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## Message from Chairperson, FICCI Water Mission

I am happy to share with you the second newsletter of FICCI Water Mission. This monthly newsletter will give you an update on the Mission's work and developments in the water sector.

The Ministry of Water Resources released the revised draft of the National Water Policy. The FICCI Water Mission had submitted its representation as part of the stakeholder consultation. Our response to the draft policy is included in this issue of the newsletter.

The second issue of FICCI-HSBC Knowledge Initiative comprising best practices on sustainable agriculture water management is being developed. Case studies from your organisation can be sent to secretariat for compilation.

The newsletter contains an update of major news items relating to the water sector, important sectoral reports and water data. We hope that you find the newsletter useful. The secretariat looks forward to your comments and suggestions.

**Naina Lal Kidwai**

Senior Vice President, FICCI

Country Head –HSBC India and Director – HSBC Asia Pacific

## Water Mission Activities

### FICCI-HSBC Knowledge Initiative: Sustainable Agriculture Water Management

The second issue of the FICCI-HSBC Knowledge Initiative will comprise of a background paper on Sustainable Agriculture Water Management and case studies on irrigation efficiency adopted by non-government institutions, corporate players across the country. The objective will be to look at alternate

approaches adopted across regions/crops and evolve a common set of enabling parameters for improving irrigation efficiency.

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## Corporate Water Stewardship dialogue

FICCI Water Mission, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) & WWF have collaborated and invited Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) to present the first draft of the International Water Stewardship Standard for Stakeholder Consultation. Mr. Adrian Sym, Executive Director of AWS would be presenting the International Water Stewardship Standard for consultation planned for October 18, 2012.

## Article: Draft National Water Policy

The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) has made public the revised draft National Water Policy (NWP) ([http://mowr.gov.in/writereaddata/linkimages/DraftNWP2012\\_English9353289094.pdf](http://mowr.gov.in/writereaddata/linkimages/DraftNWP2012_English9353289094.pdf)). This draft follows the initial draft which was made after multi-stakeholder consultations and subsequent public comments received to the earlier draft. FICCI made its submission as part of the stakeholder consultation organised by the MoWR. Given below is the response to the draft policy:

FICCI welcomes the approach adopted for water management in Draft National Water Policy. The importance given to improving water efficiency across all sectors is the need of the hour and is crucial for reducing the dependence on freshwater sources. FICCI, through its Water Mission, is working with its members in adopting water efficiency measures to reduce industrial water footprint.

Agriculture accounts for more than 85 per cent of the total water use and therefore resource optimization in this sector is vital. The focus therefore, has to be on water conservation through increasing water use efficiency and by creating industry partnerships in agriculture. To quote an example, if any industry partners with the local paddy farmers in getting their land laser levelled, a substantial amount of water can be saved. Initiatives aimed at fostering such industry partnerships with agriculture sector can make a huge difference to the judicious use of water.

While the draft policy clearly outlines the problems responsible for the growing water crisis, it does not lay adequate emphasis on groundwater management apart from bringing groundwater under the public trust doctrine. The Draft Model Groundwater Bill should be brought along with the National Water Policy for effective management of groundwater resources.

We support the Public-Private Partnerships model suggested in providing water services and look forward to developing a PPP framework for water supply. There is a need to review laws, regulations and taxes

that may raise costs beyond affordable levels. For example taxation of equipment required for service provision may have a bearing on the pricing of water.

Water should be considered as an input to production and should be properly priced so as to reduce over withdrawal as is the case today. Pricing of water for various uses have received considerable attention in the draft policy. FICCI sees a merit in developing suitable pricing mechanisms for irrigation water (including power), industrial and domestic water use. This will however require balancing political concerns with societal and environmental concerns. Rates for water cess need to be prescribed in accordance with water use so as to discourage wasteful use of water.

A standard norm for allocation of water and cess on pollution cannot be applied for the industrial sector as a whole due to the disparities in management of water and treatment of wastewater by industries. A dual policy of allocation of water by the states, where industries demonstrating water prudence in terms of maintaining water balance as well as treating waste-water to pollution control norms should get priority in allocation of water needs to be developed.

In case of industrial water use, we agree that industries should invest in wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse measures. Experience from our member industries indicate that there are economic benefits of undertaking such measures. We would like the inclusion of incentives to communities, utilities, states and industry associations that have gone in for water harvesting and conservation measures. Incentives can be in form of priority and speedy implementation of development works and schemes, relief in taxes amongst others.


*Source: Water Mission Secretariat with inputs from members*

## Bulletin Board


-  **Sar Group to invest Rs 500 crore on water purification segment** - Diversified firm Sar Group today forayed into water purification segment and said it plans to invest Rs 500 crore on the vertical for the next five years. "The group is committed to invest Rs 500 crore to achieve Rs 2,000 crore sales by 2017 in the water purification and related industry," Sar Group Chairman and Founder Luminous Power Technologies Rakesh Malhotra told reporters. [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-09-25/news/34082772\\_1\\_water-purifier-sar-group-rakesh-malhotra](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-09-25/news/34082772_1_water-purifier-sar-group-rakesh-malhotra)
-  **Policy for groundwater management in 3 months** - The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to frame a policy for better groundwater management within next three months. The policy will focus on recharging and replenishing the water table across the state by developing river basin or watershed

approach methodologies – [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-02/lucknow/34217527\\_1\\_borewells-watertable-groundwater](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-02/lucknow/34217527_1_borewells-watertable-groundwater)

 **India's first aquifer atlas released** - There has been a sharp decline in groundwater levels in several parts of Delhi, West Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan over the years, the government said. According to the data released here, which is part of country's first ever aquifer atlas, Himachal Pradesh has the best groundwater level as water exploited is quickly recharged - [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-09-28/news/34148373\\_1\\_aquifer-atlas-recharge](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-09-28/news/34148373_1_aquifer-atlas-recharge)

 **Court won't review ruling on river link** - The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to entertain a petition filed by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) seeking review of the inter-linking of rivers (ILR) judgment on the ground that the directions in it amounted to judicial overreach. It also declined permission to 21 eminent citizens to file a similar petition - <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/court-wont-review-ruling-on-river-link/article3939201.ece>

 **Denmark offers tech expertise to Rajasthan**— Denmark's Ambassador to India Freddy Svane on Thursday offered the Government of Rajasthan co-operation in the fields of water treatment, water distribution system and green building construction - <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/states/article3942409.ece>

 **Water privatisation: Govt approves; RWAs disapprove** - After several failed attempts in the past, the water distribution system in the city is likely to undergo a complete transformation with the state government approving the privatisation of its management in Malviya Nagar, Vasant Vihar and Mehrauli of South Delhi amid protests of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs). A pilot project for the private distribution of water in these areas has been sanctioned by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) - <http://www.tribuneindia.com/2012/20120924/delhi.htm#3>

## Water Data

Central Water Commission monitors the storage status of 84 important reservoirs across the country. The total live storage in 84 important reservoirs in different parts of the country, monitored by CWC as on September 27, 2012 is 115.8 BCM (75 percent of the storage capacity at FRL). The current year's storage is nearly 87 per cent of last year's storage and 106 per cent of the average of last ten years.

In respect of basin wise storage position; Ganga, Indus, Narmada, Tapi, Mahi, Sabarmati and Mahanadi have better than normal storage while Krishna, Cauvery and Rivers of Kutchh have deficit storage. Table 1 depicts the region wise storage status.

**Table 1: Basin Wise Storage Status**

Region (States) (No. Of Reservoirs)	Filling Position of 84 reservoirs w.r.t. FRL								Departure from normal storage
	100%	91-99%	81-90%	71-80%	61-70%	51-60%	41-50%	40% and below	
<b>North</b> (HP, Punjab & Rajasthan) 6 reservoirs	3	1	-	2	-	-			H.P – 6% Punjab – 22% Rajasthan – 38%
<b>East</b> (Jharkhand, Orissa, Tripura & WB) 15 reservoirs	4	2	3	1	1	-	1	3	Jhk - - 5% Ori – 12% Tri. - -48% WB – 1%
<b>West</b> (Guj, Maharashtra) 22 reservoirs	3	4	4	1	-	3	1	6	Guj – 16% Mah - -34%
<b>Central</b> (MP, UP, UK, Chg.) 11 reservoirs	4	2	3	-	1	1	-	-	MP – 81% UP – 46% UK – 12% Chg – 18%
<b>South</b> (AP, Karnatka, Kerala, TN) 30 reservoirs	1	2	2	5	1	3	5	11	AP -- 36% Kar. - -7% Ker . – 46% TN --37%

Data Source: Central Water Commission (Data accessed on October 03, 2012) details are available @ -

[http://www.cwc.nic.in/bulletin\(2\).pdf](http://www.cwc.nic.in/bulletin(2).pdf)

## Sector Report

### Aquifer Atlas of India –

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has released an Atlas on Aquifer Systems of India with detailed data on 14 principal and 42 major aquifers. This pulls together archival information from the Board on aquifers in these states and presents it in graphical format through tables and maps. The atlas also provides detailed data on six states: Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu.

Download the report - <http://cgwb.gov.in/AQM/>

**Comments/ queries can be address to –**

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