 2012. Emphasis of IWF presentation on capacity-building in water resource management was appreciated by other participants who also evinced interest in ascertaining more information in that regard.

India Water Foundation in some of its presentations and media writings has emphasized on water conflicts from time to time. Thus when on 15 May 2012, the New Delhi-based IPCS organized a panel Discussion on **Water conflicts in South Asia** at its headquarters in New Delhi under the Non-Traditional Security Programme, IWF was also invited to it and it was represented by its president who participated as a panelist in panel discussion. The emphasis of IWF viewpoint in this panel discussion was on the need for India to adopt water diplomacy with its neighbours to tackle water-related issues and it was appreciated by the panel members.



Emphasis of IWF on ensuring water use efficiency in agriculture, which is the biggest user of fresh water, had been highlighted in many of its presentations and media articles, including postings on social media. The IWF participation in the **Regional Workshop on Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture** held on 16-18 May 2012, under the aegis of ICID at New Delhi, afforded it another opportunity to interact with prominent experts and gain new insights.



Undoubtedly, IWF had been making efforts for the past couple of years to offer its services to the Government of Uttarakhand in managing water resources; nevertheless, it did not get any encouraging response from the government. Even then the IWF continued its efforts in that direction in the larger national interest. When the Uttarakhand Space Application Centre, Department of Science & Technology Govt. of Uttarakhand, invited IWF to participate in one day workshop on **“wetland Inventory & Assessment status of Uttarakhand State and Release of Wetland Atlas”** on 14 June 2012, it gladly accepted the invitation and its president was invited as keynote speaker and panellist in Panel Discussion. In his remarks, IWF president reiterated willingness of his organization to cooperate with the state government in managing water resources in the state.

Being a civil society engaged generating heightened awareness among the people on water-related issues and having the experience of forging synergy with like-minded civil society organizations and other agencies, IWF had over a short span gained credence in coalition building. Hence, when India Association Congress organized a conference on **“Coalition Building: From Periphery to Mainstream”**, on 24-25 August 2012 at Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai, in which more than 100 various associations were present, the IWF not only participated in its but also made a PPT presentation in which it dwelt on the prospects of civil society in the near future in India and called for increased involvement of civil society in policy-making and policy-implementation mechanisms.



The IWF has been cooperating with the Government of Meghalaya since 2009 and providing inputs from time to time to the Government of Meghalaya on water and environment related issues. India Water Foundation became a knowledge partner of Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), Government of Meghalaya, in the field of management of water resources in Meghalaya by virtue of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concluded in August 2012. Soon after this development, the president of IWF was made the Member of the Meghalaya State Water Resources Council headed by the Chief Minister Meghalaya

Since its very inception, IWF has been emphasizing on water quality and this emphasis has been articulated in various presentations made by it at national and international forums and through social media messages. However, its endeavours bore fruit when the UNEP GEMS Water Programme assented to its request for convening a workshop on water quality monitoring in New Delhi. Accordingly, IWF in collaboration with UNEP-GEMS Water Programme organized **“Regional Workshop on Water Quality Monitoring in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges & opportunities”** on 5-8 November 2012 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi (India) in which experts from over 20 countries, 12 ministries of Government of India, representatives of some state governments, UN Agencies and other international as well as national organizations participated. This Regional Workshop proved instrumental in generating synergies between national and international agencies in the realm of water quality monitoring through exchange and sharing of data and networking.



Interaction between India Water Foundation and other organizations like CII, AFPRO, FICCI, INTACH, ICID, UNEP, UN-ESCAP-SSWA and other similar like-minded agencies continued during 2012-2013 through participation in seminars, symposia and workshops. IWF's proposal for establishing India Water Hub was endorsed by many of these organizations.

During the period under review, IWF made extensive use of social media in disseminating social messages pertaining to water quality, water conservation, judicious use of water and energy resources, rainwater harvesting and water quality monitoring. Focus Global Reporter, online e-magazine of IWF, almost regularly brought its monthly edition giving wide coverage to topics pertaining to water, energy, food, agriculture and environment.



About India Water Foundation

India Water Foundation (IWF), a non-profit civil society and think tank, is engaged in enhancing public awareness on water and related environment issues in Asia-Pacific region in general and India in particular, regarding the vital role water and environment play in human lives, their impact on health, economic growth, livelihoods of the people and calamities that wreak havoc due to non-judicious harnessing of these natural resources. Generation of this awareness is facilitated through seminars, conferences, symposia, outreach and personal contact programs etc. As water is an essential component of power generation and food production, therefore, IWF is also engaged in ensuring environmental security, water security, energy security and food security which are essential for sustainable development.

Vision

India Water Foundation (IWF) nurtures its Vision to visualize Asia-Pacific region as a water-surplus region sans environmental hazards by 2050 by integrating approaches as key components of sustainable development into national policy at local, provincial, national and regional levels by harnessing water-energy-climate-food nexus approach, assimilation and dissemination of wit and wisdom from local to global level and *vice versa*, promotion of inter-sectoral convergence in water and environment sectors, capacity-building of all stakeholders in water and environment sectors, equal emphasis on Soft and Hard Solutions to water and environment related problems and to change the mind-set of the stakeholders to perceive water as Environment Plus for sustainable development goal .

Mission

The IWF works amongst the people at the grassroots level, especially amongst the marginalized and weaker sections, women, tribal's and the poorest communities in India and the Asia-Pacific region, in cooperation with local, state and national governments, and with other like-minded civil society organizations (CSOs), to help them develop water, sanitation, hygiene and climate change adaptation services that are not temporary, but lasting forever. The IWF identifies the roadblocks to sustainable development and helps overcome them. It helps the people to make the change from short-term gains to long-lasting services that could transform their lives and their futures.

Partnership, Accreditation and Rapport of IWF

India Water Foundation has been empanelled as Key Resource Centre (KRC) under Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation GOI, and has Direct Membership with ICID, New Delhi. It has partnership, rapport and accreditation with many national and internationally reputed organizations, NGOs and CSOs etc., especially rapport with UNEP, UN-ESCAP and other UN/International Organizations. It is also a knowledge partner of Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) Government of Meghalaya, and Meghalaya Water Foundation and President of the IWF has been appointed as member of Meghalaya State Water Resources Council.

The IWF has also been working as a Civil Society Organization (CSO) to provide its services to carry out social development and Public Awareness and Public Participation (PAPP) activities under the JICA- assisted Ganga Action Plan project for a period of three years in Varanasi.

IWF's Thought Leadership

India Water Foundation has amassed a plethora of knowledge wealth through its exposure and participation in leading national and international deliberations in water, energy and environment sectors and on the basis of this accumulated knowledge it has pioneered non-engineering and non-technical solutions which are of equal significance in tackling water and environment related problems by encompassing PPT (People – Process – Technology). This gives the IWF advantage of thought leadership in many areas like policy formulation, facilitating conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops etc., capacity-building and sustenance, eco-sustainability, facilitating technology intervention, nexus approach, assimilation & dissemination of Water, Environment and Sanitation related knowledge, Inter-Sectoral Convergence, emphasis on Soft Approach, collective approach on Water and other related sectors etc. These are briefly described below:--

Catalyst for Policy Formulation

India Water Foundation has highly qualified, experienced and dedicated experts in the field of water management and governance, climate change mitigation and adaptation. These experts have immense exposure to national and international leading practices and innovative techniques and as such their expertise can be utilized in the formulation of critical policies. This expertise can be extremely effective in policies creation that will support inter-sectoral 3Cs – Cooperation, Coordination & Convergence - enabling effective impact as a result of optimized implementation of the policies. The IWF is capable of contributing to a great extent in designing, planning and monitoring of highly specialized programmes which can be helpful in improving the water management system in a sustainable manner, especially at the grassroots level.



Facilitating Conference/Workshop/Seminars

Prolonged vast exposure to national and international conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops and round-tables has enabled India Water Foundation to amass a very rich experience in organizing conferences/seminars/workshops etc at regional, national and international levels. Owing to its close partnership and rapport with various leading national and international organizations /agencies/institutes, the IWF can elicit the cooperation and participation of technical experts. The IWF is equally well placed to interact with private sector companies engaged in water, energy and environment sectors. Thus, the IWF is privileged to extend wide variety of facilities which are essential for making conferences/seminars/symposia a gala success.

Key speakers constitute the spine of the conference/seminar/workshop and their pronouncements cast a wide-ranging impact on the audience and provide news material for the media. Owing to its good relations with the leading national and international agencies, the IWF can facilitate the availability of senior advisors/experts for the designated conference/seminar. Besides, it can also elicit the cooperation of experts from leading academic and technological institutions for the same purpose.

Concomitantly, the IWF maintains very cordial relationship with media, both print as well as electronic. Media wields tremendous impact on global politics and society owing to its vast reach. Media coverage provides opportunity to disseminate the message and helps in boosting the image. The IWF can facilitate interaction with print and electronic media.

The IWF can be instrumental in providing a platform for the regional and international stakeholders to encourage greater coordination and collaboration among policy makers, authorities, professionals, researchers, civil society representatives, private sector as well as operators of water, energy and environmental facilities. It can be helpful in bringing together the public and private sector players, and central and local authorities, thus offering most up-to-date solutions.

Capacity Building and Sustenance

Capacity building enables the stakeholders to efficiently deploy their resources for the sustainable development of natural resources, especially water and energy. Capacity building programs for resources at ground level and especially Engineers and Hydrogeologists of all the water-user state agencies as well as for ULBs and community are essential for the better management of water resources.

In Capacity building exercises, India Water Foundation involves all stakeholders and includes local traditional knowledge and wisdom to ensure better adaptability and acceptance. The Capacity Building programs organized by IWF in water sector generally include areas like Groundwater and Hydro-geology, Water Harvesting including Urban Storm Water harvesting, Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and surveillance including establishing Brackish Ground Water (BGW) Desalination plants to reducing pressure on fresh water resources, sustainability activities - Designing and implementation, improving community participation involvement in

management of Urban Drinking Water, supply schemes - establishing water project groups made up of community leaders who are trained by experts on how to monitor, maintain and repair water systems and training of trainers for District and Subdivision level trainers for the states on technical capacity building of the community etc.

Nexus Approach

India Water Foundation envisions integrating sustainable development into national policy at national, regional and global level. Sustainable development is a new paradigm for economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability. Water is a key component of sustainable development and all ecosystems are inextricably linked with water. Keeping in view the close nexus between water, environment, energy and food, solution to water related problems can better be facilitated through this ‘**nexus approach**’, which seeks to find solutions based on convergence between various sectors or disciplines and is being widely regarded along with resilience to attain sustainable development. The nexus approach can serve as a bridge that could engulf the gap between the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development. In pursuance of this ‘nexus approach’, the IWF focuses on Environmental Security, Water Security, Energy Security and Food Security.

Assimilation and Dissemination of Water Knowledge

India Water Foundation is engaged in assimilation and dissemination of plethora of wit and wisdom generated locally, regionally and globally in water sector and making it accessible to all stakeholders in water sector in their vernacular language so that the concerned stakeholders are benefited by it. Water related knowledge is generated through innovation experimentation and techniques, seminars, conferences and workshops etc. However, the knowledge thus generated remains confined to printed reports in different languages that adorn the shelves of the archives and it seldom reaches the masses which are main stakeholders of water sector. The IWF plans to make efforts in this regard to assimilate such knowledge and get it translated into local languages for further dissemination amongst the people. However, it is gigantic task requiring collective support of national, regional and international agencies.

Inter-Sectoral Convergence

There are about eleven ministries of the Government of India which deal with water related issues in one way or the other. These ministries inter alia include Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Agriculture etc. Besides, water being a state subject is being looked after by each state according to its requirements. Thus, there exists a sectoral approach to water related issues and there is lack of coordination, cooperation and convergence in water sector between and amongst various Central ministries on the one hand and between the Central Government and states on the other. This results in duplication of work and extra expenditure without achieving tangible outcome of significance.

It is in this backdrop that the IWF has been making efforts to promote inter-sectoral and intergovernmental convergence in water sector and it has succeeded to some extent as well. India Water Foundation has been espousing the case for establishing **India Water Hub** as an apex body where all stakeholders in water sector share their knowledge and get their water-related grievances redressed at national and local levels.

Emphasis on Soft Approach

India Water Foundation has taken up the initiative of laying equal emphasis on ‘Soft Approach’ along with ‘Hard Approach’ to tackle water related problems. Thus far the major emphasis has been on finding engineering and technological solutions to water related issues and policy making, its implementation and feedback process from the stakeholders has generally not received due emphasis which it deserves. The Soft Approach entails capacity building of the people and as such India Water Foundation is affirmative about the need for capacity-building of the people and institutions in water sector. This task of **capacity-building** of the people can be accomplished by sensitizing, incentivizing and galvanizing the people about water-related issues.

Sectoral to Collective Approach

Adverse impact of the ongoing process of climate change, fast depletion of global surface and ground water resources and rapid melting of glaciers coupled with mounting problem of pollution of water resources cumulatively add to the already grim problem of acute shortage of drinking water in almost all parts of the globe. Various UN agencies like UNEP, UN Habitat, UN ESCAP, UNESCO, WHO, FAO, UNICEF etc and international water organizations look upon water from their regional or problem-centric perspective. Nevertheless, water governance is a global issue that calls for collective approach and not sectoral approach. India Water Foundation lays emphasis on international and inter and intra-organizational synergy in water sector to tackle the problems pertaining to water and thereby ensuring sustainable supply of safe drinking water globally.



Organizational Chart

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Honorary Patron and Chairman of the Respective Committees

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Honorary Patron and Chairman of the Committee on Climate Change Hon'ble "Koteswaram Professor" at Ministry of Earth Sciences GOI, and Former Director General (DG) of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Shri Prakash Singh:

Honorary Patron and Chairman of the Committee on Water Security Hon'ble "Former DGP Assam and Former DG BSF"

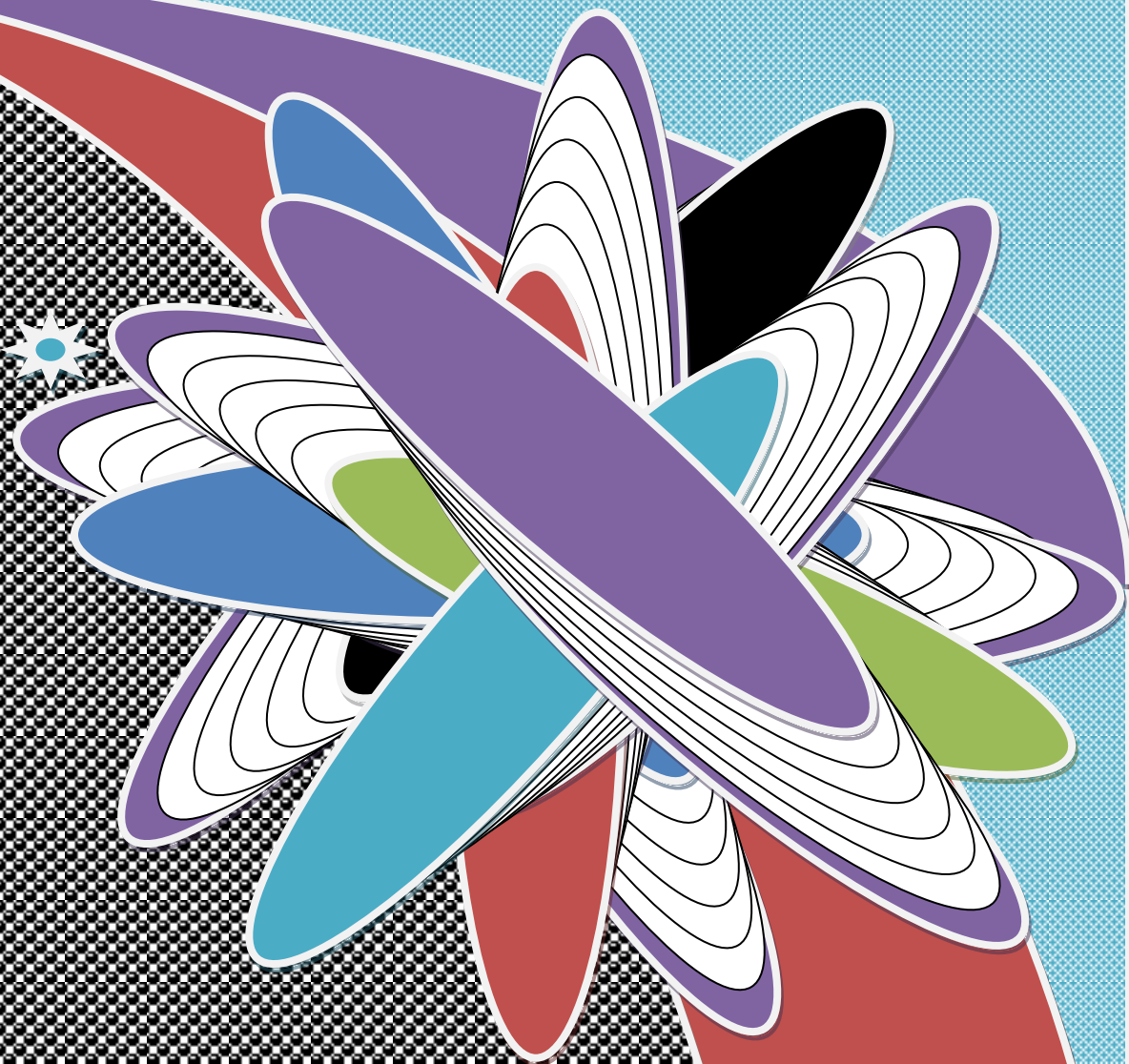
Dr. V.K. Garg:

Honorary Patron and Chairman of the Committee on Energy Hon'ble "Chairperson, Joint Electricity regularity Commission (For the State of Goa and union territories)"

Er. Avinash C. Tyagi:

Honorary Patron and Chairman of the Committee on Water and Sustainable Development Secretary General International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)"

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