



Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India inaugurates 'India Water Forum' 2013

The three day forum will explore vast opportunities in developing technically viable and economically feasible solutions for governance and management of water resources.

This international convention will have two special sessions (NGO Forum and Session with Secretaries, Government of India) and eight technical sessions besides an international water expo during the course of three days.

New Delhi, October 28th 2013: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in association with Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Urban Development and Water Sanitation Program of The World Bank kick started the three day 'India Water Forum' (IWF) on the theme, '**Water Use Efficiency**' at the Vigyan Bhawan today.

Speaking at the occasion, **Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India**, said "As we grapple with diminishing water resources and escalating water demand, water use efficiency holds great promise. In today's context, the saying "water saved is water generated" is truer than ever before. This conference, by focusing on water use efficiency, will help to bring this important issue to the forefront of policy discourse. The National Water Policy 2012 recognizes the need to improve efficiency in the use of water resources. The improvement of water use efficiency requires innovative tools of promotion and incentives for efficient water utilization. At the same time, it calls for dealing with inefficient water consumption through disincentives and stricter regulation. In the past, focus was laid primarily on augmenting the quality of water available without giving due attention to the manner in which the water will be used or managed. A paradigm shift from 'water resources development' to 'integrated water resource management' is now necessary. For that, the existing institutions involved in service delivery have to be restructured and strengthened. I am aware of the good work carried out by TERI in the water sector, and happy to learn that it has chosen to take the lead in organizing the event. I am most certain that the India Water Forum will witness comprehensive and dispassionate deliberations on various aspects of water use efficiency".

Shri. Harish Rawat, Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources, Govt. of India, said "The Government of India is committed to finding solutions. The National Water Policy 2012 and the National Water Mission reiterate the country's focus on water, and describe the government's policy on important issues, and the ways the government proposed to ensure water conservation and equitable use. The National Water Policy 2012 envisages suitable policies for adequate water supply and sanitation, water use efficiency in the agriculture and industrial sector, issues related with impacts of climate change etc.

He further added, "Keeping in view the need of greater water awareness, The Union Cabinet has declared year 2013 as "Water Conservation Year" to sensitize public opinion about the importance of efficient use of conservation of each and every drop of water to meet the future challenges. The Water Use Efficiency, a focal theme of this forum is also a crucial challenge with regard to the utilization of our limited water resources which are available to us.

Industries and municipalities need to be mandated to adopt water recycling practices. Industries and construction sector need to adopt rain water harvesting practices religiously. We are trying to address these challenges through National Water Mission. One of the important goal of this mission is to enhance water use efficiency by 20%.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, said "Effective water management should be seen as a goal of our society and our educational system should start inculcating early an awareness of the water problems in our children. Water, in its many dimensions, shapes the outlook of the society one lives in. Benjamin Franklin, once said "When the wells dry, we know the worth of water", before such a scenario takes place, I hope we rise to the challenge from our classrooms to our panchayats, create better regulatory working systems when distributing water and bridge the gap between the water have and have not's. The India Water Forum is a step in the right direction"

Dr. R.K.Pachauri, Director General, TERI said "Various projections of water availability in India indicate a sharp reduction per capita that people would face in the future. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projected that by the middle of the century per capita availability of water in India would be around two-thirds of the current level. Hence, a large part of India and the population of the country would be characterised by a situation of water stress. Among the reasons for these sharp changes would be population growth, increases in income and wealth leading to higher demand and the impacts of climate change. Institutional measures and policy changes need to be taken in hand urgently to deal with the current situation which is far from satisfactory, and projected water availability in the future which would become significantly more serious. The India Water Forum would deal with a range of issues that would assess the nature and extent of the challenge facing India in the water sector, and discuss steps that should be taken to safeguard the welfare of the people whose numbers are increasing rapidly".

The threat of an impending water crisis affects all individuals around the world. In this context, water use efficiency has been identified as one of the most promising approaches for ensuring water security. Thus, the Forum assumes great significance.

The forum envisages a series of interactive sessions with policy makers, industrial experts, environmentalists, researchers, academicians, scientists, students, representatives from NGOs and civil society on a common platform. It will showcase advanced knowledge and successful technologies developed in different countries, with the aim of promoting international knowledge network and partnerships for addressing challenges related to Water Security.

DETAILS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

During the course of three days, two special sessions will be held namely:

1-**Special sessions- NGO Forum:** It will ponder on effective capacity building of youths to increase the understanding of sustainable and gender sensitive water management; and shall emphasise on recognition of interests and needs of women in national/regional policies, as well as gender training for men and women working in water-related organization.

2- **Special Session- Secretaries, Government of India:** This session will serve as a platform for exchanging views on the theme of strengthening cross-sectoral convergence to enhance water use efficiency.

Technical sessions include the following themes:

- 1- **An approach to global water security and sustainability:** This session will focus on the overarching theme and its importance for achieving the goal of water security and sustainability.
- 2- **Water use efficiency in the Agriculture sector: Managing water security and food security:** The session will focus on the efficiency interventions needed in the agriculture sector in order to accomplish both water and food security.
- 3- **Water use efficiency in urban sector:** The session will have deliberations by experts for providing insights on the urban water challenges and the successful case studies from across the region.
- 4- **Sustainable rural drinking water and sanitation:** The session will focus on issues and challenges in sustaining drinking water supply and safe sanitation practices in rural areas.
- 5- **Water use Efficiency in the Industrial sector:** This session will explore the avenues to enhance water use efficiency at industrial level.
- 6- **Climate change and Water Vulnerability:** Experts from across the globe will talk about the impacts of climate change on water resources at various levels. The session will also witness exchange of knowledge about adaptation strategies, which can help in achieving the goal of water security in the region.
- 7- **Inter-Sectoral issues and challenges for Water Use Efficiency:** This session will discuss about the intricate nexus water shares among the different sectors and the imposed challenges faced due to sectoral stresses.
- 8- **Policy and governance framework and institutional arrangements for water use efficiency:** This session would focus on the potential regulatory measures and institutional coordination that can be taken up for enhancing the water use efficiency in all the sectors.

The forum has also been supported by Delhi Jal Board, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP), Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Water and Sanitation Management Organization (WASMO) and WAPCOS.

THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE (TERI)

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is an independent, not-for-profit research organisation deeply committed to every aspect of energy, environment, and sustainable development. From providing environment-friendly solutions to rural energy problems, to helping shape the development of the Indian oil and gas sector; from tackling global climate change issues across many continents to enhancing forest conservation efforts among local communities; from advancing solutions to growing urban transportation and air pollution problems to promoting energy efficiency in Indian industries, the emphasis has always been on finding innovative solutions to make the world a better place to live in. All activities at TERI move from formulating local and national-level strategies to suggesting global solutions tackling critical energy and environment related issues.

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