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e-Edition



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IT Infrastructure Space: Emerging Opportunities for Small Businesses



Dr. Arvind Kumar
President, India Water Foundation

The water challenge affects not only the water community but also decision-makers and every human being. That is the primary objective behind organizing this policy dialogue. We have gathered here organizations like UNEP, UNESCAP, World Water Council, FAO, Convention on wetlands, World Bank, UN Global Compact Network of India International Water management institute to come together and deliberate on this crucial subject. Learnings from this policy dialogue shall be instrumental in understanding nuanced perspectives on why partnerships are imperative for achieving SDGs and more so for SDG 6. We have tried to bring multi agencies on this platform to understand best practices, policy recommendations, success stories, and implementation updates.

Water Security for Sustainable Development with Equity

The Seventh India Water Week-2022 was held from 1-5 November, 2022 at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, with the theme "Water Security for sustainable development with equity." organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in co-ordination with nodal Departments/Ministries of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation; Agriculture; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Rural Development; Urban Development; Power; New and Renewable Energy; Niti Aayog along with their associated expert organizations and Public Sector Units, key International Bodies, and Private and Public business houses. The event was a multi disciplinary international conference focusing on new



200 sessions; more than 2000 delegates participated from 28 countries.



approaches for long term water planning and management by incorporating principles of sustainability and equity evolved over the years by National and International Water experts and Organizations, with a concurrently running exhibition enriching the theme and showcasing the technologies and solutions available for the areas under deliberation of the conference. There were around

High Level Policy Dialogue on 'Accelerating SDG 6 through Multi stakeholder Partnerships'

India Water Foundation organized a High level Policy Dialogue on 'Accelerating SDG6 through Multi-stakeholder partnerships' in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme and supported by UNESCAP, World Water Council and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India on 2nd November the second day of 7th India Water Week, 2022. The main objective of the session was to identify and find solutions on several bottlenecks impeding greater progress on SDG 6 acceleration.

Ministerial Plenary

The Policy dialogue was initiated by a Ministerial plenary which was chaired by **Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Jal**



Shakti, Government of India, and had special addresses by **Shri Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India**, **Mr. Atul Bagai, Head, UNEP India office**, **Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP, SSWA Office** and **Dr Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation**. The dignitaries on the stage launched two books i.e. 'Ecosystem based Adaptation approaches to sustainable management of aquatic resources' and 'India at 75 and beyond' by **Dr. Arvind Kumar**. A report on 'Information on water supply and sanitation in urban slums of Delhi' by India Water Foundation in collaboration with NJS Engineers India private Ltd. for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was also released.

Sh. Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India in his crucial message mentioned that there is an undeniable linkages between agriculture and water. **Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation** in his opening remarks said the water challenge affects not only the water community but also decision-makers and every human being. That is the primary objective behind organizing this policy

dialogue. We have gathered here organizations like UNEP, UNESCAP, World Water Council, FAO, Convention on wetlands, World Bank, UN Global Compact Network of India International Water management institute to come together and deliberate on this crucial subject. Learnings from this policy dialogue shall be instrumental in understanding nuanced perspectives on why partnerships are imperative for achieving SDGs and more so for SDG 6. We have tried to bring multi agencies on this platform to understand best practices, policy recommendations, success stories, and implementation updates.

Mr. Atul Bagai, Head, UNEP India office, mentioned the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss looming over our heads that needs to be addressed urgently which otherwise could become the cause of future world wars in a resource-deficit world. **Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP, SSWA**

After 2014, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi the tables have turned and now India is seen as a torchbearer and inspiration due to its inevitable presence and contributions to the world in achieving autobahn of sustainable world. He also appreciated **Dr. Arvind Kumar** and **India Water Foundation** for coming up with such a platform concerning judicious water consumption and multi-stakeholder partnerships addressing the same.

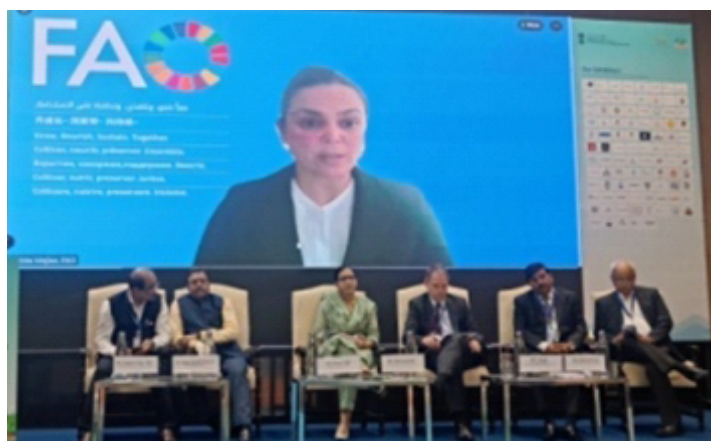
Office highlighted that Goal 6 of the SDGs is been taken seriously and collectively in the world only after a long negotiation at the 2015 Paris Agreement. **Mr. Loic Fauchon, President World Water Council** greeted India and its representatives with a Namaste and asserted that water is gradually becoming an expensive commodity due to scarcity and excessive hunger of resources by humans. He invited the Indian water lovers to the 10th World Water Forum which shall be organized in Indonesia in March 2024.

Our Chief Guest, Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India shared his thoughts and anecdotes in a very balanced and captivating manner as always. He talked about multi-sectoral approach while giving and example from his very own ministry and its two visionary programmes of Hon'ble Prime minister of India, **Shri Narendra Modi Ji** i.e. **Jal Jeevan Mission** and

Swachh Bharat Mission. Further adding to it, he also shared his first experience as a representative of India at UN where to his utter dismay India was targeted and seen as culprit to every problem in the world due to its demography and size. But after 2014, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi the tables have turned and now India is seen as a torchbearer and inspiration due to its inevitable presence and contributions to the world in achieving autobahn of sustainable world. He also appreciated Dr. Arvind Kumar and India Water Foundation for coming up with such a platform concerning judicious water consumption and multi-stakeholder partnerships addressing the same.

Technical Presentations

The Ministerial Plenary was followed by two technical presentations. One on “Overview of status and changes



to freshwater ecosystems based on Earth observation and SDG monitoring and reporting” by **Mr. Stuart Crane, Program Coordinator SDG 6, Freshwater Ecosystems Unit, Ecosystems Division, UNEP**. The presentation focused on how to leverage the best available science to track, monitor, and improve the health of freshwater ecosystems. Second technical presentation was given by **Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, UNESCAP SSWA office**. He highlighted the challenges in SSWA such as water, water stress, negative change in the extent of water related ecosystem, erroneous and unavailability of data, and non-cooperation among different sectors.

High Level Panel Discussion

The session then proceeded towards a **High Level Panel Discussion** which was moderated by **Dr. Divya Datt, Program Manager, and UNEP India**. She highlighted that building national capacity to monitor freshwater ecosystems health and water management is the need of the hour and for the same multi-stakeholder partnerships are the only way to address the different

dimensions of water issues. Among our eminent guest panelists, the first was **Mr. Satya Tripathi, Former Secretary General of UN and currently Secretary General, Global Alliance for Sustainable Planet** who focused on cross-system thinking and regenerative. **Mr. Jerker Tamelander, Director, Science and Policy, Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands** congratulated the Government of India for adding 26 more wetlands under the Ramsar Convention of international importance and taking it to a total of 75 wetlands in India and appreciated India's efforts on implementing Ramsar Convention successfully. The next panelist **Mr. Mark Smith, Director General, International water management Institute** highlighted that multi-stakeholder partnerships in SDGs is very important as it plays the role of a catalyzer and manages change in complex situations across societies. **Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna** talked about three pillars of sustainability i.e. Environment, Social and Economic factors.

Dr. Satya Priya, Senior Water Resources Management, Specialist, World Bank stated that water is a connector and crucial for mankind. No one policy, department and institutions can resolve the issue



of water unavailability singlehandedly. **Mr. Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India** stressed towards the need of smart water technologies across sectors to detect anomalies and talked about the most successful initiatives on multi-stakeholder partnerships. **Ms. Patricia Meijas, Land and Water Officer, FAO** brought the perspective of agriculture in relation to water and its different dynamics such as inefficiency, over-consumption and pollution of an indispensable resource. **Mr. MP Singh, Chief of Development Operations, Japan International Cooperation Agency** gave a donor's perspective to the session wherein he laid importance towards knowledge exchange and relevant technology assistance towards achieving SDGs and **Ms. Veena**



Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, India Water Partnership as a guest speaker stressed on the need for an open and transparent dialogue on evidence based knowledge in the water sector. She also laid emphasis on SDG 6.5.1 for data collection and exchange among multiple sectors for better multi-stakeholder partnerships at local and global levels respectively. Ms. Divya Datt gave the concluding remarks to close the discussion. India Water Foundation signed two MOUs with Mahatma Gandhi Institute to combat Climate Change and NCCF

Inauguration

The 7th India Water Week was inaugurated in the august presence of the Hon'ble President of India HE Smt. Draupadi Murmu, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh HE Smt. Anandiben Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Sh. Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Minister of Jalshakti, Government of India, Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Honble Ministers of state for Jalshakti, Sh. Prahlad Singh Patel and Sh. Biseswar Tudu and Hon'ble Secretary Ministry of Jalshakti Sh. Pankaj Kumar. The event commenced with the auspicious ceremony of "Jal

Bharo" by our Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu symbolizing the immense importance of water conservation followed by addresses by the Dignitaries.

Valedictory

The valedictory ceremony took place in the revered presence of Hon'ble Vice President of India HE Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble mInister of Jalshakti Uttar Pradesh Sh. Swatantra Veer Singh, Hob'ble Minister of Jalshakti, Government of India, Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Honble Ministers of state for Jalshakti, Sh. Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Secretary Ministry of Jalshakti Sh. Pankaj Kumar and Hon'ble Special Secretary Ministry of Jalshakti, Mrs. Debashree Mukherjee who delivered a key note address by sharing her valuable insight on the event and how the event has played a key role in enriching the theme of Water Security for Sustainable Development with Equity. Through a presentation she summarized the 5 daylong events, its multiple session, interesting exhibition, number of participants and inputs by delegates. The event of 7th India Water Week was an effort par excellence & it is the first step to several initiatives and solutions.

To get your copy of India at 75 and beyond please go to <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B09R24JNKZ>

To get your copy of Ecosystem based adaptation book please click on- (<https://www.elsevier.com/books/ecosystem-based-adaptation/kumar/978-0-12-815025-2>)

To read the complete report on Information on water supply and sanitation in urban slums of Delhi please go to <https://www.indiawaterfoundation.org/final-report/>

Andhra Pradesh to hold Global Investors Summit in March 2023

With the aim to attract industrial investments into the state, the Andhra Pradesh government will organise the Global Investors Summit-2023 in Visakhapatnam on March 3 and 4.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Gudivada Amarnath, Minister for Information Technology and Industries said that the government will conduct roadshows to promote the summit in major cities of India as well as in other countries like the USA, UK, Germany, Israel, Taiwan and South Korea. "On the Chief Minister's directions, measures are being taken to use the event as a platform to attract

investments for focused areas in sectors like agriculture and food processing, marine products, aerospace and defence, automotive and electric mobility, education and skill development, tourism and hospitality, health sector, infrastructure, maritime and logistics among others," Amarnath said. The Information Technology and Industries minister highlighted that the Chief Minister has been encouraging MSMEs so that more jobs can be made available for the youth in the State. "The newly-established Apache Footwear in Tirupati will create 10,000 employment opportunities," the minister noted and said Andhra Pradesh is a role model in renewable energy and green hydrogen.

Stating that the advantages of the 640-km Visakhapatnam-Kakinada PCPIR corridor were discussed at the recently held India Chem 2022 event in New Delhi, Amarnath explained that the government will showcase the opportunities of the largest corridor in the country during roadshows and the Summit to attract more investments in petrochemical sector.

"Investors will be explained about the benefits of the State's long coastline and port-based economy. With 10 ports and nine fishing harbours, the government is making every effort to develop Andhra Pradesh as a gateway to India on the East Coast," he asserted. (KNN)