

India Water Foundation



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2013-14



Foreword

Thematic emphasis on international water cooperation by the 2013 World Water Day and stress on water security in its various dimensions as emphasized in *Asian Water Development Outlook 2013*, a report released by Asia Development Bank in April 2013, prominently served as precursor to nourish the notions and ideas nurtured by India Water Foundation. Broadly speaking, IWF has been emphasizing on these and other related aspects of cooperation in water, energy and environment sectors and the ADB publication proved instrumental in further reinforcing our conviction in the appropriateness of these ideas. Cooperation in water sector at international and national levels calls for inter-sectoral convergence and water security and its related dimensions entails adoption of nexus approach which has been amply emphasized by IWF in previous years and it continued emphasis on these during 2013 as well.



National Water Policy 2012 (NWP 2012) provided further impetus to IWF activities undertaken by it in 2013. While focusing on the pros and cons of NWP 2012, as reflected in some of IWF media publications, it concentrated more on emphasizing on water as a ‘social good’ and not as ‘economic good’ as was reported to be the import of new water policy. Treating water as an economic good or a social good gave rise to two rival notions: Ecological Economic and Political Ecology. However, India Water Foundation coined the term ‘Social Ecology’ of water, with emphasis on water to be treated not as an economic commodity but a social good. While supporting the regulatory measures as suggested in the water policy to check under-pricing of electricity to conserve water and energy, IWF emphasized on making Right to Safe Drinking Water as a Fundamental Right.

In order to engulf the chasm between policy-making and policy-implementation in water sector, IWF has been offering its cooperation to the Ministry of Water Resources at the Central and State levels. Nursing the conviction that no policy can be efficiently and effectively implemented sans capacity building of the people who always remain at the receiving end and having no say in policy-making process, IWF has been emphasizing on involvement of CSOs in facilitating capacity-building of the people. However, IWF counseling and offer of cooperation in water sector remained unutilized during the period under review, as it had happened in the preceding years.

We at India Water Foundation are not disheartened for lack of official and corporate sector support to our yeoman mission knowing well that our yearning is not profit-making but a missionary zeal being pursued in the national interest to make India a water-surplus country. I feel immense pleasure in presenting this brief Annual Report that reveals about our humble contribution in water sector.

(Dr Arvind Kumar)
President, India water Foundation



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Precursor

Water and climate induced calamities transcend geographical boundaries and wreak havoc by causing irreparable loss of human and animal lives and damaging property. Mitigation of ill-effects of these calamities calls for collective approach at local, regional, national and international levels. It was perhaps in this backdrop that many approaches were set out for observance and implementation during the International Water Decade (2005-2015), with each approach being observed annually during the World Water Day. The theme of 2013 World Water Day was International Water Cooperation.

Freshwater, a finite resource, apart from being a vital element for human existence and all ecosystems on Earth, is also an essential ingredient for life and socio-economic development. Freshwater is required for food production, energy, industrial and domestic uses. Being a finite resource, it is buckling under severe pressure from increasing demands to satisfy the needs of a burgeoning population, rapid urbanization, pollution and climate change. Cooperation becomes a *sine qua non* for maintaining equilibrium between the different needs and priorities and sharing this precious resource equitably.

Water cuts across all sectors; hence, water cooperation between different social groups, economic sectors, regional governments, countries, and present and future generations, is crucial not only to ensure the sustainable and equitable use of water but also to create and maintain peaceful relations between people. Accordingly, 2013 World Water Day theme of water cooperation has been very akin to IWF's notion of collective approach and its emphasis on inter-sectoral convergence in water sector.

The *Asian Water Development Outlook* (AWDO) 2013 published by Asian Development Bank in April 2013 also contributed to the understanding of water-related problems in Asia-Pacific region. As a the first quantitative and comprehensive view of water security in the countries of Asia and the Pacific, AWDO 2013 focused on critical water issues and provided finance and planning leaders with recommendations on policy actions to improve water governance and guidance on investments to increase their country's water security.

Factors like burgeoning population, urbanization, increasing water pollution, the over-abstraction of groundwater, water-related disasters, and climate change etc., have imperiled water security in Asia and the Pacific and the prevalent planning and management mechanisms had proven insufficient to address the challenges of meeting society's diverse needs for water. World in general and Asia-Pacific region in particular have been faced with a vast array of challenges like improving agricultural water productivity, achieving energy objectives, satisfying growing industrial water requirements, and protecting water quality and vitally important natural ecosystems etc. It is widely acknowledged that the socio-economic and political consequences of water shortages are real, as are the effects of water-related disasters exacerbated by climate change.

The AWDO 2013 Makes Discernible Following Key Messages:

- Make the best use of already developed water resources by investing in and incentivizing 'reduce, reuse, recycle' systems;
- Unlock the performance of water utilities through corporatization;
- Invest in better sanitation to boost health, productivity, and the economy;
- Mobilize rural communities for equitable and just access to water and sanitation;
- Embrace the challenge of the water-food-energy nexus;
- Manage groundwater as a valuable and limited resource;
- Revitalize irrigation institutions for transformation of irrigation services;
- Make integrated water resources management a priority;
- Mobilize additional resources to clean up rivers;
- Create insurance mechanisms to minimize reliance on disaster relief; and
- New problems demand institutions crafted for current challenges.

AWDO 2013 has measured water security in five key dimensions because a single focus on any one of these is insufficient to guide decisions or assess outcomes in the water sector. The AWDO 2013 vision of water security is designed to represent the multiple dimensions of water in People's lives and livelihoods, with poverty reduction and governance as crosscutting perspectives in each of the five dimensions.

- Household Water Security
- Economic Water Security
- Urban Water Security
- Environmental Water Security
- Resilience to Water-Related Disasters

It was emphasized in AWDO 2013 that governance plays a central role in boosting water security in each of the five key dimensions, and also in managing the trade-offs between the dimensions. It is an inter-sectoral process that requires leaders to break through silos, to span boundaries, and to create a positive nexus among water, food, and energy security. This process is known as integrated water resources management (IWRM), and most countries in the region have already adopted policies and legislation to support its implementation.

Noting that there were, however, no one-size-fits-all solutions across the Asia-Pacific region; rather, the appropriate solutions in each country reflected that country's resource endowment, economic development, culture, and chosen development path, AWDO 2013 demonstrated that there was an urgent need to strengthen the capacity for integrated planning and management nationally as well as in river basins and cities. Asserting that political and economic choices would determine the path to a secure water future, AWDO 2013 further added that water security would be determined by the efforts of policy-makers, civil society and the private sector, and ultimately by the actions and efforts of every individual in the region, through the lifestyles they choose.

The AWDO 2013 has helped IWF in gaining new insights into water security and its various dimensions, their inter-relatedness and role of water governance. Some of the notions like inter-

sectoral approach in water sector and water-energy-food nexus approach have already been put into practice by the IWF in its knowledge dissemination messages.

The year 2013 witnessed hot debate around placing value on nature, especially on freshwater. This debate gave rise to Ecological Economics and Political Ecology. The Ecological Economics accepts the power of markets and ‘playing their game’ to win environmental concessions and Political Ecology reflects the purist perspective of saying ‘No’ to any hint of money or markets in environmental policy. This debate, which has been going on for some years, has been able to create a deep schism within the environmental movement. According to one opinion, while some CSOs discuss full-cost pricing in international water forums and carbon trading at climate summits, others are opposed to treat water as a commodity and support the notions: Water is not a commodity and Climate is not for sale.

India Water Foundation has been opposed to treating water as a commodity; rather, it has been espousing the cause of treating water as a social good to which everyone should have equal and free access. IWF has been pioneering the cause of incorporating Right to clean freshwater into the Constitution of India. And this is amply reflected in the presentations and social messages disseminated by IWF from time to time.

Another major development that attracted attention of India Water Foundation in 2013 was the introduction of India’s Draft National Water Policy 2012 (hereinafter NWP 2012). The draft National Water Policy, which was first introduced in Parliament in January 2012, subsequently went into two revisions in May and then in July 2012, due to much protest on treating water as an economic good and favoring privatization.

Some experts feel that there is likelihood of water becoming a rationed commodity in future in view of the fast depletion of water resources. Water experts are divided in their opinions about the merits and demerits of NWP 2012.

The positive aspects of NWP 2012, *inter alia*, include its emphasis on ecological, climate change and conservational perspectives, adaptation to climate change and the statement that special attention will be given towards mitigation at micro-level by enhancing the capabilities of community to adopt climate resilient technological options.

Another noteworthy feature of NWP 2012 is that water may be treated as economic good, only after meeting the preemptive needs for safe drinking water, sanitation and high priority allocation for other domestic needs (including needs of animals), achieving food security, supporting sustenance agriculture and minimum ecosystem needs. This has been facilitated to promote water conservation and efficient use of water resources. Concurrently, agricultural sector’s requirement of water is also taken care of.

It also addresses the question of inter-state water disputes by incorporating the provision of establishing a permanent Water Dispute Tribunal. Emphasis on regulating under-pricing of electricity in new water policy is reportedly designed to prevent wastage of both water and electricity.

Some experts are critical of the NWP 2012. They argue that reference to water as a community resource as well as an economic good in the policy is contradictory and hope that governmental approach to water as an income generating resource would be executed with great care and caution. It is also pointed out that allowing public-private partnership model and calling upon the states to exit the 'service provider role' and play as a regulator can lead to distortion of access to water and the prices in long run thereby making the poor people who will be at the receiving end to suffer.

Like past water policies, nothing much has been done practically in NWP 2012 to ensure judicious use of water, to prevent encroachment of water bodies or growing exploitation of ground water resources. No specific instance of planning for a basin or even planning for surface and groundwater together has been reported.

Some experts have opined that incorporation of provision for giving incentives for recycle and reuse of water in the NWP 2012 is in the favor of industries. They have argued that instead of incentives, strict enforcement of punitive laws to punish those industries that neglect water and pollute it should have been in place.

We, at India Water Foundation, have made frequent efforts in the past as well as during 2013 to impress upon the Union Ministry of Water Resources the need and urgency for making Right to Safe Drinking Water as a Fundamental Right. Keeping in the fact that under the prevalent circumstances water falls in the State List, the IWF has suggested to bring water on the Concurrent List so that Centre can enact laws relating to water that would apply to States as well uniformly. In the wake of pitfalls in the past water policies as well as in NWP 2012, it was suggested by IWF to involve CSOs in the policy-making and policy-implementation processes so that the desired objectives of the policy are realized in a timeframe without hindrance and optimum benefits accrue to all the stakeholders.



Activities of IWF 2013-2014

Keeping in view the primacy of water in climate change, IWF has been emphasizing on generating awareness about the ill-effects of the ongoing process of climate change on water-related issues as well as water-induced calamities. Equal emphasis has also been stressed upon climate change adaptation mechanism by IWF from time to time. In pursuance of this, a high level delegation of IWF participated in the 3rd Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum held in March 2013 at Incheon, Republic of Korea. The IWF President Dr. Arvind Kumar made PPT presentation there on **“Climate Change and its Impact on Water Sector in India: a Case Study of Meghalaya”**. The IWF presentation was greatly appreciated and the occasion also afforded opportunity for exchange of views with other water experts.

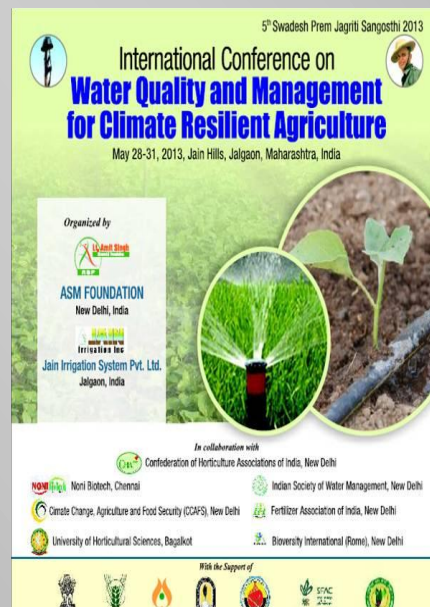


As a knowledge partner of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), government of Meghalaya, in managing water resources in Meghalaya, India Water Foundation participates in the meetings of MBDA to offer its suggestions as and when occasion arises. The IWF was represented by its president at MBDA deliberations held on 7-9th April, 2013. While reviewing the progress made thus far, IWF president offered some suggestions to provide impetus to the IBLDP launched in 2012.



IWF's emphasis on water-energy-food nexus approach for sustainable development since 2011 in its presentations and social media messages had proved instrumental in evoking keen interest in nexus approach within India. The nexus approach constituted the main theme of the India Water Week 2013 held during 8-12 April, 2013 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. It was organized by MOWR GOI as a joint effort of the nodal MOA, MORD, MOUD, MDW&S, CWC, CGWB, ICAR, IMD, IARI, CSMRS, NIH, Water and Power Consultancy Services(India) Limited etc. IWF was represented by its president and he presented a paper entitled "Water-Energy Nexus Approach for Sustainable Development in India", which was appreciated for its clarity and substantive contents.

Agriculture is the largest consumer of freshwater throughout the globe and India is no exception to it. Water conservation in agriculture can help in meeting increasing water requirements in industrial and domestic use sectors. India Water Foundation has been emphasizing on water conservation and judicious use of water in agriculture sector. IWF, represented by its president, participated in the International Conference on Water Quality and Management for Resilient Agriculture, held at Jalgaon (Maharashtra) in May 2013, which was organized by ASM Foundation and Jain Irrigation in collaboration with the Confederation of Horticulture Associations of India, CCAFS Noni Biotech etc. IWF's presentation in the form of a paper on "Water Use Efficiency for Resilient Agriculture in India" was highly appreciated. The occasion afforded opportunity for interaction with agriculture and water experts present in the meeting and gain new insights.



Having laid ample emphasis on water-energy-food nexus in its media writings and social media messages, IWF was keen to get this nexus approach implemented in Meghalaya as well. Occasion came when Meghalaya Basin Development Authority organized a conference on Sustainable Development of Water Resources organized on 5 June 2013 at Shillong Meghalaya. IWF was represented by its president who gave a PPT presentation there on **“Water-Energy-Food Nexus Approach for Sustainable Development”**, which was not only appreciated but evoked immense interest among other participants.



Geographic location of South Asia makes its vulnerable to water-induced and Climate Change-induced catastrophes. Many mountainous parts of South Asian region located in the vicinity of the Himalayas have been visited by natural disasters like flash floods, incidents of landslides, cloud bursts etc in recent years. We at IWF have often espoused the cause of promotion of people-to-people level cooperation in the bordering areas of countries having mountainous regions. We have also emphasized on cooperation at civil society level to make people climate change resilient. The participation of IWF in the **High Level Regional Dialogue on ‘Understanding Complexity, Building Resilience: Strengthening Responses to Climate Variability in South Asia**, which took place in Kathmandu, Nepal on 8 July 2013, enabled IWF to forge close interaction with other CSOs and exchange valuable views. The event was hosted by International Alert and the South Asia Network on Security and Climate Change (Sansei). Stakeholders from different sectors and countries in the South Asia region participated to explore the regional linkages and complexities of the issue.

Media writings of the IWF on water and environment related issues attracted attention of the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA), which in July 2013 evinced its interest in interacting with IWF on water related issues in Maharashtra. There was exchange of views on water related issues between the two institutions. Efforts were afoot to further consolidate the rapport between IWF and MWRRA.

Persistent endeavours by India Water Foundation to ensure supply of safe drinking water in the India Railways for the past couple of years seemingly ripened into fruition when it was officially informed by the East Central Railway authorities on 1 July 2013 that provision of fresh water was one of the minimum essential amenities on Railway Stations and water was being provided by Railway catering units and licensee units as per policy on the packaged drinking water and tap

drinking water as per Railway engineering works manual. The IWF was further informed that the Railway authorities had issued instructions to keep drinking water in cans/storage containers for cooking purpose and preparation of tea, with emphasis on hygiene and health standards. Further use of water from overhead tanks of trains had been informed.

IWF has adequately responded to global calls for food security by emphasizing on adopting water-energy-food nexus approach as the key to sustainable development. It also supported Government of India's move to enact Food Security Act in 2013. When UN-ESCAP-SSWA hosted an experts' meet on South Asia policy dialogue on regional cooperation for strengthening national food security strategies at New Delhi, India, on 13-14 August 2013, IWF was represented by its president. The occasion was utilized by interacting with participating experts from other countries to ascertain different view points on the crucial issue of food security.



In the wake of IWF's growing rapport with UNEP over the past half decade, the IWF has been interested in facilitating increased synergy between Government of India and the UNEP. Accordingly, in August 2013, it suggested the then External Affairs Minister, Government of India, to approach United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to open its office in New Delhi on the lines of UN-ESCAP's South and South-West Asia office in New Delhi in order to galvanize the role of the UNEP in South and South-West Asia. It was suggested that close cooperation between Government of India and the UNEP could be instrumental in bridging the crucial gap between technical experts and policy-makers; thus catalyzing a more comprehensive local and global response to the decline of biodiversity and ecosystems in the region in general and India in particular. However, no positive response was received by IWF in that regard. While appreciating IWF efforts, the UNEP in its official communication dated 12 September 2013 said: "We have also taken note of your suggestion to open a UNEP office in New Delhi and will give this due consideration in our consultations with the Government of India."

Sri Lanka hosted the **6th SAES** on the theme **‘Towards a Stronger, Dynamic, and Inclusive South Asia’** in September 2013, at Colombo (Sri Lanka). IWF was represented by its president who participated as a panelist for the topic **“Political Economy of Water Sharing”** under the theme of “Managing Water Resources, Food Security and Climate Change in South Asia”. This occasion was availed of to forge rapport with SAES and other CSOs of Sri Lanka.



India water Foundation had sent a proposal to Ordnance Factory Board Kolkata in early 2013 regarding imparting training to the OFB Personnel in Water and Environmental Management, which was accepted in principle. Accordingly, the IWF assisted the OFB in imparting training to SAG Level Officers of OFB during training program conducted at Udaipur, Rajasthan on 27 September, 2013 in two sessions. The emphasis of the training was on Rainwater Harvesting and Conservation of Water.

IWF is convinced that Youth is the harbinger of new water and climate order; hence its focus of disseminating social messages is mostly on youth of India and other countries. IWF was represented by its president at the five-day youth camp in Shillong from the 17th to 21st of September 2013 to mark 150th year of Swami Vivekananda Titled “ONE”. The youth camp, comprising youth from the entire Eastern Indian region (the eight North Eastern States, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand & Orissa) and the neighboring countries of Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar is envisaged as the start of an effort to train, inspire and galvanize youth energy for development of the region, in such a way that they become initiators and stakeholders of community driven schemes that are in synergy with India’s Look East Policy. IWF president participated as a panelist on water and exhorted the youth to spread water literacy in rural areas in particular by making people aware about water conservation and keeping natural water resources free from pollution.





**Transboundary Basin Management Cooperation
in Himalayan Region of South Asia -
Challenges & Opportunities**

18th – 20th Nov, 2013
Almaty, Kazakhstan



**India Water
FOUNDATION**

- Dr. Arvind Kumar
President
India Water Foundation
New Delhi, India

18-20 November 2013, Almaty, Kazakhstan
 Transboundary Basin Management Cooperation in Himalayan Region of South Asia - Challenges & Opportunities

Sharing experience on water and climate change related issues with experts and CSOs has always been a priority for India Water Foundation. IWF participated in the International Seminar on **"From Rio +20 to real results: Strengthening of regional cooperation in North and Central Asia in order to improve the efficiency of the water resources management"**, which was held on 18-20 November 2013 at Almaty, Kazakhstan. The IWF presentation on working of IWRM in the context of Meghalaya, with specific emphasis on water-energy-food-climate-change nexus approach was appreciated by other participants who seemed anxious enough to know about the system. It also afforded sufficient scope for IWF participants to imbibe new ideas and experiences on the working of IWRM mechanism in countries of Central Asia and North Asia.

India Water Foundation, in collaboration with UN-ESCAP's New Delhi office for South and South-West Asia and MHHDC Pakistan, convened the Special Session on **“Regional Cooperation, Human Development and Water”** at New Delhi on 29 November 2013. The occasion was utilized for the launch of **Human Development in South Asia 2013: Water for Human Development**. IWF president Dr. Arvind Kumar also gave a PPT presentation there on **“Inclusive Development via Environment plus Approach for Water & Human Development in South Asia”**. While IWF presentation evoked positive response from the participants, it also gained new insights in the inter-linkages between water, climate change and human capital.

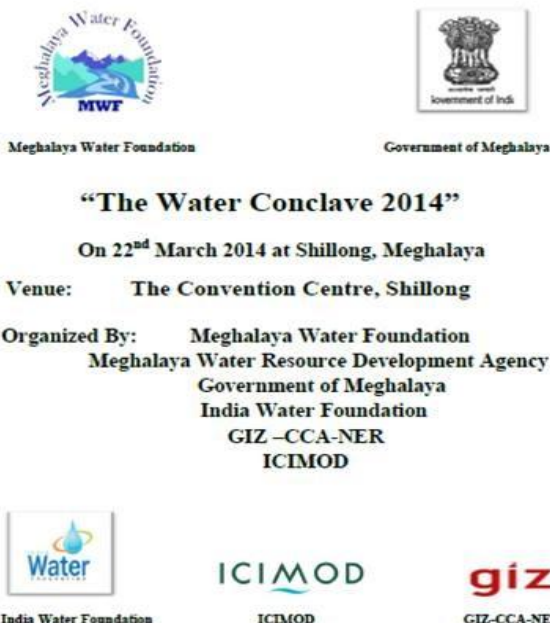




UN-ESCAP-SSWA New Delhi in collaboration with Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of Meghalaya, organized a Policy Dialogue on **“Economic and Transport Development in border areas in Eastern South Asia”**, on 4-5 December 2013 at Shillong, in which local governments in border areas from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal also participated. IWF was represented by its president as a panelist and keynote speaker. Interaction with other experts and new insights gained at this meeting enabled IWF president to prepare a short research paper on linkages between transport and economic development in border areas in the countries of Eastern South Asia and this paper was subsequently published in *Tech Monitor*, a quarterly journal of UN-ESCAP.

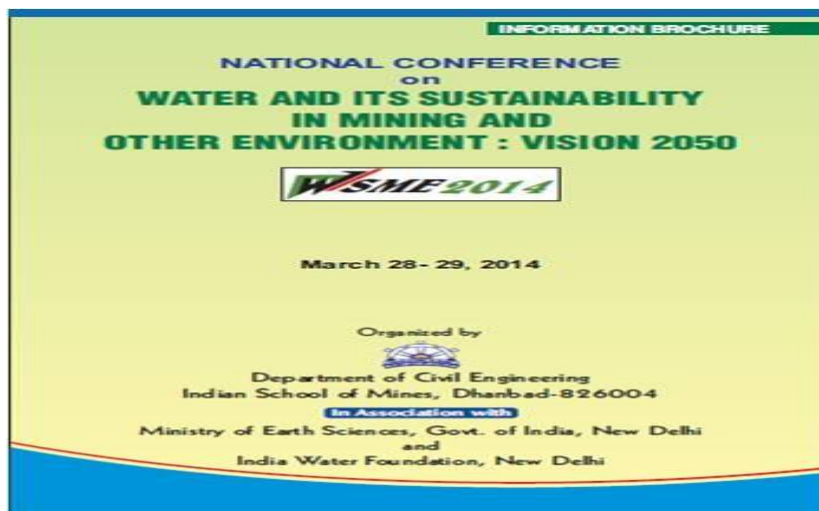
IWF had been Industry outreach partner with IUKAN 2014 to enable exchange of knowledge and engagement between all the stakeholders in water distribution and management of wastewater. President of IWF participated as a panelist in the panel discussion on **“Strengthening Local Ecosystem and stakeholder engagement to drive Municipal Water Utility Reforms”**, hosted by IUKAN 2014 on 13 February 2014 at New Delhi. IWF president had emphasized on the need for water conservation and judicious use of water in urban areas to meet the growing water demands of expanding urban areas. He also stressed on the urgency of recycling wastewater for re-use.





India Water Foundation facilitated the organization of “Water Conclave” at Shillong on 22 March 2014 (UN Water Day) with the support of the Government of Meghalaya, Meghalaya Water Foundation, ICIMOD Nepal & GIZ Climate Change Adaptation for North East region. IWF president Dr. Arvind Kumar played prominent role in raising key water-related issues facing the region and also emphasized on different aspects of National Water Policy 2012, its ownership, development, governance and implementation in the North Eastern Region. IWF stance was appreciated and there was almost unanimity among participants on suggestions mulled by IWF.

National Conference on Water and its Sustainability in Mining and other Environment: Vision 2050 (WSME 2014) organized by Department of Civil Engineering Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences, GOI and India Water Foundation New Delhi on March 28-29, 2014



Replicating the past *modus operandi*, IWF in 2013 made extensive use of print media and messaging through social media networks in transmitting ideas and developments in water, energy and climate sectors. Specific emphasis was placed on adoption of water conservation measures, promotion of judicious use of water in industrial sector and encouraging recycling of wastewater for re-use in agriculture. Besides, emphasis on water-energy-food nexus along with IWRM also formed part of its campaign during the period. Participation in international and national programmes in water and environment sectors during the year enabled IWF to share its experiences with other participants and imbibe new and innovative ideas to improve upon its own approach in these sectors. It also afforded opportunity for IWF to foster rapport with new international CSOs and agencies.



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 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.



Become Jal Mitra:

To turn Water Conservation into
Public Movement

“Tackling water-related problems requires collective efforts and these problems affect all of us and it is through our collective efforts that we can resolve these problems, Growing scarcity of fresh drinking water has emerged as a global phenomenon and India is also adversely affected by it. Fast depletion of underground water resources, pollution of surface water resources, and faster pace of melting glaciers in Himalayas are going to add to water woes in India.

<http://indiawaterfoundation.org/JalMitra.aspx>

Dr. Arvind Kumar
President
India Water Foundation



Organizational Chart

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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:

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Er. Avinash C. Tyagi:

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