



5th International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE), 2023

DAY-1: Special Thematic Session 4

September 19, 2023 (Tuesday); Time: 14:00-15:30 hrs (GMT +5:30)

Theme: Water Literacy: Water Insights on Climate Change for Sustainable Future

Venue: India Habitat Centre, Jacranda 2

Access, to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is a human need that greatly impacts our health and overall well-being. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) emphasises the importance of "Ensuring Water and Sanitation for All " recognising that water is essential for sustaining life while safe drinking water defines the essence of civilisation. However due to factors such as population growth, industrialisation and climate change the availability and quality of our water resources are under great stress.

Ensuring effective water management, minimising wastage, increasing water use efficiency and sustainability of water sources and water infrastructure have become global challenge. As per United Nations (UN), billions of people may lack access to basic water services in 2030. To reach universal access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030, current rates of progress would need to increase fourfold. Achieving these targets would save 8,29,000 people annually, who die from diseases directly attributable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene practices.

Water scarcity and water quality degradation are critical challenges that pose significant challenges to India as well, as the country is highly dependent on agricultural, industrial, and domestic use of water resources. As per the report of World Resource Institute (WRI, 2019) 60 crore people living in India face high to extreme water crises. A 2019 report by NITI Aayog says that 40 percent of Indian population will not have access to drinking water by 2030. It mentions that five out of the world's twenty largest cities facing water stress are in India and about two lakh people in India lose their lives every year due to inadequate and unsafe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

Educating individuals, communities, and stakeholders about the significance of safe water consumption, responsible water use, groundwater recharge, saving water bodies, harnessing traditional water conservation methods with technologies, rejuvenating rivers and recycling & reusing treated water is paramount to achieving long-term water security and environmental sustainability.

Improving water education of all people will be essential for overcoming a host of different sustainable development challenges. Water literacy or educating for water, i.e., a focus on improving water literacy for all people - should be clearly integrated with all efforts on water.

About the Session

The session will be aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of the crucial role and impact of water in the context of climate change and sustainability.

The session will encompass a comprehensive set of initiatives designed to address the critical need for informed water management practices. The water experts, educators, policymakers, practitioners, industry officials and end-users from water-consuming sectors (agriculture, industry, and domestic) will engage in the dialogue and knowledge exchange on water-related challenges and solutions.

Through a combination of presentations, interactive discussions, sharing and disseminating best practices & project case studies, the session aims to empower participants so that they could contribute to sustainable water management in their respective fields, which can further play a role in catalysing transformative actions and initiatives that contribute to India's SDG goals.

Session Objectives

The overall objective of the session is to bridge the gap between “knowledge and action” by equipping participants with the “information and motivation” needed to contribute to effective water management practices and a sustainable future.

Following are the primary objectives of this session:

- 1) Awareness Amplification on the Urgency of Taking Actions: To increase awareness among masses by inspiring the leaders and influencers about the critical importance of water management and sustainability.
- 2) Contextual Understanding of Climate Resilience and Role of Water: To provide participants with an in-depth understanding on the relationship between water management and climate change, changing precipitation patterns, groundwater depletion, stress on water bodies and extreme weather events.
- 3) Empowering Youth to Shift from Dialogue to Action: To empower young participants with practical knowledge, tools, and resources on sensible and smart water management by using sustainability principles in policies, practices, and awareness campaigns.
- 4) Behavioural Changes to Encourage Actionable Sustainable Practices: To inspire participants to adopt responsible water consumption behaviour by sharing success stories of water crusaders on sustainable water management (efficient water use, water conservation, uniting communities, wastewater treatment, and pollution prevention).
- 5) Promoting Integrated Approach: To promote Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) - highlighting the importance of collaboration among stakeholders from industry, agriculture, urban planning, and environmental conservation.



6) Community Engagement: To discuss strategies to engage local communities, schools, NGOs, and grassroots organizations to promote water education.

7) Encouraging Innovation: To encourage the development and application of innovative water treatment methods, digital tools, and technologies.

8) Policy Recommendations: To assimilate the insights and recommendations for policymakers to integrate water education into national and regional policies.

Outcomes

The session will serve as a platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and inspiration, with the ultimate goal of equipping young participants and organisations with the tools and motivation to drive positive change in their water management practices.

By encouraging and promoting informed discussions, sharing best practices, fostering partnerships and generating policy recommendations, the session will also strive to contribute to advancing water education – assisting in India's journey towards becoming a water-secure nation, thus, achieving its Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) within the stipulated timeframe.

Programme Schedule

Name	Session
Ms Anupama Madhok Sud, Director & Editor, Water Digest	Opening Address
Shri G. Asok Kumar, IAS, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)*	Special Address
Shri R.S. Tyagi, Expert Advisor - National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Ex-Member - Delhi Jal Board (DJB)*	Panelist/Speaker
Mr Anshuman, Director, Water Resources Division, TERI*	Panelist/Speaker
Ms Anjali Makhija, Chief Executive Officer, S.M. Sehgal Foundation	Panelist/Speaker
Ms Arya. V, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	Panelist/Speaker
Dr Jagdish Kumar, Senior Assistant Director & Chief, Shriram Institute for Industrial Research	Panelist/Speaker
Vote of Thanks	

Contact person detail:

Name: Ms. Anupama Madhok Sud, Director & Editor

Organization Name: Advance Water Digest Pvt. Ltd. Email id: anupama@thewaterdigest.com

Phone no.:9899870903