

GLIMPSES OF 2023



India Water Foundation at COP28

(5th December 2023)

India Water Foundation organized a Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue on 'Water Transversality & Climate Risk: Adaptation, Mitigation & Resilience Building' in collaboration with Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet at the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet Pavilion in Thematic Arena 2 in the Blue Zone on 5th December 2023. The speakers in the event were Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation, Dr. David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary, Convention of Biological Diversity, Dr. Satya Tripathi, Secretary General, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, Mr. Eric Tardieu, Vice President, World Water Council, Dr. Eddy Moors, Rector, IHE Delft Institute of Water Education, Mr. Thomas Rebermark, Director- Swedish Water House- International Processes, Stockholm International Institute of Water, Mr. Anthony Mhagama, Manager of the SUSTAIN II Programme, IUCN, Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, Chief Technical Advisor, IWF. The event was moderated by Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary, India Water Foundation.



(1st December 2023)

India Water Foundation in collaboration with Open Dialogues International Foundation, REScoop, Saving Our Planet, International Climate Development Initiative and Femmes Bladi organized an official side event titled 'Change through Participation: Open Dialogues as a tool for empowering climate action' of UNFCCC COP28 at Blue Zone in Dubai on 1st December 2023. The speakers in the event were Dr. Arvind kumar, President, India Water Foundation, Ms. Chiara Martinelli from CAN Europe, Mr. Stephan Savarese from Saving Our Planet and Ms. Chia Chun Angela Liang.



54th session of the UN Human Rights Council

India Water Foundation organized an official side event on ‘Safeguarding human right of Water and Sanitation in India amidst climate Emergency’ during 54th session of UN Human Rights Council. The eminent speakers in the event were Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation, Dr. Satya Tripathi, Secretary General, Global Alliance for Sustainable Planet, Ms. Karin Gardes, Acting Executive Director & COO, Stockholm International Water Institute, Mr. Atul Bagai, Head, UNEP India Office, Mr. Rajan Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations ESCAP SSWA Office, Ms.



Sonja Koeppel, Co-secretary, Protocol on Water and Health and Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE, Mr. Vishwaranjan Sinha, Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands-South Asia, IUCN. The event was moderated by Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary, India Water Foundation.

SIWI World Water Week 2023

Dr. Arvind Kumar presented a paper in the SIWI World Water Week 2023 (20 March 2023) on "From Geo-Politics to Geo-Economics: Case study of Brahmaputra Basin" Dr. Arvind Kumar



driving from his experience of more than a decade in the north east region highlighted that integrating optimized financing; improved data and information; enhanced Capacity; innovations; and Good Governance when it all comes together it is Transversality approach for peace, stability and shared prosperity in the basin and achieving timely SDGs. He further pointed out that apart from ecological, economic and other benefits transboundary water cooperation shall be beneficial in achieving net zero targets by supporting the

development and implementation of adaptation strategies and measures, besides speaking about the stumbling blocks and prospective multifold impacts of cooperation in the Brahmaputra Basin for the riparian countries. This session was organised by WMO and had senior WMO officials and other water and development experts.

High Level Political Forum 2023 (10th July 2023)



India Water Foundation got the privilege to organize an official virtual side event at the HLPF 2023 A high level policy dialogue on ‘Deciphering Interlinkages of SDG6 through Multi-sector Partnerships’ in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), IHE DELFT Institute for Water Education, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP) and United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) on 10th July 2023 from 17.00 HRS (IST). The event was chaired by Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon’ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and presided over by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO. Other speakers in the event were Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation, Ms. Susan Gardner, Director-Ecosystems Division, UNEP, Mr. David Cooper, Executive Secretary, Convention for Biological Diversity, Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator, India, Mr. Eddy Moors, Rector, IHE Delft, Mr. Rajan S Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations ESCAP-SSWA Office, Mr. Satya Triathi, Secretary General, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Director General, JICA, Mr. Mark Smith, Director General, International Water Management Institute, Mr. Vishwaranjan Sinha, Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands-South Asia, IUCN. The event was moderated by Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary, India Water Foundation.

Opening & Valedictory Sessions organized by REACH, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai

Dr. Arvind Kumar was invited as a Chief Guest for the opening and the valedictory sessions at the World Environment Day celebrations organised by Centre for Research in Environment Sustainability Advocacy and Climate Change (REACH), SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai on 5th June 2023. The opening session was followed up by technical presentations by Professor Bommanna Longanathan, Murray State University, USA, Dr Pravakar Mishra, Scientist, National Centre for Coastal Research, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr



Kine Baek, Team Leader, Environmental Chemistry and Technology, Norwegian Institute of Water Research, Norway, Ms Emmy Noklebye, Research Scientist, Norwegian Institute of Water Research, Norway and Prof. Paromita Chakraborty, Convener, WED 2023, Head, REACH, SRMIST and Prof. Neppolian Bernaardshaw , Dean, Directorate of Research, SRMIST gave a vote of thanks. Prizes were also distributed to faculty members, students and other staff of the University. Dr. Kumar also met the Vice Chancellor of the SRM University Prof. C Muthamizhchelvan and presented him his book 'India at 75 and beyond'. They also witnessed the great work done by SRMIT University by visiting their labs and appreciating the work especially on the topics of environmental nuclear research, air pollution, remote sensing, societal health, transboundary movements of pollutants, waste processing, Geographic Information Systems, and soil and water resources.

World Environment Day (2nd June 2023)

India Water Foundation organized a virtual session to commemorate World Environment Day in collaboration with Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) on 2nd June 2023, 14.30HRS (IST) onwards. The eminent speakers in the event were Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation, Mr. Avinash Mishra, Advisor, Niti Aayog, Government of India, Mr. Erik Solheim, Senior Adviser, World Resources Institute, Mr. Atul Bagai, Head-UNEP India Office, Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, South and South West Asia Office, United Nations ESCAP, Ms. Maeve Nightingale, Senior Programme Officer, Coastal and Marine from the Science and Strategy Group – Asia IUCN, Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Mr. Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, ICIMOD, Ms. Martina Burkard, Project Director, Competence in Motion, Support to Ganga Rejuvenation / India EU-Water Partnership. The event was moderated by Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary, India Water Foundation.



India Water Foundation at G20

IWF attended the Civil-20 working group of G20 on Sustainable and Resilient Communities at Sikkim. Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary made a presentation on the success story and best practice developed at Meghalaya by India Water Foundation. It was a great vibrant atmosphere interacting with civil societies from all over the world on the sidelines of having meetings with the Govt. of Sikkim as their partners in progress.



International Day of Biodiversity (22nd May 2023)

India Water Foundation organized a virtual event 'Building back biodiversity: Integrating Multi-Actor Perspectives' to commemorate the International day of Biodiversity 'Building Back Biodiversity: Multi-actor Perspectives' on 22nd May 2023 from 18.00 HRS (IST) onwards. The event was organized in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and National Mission to Clean Ganga (NMCG) of the ministry of Jalshakti, Government of India. The speakers in the event were Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation, Mr. G. Asok Kumar, IAS, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jalshakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, Dr. Avinash Mishra, Advisor- Water Resources Niti Aayog, Government of India, Ms. Susan Gardner, Director, Ecosystems Division, UNEP, Ms. Katinka Weinberger, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Dr. Sasha Koo-Oshima, Deputy Director & Water Lead of the Land and Water Division FAO, Mr. Vishwaranjan Sinha, Programme Officer Water and Wetlands, IUCN, Mr. Vineet Sarin, Chief Development Specialist, JICA. The event was moderated by Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary, India Water Foundation.



UN 2023 Water Conference (18th March 2023)

India Water Foundation organized an official side event in collaboration with World Water Council on 18th March 2023 under the aegis of UN 2023 water conference to also commemorate India Water Foundation's 15th founding day. The high-level policy dialogue on 'Accelerating SDG 6 Achievements through Cross Sectoral Partnerships' was chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Jalshakti Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and context setting by Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation. Other Excellencies, dignitaries and speakers in the event were- Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under Secretary General of United Nations and Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Mr. Loic Fauchon, President, World Water Council, Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator India, Mr. David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Satya Tripathi, Secretary General, Global Alliance for a sustainable Planet, Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director Water, World Bank Group, Mr. Ruhiza Jean Boroto, Senior Land and Water Officer, FAO, Mr. Jun Watanabe, Senior Representative JICA India Office and Mr. Vishwaranjan Sinha, Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands for South Asia, IUCN. The event was moderated by Ms. Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary of India Water Foundation.



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High Level Policy Dialogue on Accelerating SDG 6 through Multi-stakeholder Partnerships At the UN 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

If we talk about India, water is a state subject and most states do not have a water policy. For strengthening SDG 6 proper integrated policy framework which integrates agriculture, #industry and energy sectors and backed up by institutional arrangement is imperative. Water, Energy, Agri-food, environmental and waste sectors cannot be seen in silos.” Said Dr Arvind Kumar, Founder and President, India Water Foundation during the official side event of high level policy dialogue on “Accelerating SDG 6



for multi stakeholder partnerships’ of 2023UNECOSOC Partnership Forum on 31st January 2023. The event was organized virtually and was supported by UNESCAP. Other eminent speakers at the high level policy dialogue were Mr. Atul Bagai, Head UNEP India and Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer of UNESCAP SSWA Office and the dialogue was moderated by Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary, India Water Foundation. Commenting on SDG progress Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna said that all the nations in South Asia are regressing; none of them are fulfilling the target of 2021-2022. They are lagging much behind; therefore, a lot of work needs to be done for which partnerships are important. More than that there’s a need for a strong leader to steer ahead the projects. Affirming the same Mr. Atul Bagai said “World is facing a triple planetary crisis and the way they are intricately interlinked that actions in any of these sectors would affect the others as well. Therefore, to maintain this inter-connectivity and sustainability, we need to find #holistic and comprehensive solutions may it be through incorporating local communities in the process or using their traditional wisdom ultimately pushing the bottom – up approach. The event was joined by more than 250 participants from all over the world.

India Water Week (2nd November 2022)

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 SSSWA Office, 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 Ministerial Plenary 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. The guests of honour were Mr. Loic Fauchon, President, World Water Council, Mr. Atul Bagai, Head, UNEP India office, Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy



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 SSSWA Office, World Water Council and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India on 2nd November the second day of 7th India Water Week, 2022

Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP, SSWA Office. Other speakers in the event were Mr. Stuart Crane, Program Coordinator SDG 6, Freshwater Ecosystems Unit, Ecosystems Division, UNEP, Dr. Divya Datt, Program Manager, and UNEP India, Mr. Satya Tripathi, Former Secretary General of UN and currently Secretary General, Global Alliance for Sustainable Planet, Mr. Jerker Tamelander, Director, Science and Policy, Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands, Mr. Mark Smith, Director General, International water management

Institute, Dr. Satya Priya, Senior Water Resources Management, Specialist, World Bank, Mr. Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India, Ms. Patricia Meijas, Specialist Land and Water division, FAO and Mr. MP Singh, Chief of Development Operations, Japan International Cooperation Agency.

BILATERAL MEETINGS

MS. ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA : It was of utmost honour and privilege for Dr. Arvind Kumar to have got an opportunity to meet Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana Executive Secretary ESCAP and Under Secretary General of United Nations. They discussed the priority areas of ESCAP in the SSWA region and she appreciated India Water Foundation's work to ensure proper management and adequate availability of water resource. She stressed why an integrated approach to SDG6 is essential to bringing the other Global Goals to fruition.



There have been events in the past as well but there is very little sign that these efforts have accelerated progress. Most countries remain off-track on targets for universal WASH. Most have made little progress on water security. And for those countries that have achieved transformational change, there's no evidence that international commitments have been the trigger. If past summits have failed, what UN

undertakings would speed up progress on the SDG6? It's not what happens during the conferences and forums, it's what happens afterward?



MR. AJAY BANGA - At COP28 Dr. Arvind Kumar had a wonderful opportunity to meet and have a fruitful discussion with Mr. Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank. He was deeply touched by his graciousness, warm gesture and humble demeanour.

He also had a highly productive comprehensive bilateral meeting with Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director, Global Water Practice, World Bank group. Their discussion steered from World Bank strategy and work plan for India to exploring opportunities of engaging with the World Bank and contributing to its future endeavours.

MS. MUMBA MUSONDA- Dr. Kumar met and interacted with Dr. Mumba Musonda, Secretary General, of The Convention of Wetlands. Their comprehensive discussions steered from the wetlands restoration and rejuvenation work carried out in India and how India Water Foundation and the convention can create a close partnership to strengthen and meet the objectives of the convention. They also discussed on the implementation of decade of ecosystem restoration and how we can contribute towards it by forging committed partnerships and tangible actions.



DR. EDDY MOORS- During the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York Dr. Kumar also had a bilateral meeting with Dr. Eddy Moors, Rector, IHE Delft Institute of water education under the auspices of UNESCO. In their comprehensive discussions they explored strengthening impacts by means of partnerships for co-creating knowledge and capacity development to strengthen

individual and organizational performance and learning. To ensure that high-quality and up-to-date water programmes are accessible and affordable to those who need them and support them in developing and implementing water education and research programme.

MS. JANE MADGWICK-Dr. Kumar briefly met Ms. Jane Madgwick CEO of Wetlands International and exchanged thoughts on the wetland restoration and rejuvenation programmes in India.



Meeting with Chief Secretary & DGP Government of Sikkim:

During our visit to Sikkim to attend the C20 working group meetings and conclave of the G20, on the side lines I had an opportunity to make a courtesy call with Sh. V B Pathak, Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim at his office and apprised him of our current endeavours and future prospects. Fortunately, at his office also got an opportunity to meet Mr. Amrendra Kumar Singh, Director General of Police, Sikkim. Their humble demeanour, warm gesture and positive stance is much appreciated. I also presented them my book 'India at 75 and beyond'. I had a long discussion on various wonderful initiatives of the Sikkim government and how Sikkim had transformed in last five years since my previous visit in 2017.



Dr. Kumar as speaker participated in the roundtable discussions on SDG6 profile at the 10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) at Bangkok, Thailand. He also presented the takeaways/outcomes of the just concluded UN2023WaterConference at the SDG6 Plenary session. The round table on the review of SDG 6 was co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF) with UNESCAP. The other country representatives in the discussion were from Indonesia, Australia, Kyrgyzstan and agencies like GWP, FAO and UNICEF.



Dr. Kumar spoke on 'Harnessing cross cutting nature of Water to achieve Agenda 2030' at the side event 'PPP Model for Rainwater Harvesting and Enhancing Native Biodiversity – Use Cases from India' On the eve of World Water Day on 23rd March 2023 at UN 2023

Water Conference in New York. The side event was organized by HCL, The Nature Conservancy, ATREE, IIHS and Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group at the Nature Hub, New York.

Dr. Arvind Kumar during the 'Regional Dialogue on Accelerating Implementation of the Water Action Agenda' on 24th March 2023. This was one of the four special sessions organised on day three of the UN2023Water Conference at New York.



The Organizing partners and contributors of the event were-

Member States: Federal Ministry for Agriculture Forestry Regions and Water Management Austria; Ministry of Environment, Dominican Republic; Ministry of Water Resources and

Irrigation Egypt; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), Germany; Government of Tajikistan, Ministry of Water Tanzania

United Nations Regional Commissions: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)



Civil Society: India Water Foundation (ESCAP region); African Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation (ANEWS) (ECA region); Bahr Alolom Forum Iraq (ESCWA region); Latin America Youth Water Network (ECLAC region); Women for Water Partnership and Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (ECE region)



Images of the project “Scientific Approach towards bridging SCIENCE and HEALTH divide in a sustainable way” under the programme Year of Awareness on Science and Health (YASH) supported by NCSTC, Ministry of Science and Technology, GOI



For more information.....

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