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## Message from Chairperson, FICCI Water Mission

I am happy to share with you the fourth 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 National Water Resources Council under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister is meeting this month to finalise the new National Water Policy. We look forward to the outcome of the meeting. The Mission secretariat plans to launch a "Water Use in Industry" survey for the western states this month. We look forward to your participation in the survey.

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

President - Elect, FICCI

Country Head –HSBC India and Director – HSBC Asia Pacific

## Water Mission Activities

### Water Disclosure for Industries Workshop

Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) India and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) will organise a half day workshop and panel discussion to understand the feasibility of water disclosure in India and share experience of Indian companies and investors. The

workshop is scheduled for Monday, January 21, 2013. We are inviting a select group of representatives across industry, government, and civil society organizations for workshop.

## Article: Conserving water- makes business and environmental sense

**Niranjan Khatri, GM -Environment Initiatives, ITC- Hotels**

If the earth was a size of an egg, then all the water will be equivalent to a drop; all the air if condensed to the density of water, it would be a droplet only 1/40th as big; and all the arable land would not even be a visible speck of dust. That drop, droplet and speck are all that makes planet earth different from the moon.

If we focus on the drop of water, in percentage terms 97 per cent of water is in the sea, 2 per cent is locked up in the Arctic and Antarctic Ocean and 1 per cent is fresh water. Of this 1 per cent, 0.22 per cent is in the underground aquifers and balance 0.78 per cent is in the lakes, rivers and ponds. This is the global water scenario.

India receives the third highest precipitation in the world after Brazil and Tanzania. On an average 1,050 mm in the country, with maximum and minimum being close to 12,000 mm in Cherrapunji 200 - 300 mm in Rajasthan respectively. Our country is lucky in having a number of rivers criss-crossing the country.

With increase in industrialisation in the last 50 years, 70 per cent of our inland water sources have been contaminated due to industrial pollution/sewage pollution. Today the country is facing an acute water scarcity in many states and the availability of water per person per annum has come down from 6,500 cubic meters to 2,500 cubic meters per person per annum (Source, TERI).

As per World Watch Institute in Washington, India will be a water stressed country from 2020 onwards. (*Water stress is defined when less than 1000 cubic meters of water is available per person per annum*). With the above scenario, it is imperative that the industry must become alive to the increasing pressure on scarce water resource by adopting various water saving technologies available in the market today and optimise the various grades of water use for secondary use.

ITC Maurya Sheraton pioneered environmental conservation by installing an effluent treatment plant (ETP) when it was not mandatory for the hotel industry to recycle wastewater. The Indian

hotel industry has now started using ETP water for gardening, flushing and air-conditioning use, something which we at ITC Maurya Sheraton did long ago.

The government must change the regulatory mechanism to allow excess ETP water of industry to be sold or used for social purposes so that C-Category water can be re-used. For example, many hotels release their treated wastewater in the municipal drains. However, the same can be utilised by nearby parks/golf course. The advantage of such water is that it has the right quantum of nutrients essential for the growth of grass.

Water harvesting needs to be made mandatory across the country for all small and large organisations. A beginning has been made in Delhi for all new houses but a large number of existing houses are not tapping the rain water which subsequently is being converted to dirty water. This is happening at a time when the underground aquifer is depleting by one metre per annum.

Pro-active steps must be taken to introduce concepts like water audits. It has been established that nearly 45 per cent of energy requirements in all cities is for movement of water. Wrong pricing signals have also resulted in water being wasted, which results in power wastage as well. According to a report, in Delhi the cost of treating, transporting water is Rs. 15/- per kilo litre, whereas people are paying Rs. 3.50 per kilo litre, which does not cover the operating cost.

At a household level, these simple water saving methods can be followed:

- Keep a one litre plastic water bottle filled with water in the cistern tank to reduce discharge by one litre. Only 1.5 litres of water required to discharge liquid waste and only 7 litres required for solid waste, however, the existing cistern tank size is 12 litres.
- The use of a simple strainer in the wash basin tap will reduce the outflow of water by 50 per cent, just as practiced in aircraft.
- Using a mug instead of running water for shaving saves 17.5 litres per shave.

I learnt about limiting factors of ecology when I was in the Andaman islands 14 years back. In 1990 there was a severe water crisis and water supply to the Welcome Group's Bay Island Hotel was cut down from 10,000 litres to 2,000 litres per day. During this period when orders for room booking came, the decision for giving rooms was not taken on basis of reservation chart but on the basis of quantum of water available in the water tank! In islands where there are no rivers and




underground source of water; carrying capacity and sustainability is understood in a very short span of time. The reduced supply of water was the limiting factor in the growth of business. This very principle applies at a macro level on a long time horizon and therefore must be kept firmly in our mental radar screen.

With increased population it is natural that supplies will decrease because of the numbers and also due to the fact many sources of water are corrupted due to human activity and misuse. What is the impact of energy use on climate change is yet to be studied in detail.





It is often repeated that the future wars are going to be fought on account of water. We see small skirmishes in our own neighbourhood, slums and inter-state conflict in Haryana, Delhi and Karnataka, Tamil Nadu is a regular feature in the press. Knowing that the problem is looming ahead the need of the hour is to change individual / industrial, farming attitudes to conserve water it makes economic as well as environment sense.

*(The views expressed in this article are that of the author).*

## Bulletin Board

-  **Water to be put in concurrent list** - The central government attempting to extend its powers to arbitrate on the issues of water in the wake of increasing disputes between the states over the years got shot in the arm as a parliamentary panel favoured inclusion of the subject 'water' in the concurrent list of the Constitution -  
[http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report\\_water-to-be-put-in-concurrent-list\\_1772290](http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_water-to-be-put-in-concurrent-list_1772290)
-  **Need fresh water to revive river** - The government's approach of cleaning up the Yamuna through sewage treatment plants (STPs) is flawed, say environmentalists. They have also warned that cleaning the river will be impossible unless fresh water is released into it -  
<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Need-fresh-water-to-revive-river-activists/Article1-967506.aspx>
-  **SAR Group eyes acquisition in water treatment space** - Gurgaon-based diversified SAR Group is eyeing an acquisition in the water treatment space to help expand its presence in the industry after having announced a foray earlier this year into the fast growing water

purification market - <http://www.indiawaterreview.in/Story/News/sar-group-eyes-acquisition-in-water-treatment-space/949/1>

-  **Government keen to develop inland port on Subarnarekha River** - Jharkhand's Chief Minister Arjun Munda has said that his Government is keen to take up a project to develop its own inland port facility. Hailing the role played by the ports in development of Gujarat, Munda said that the State is rich in minerals and raw materials and the Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi has given permission to use their ports for shipment of their raw materials - <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/saving-urban-water-bodies/article4011668.ece>
  
-  **House panel asks govt to restore private water bodies** - A parliamentary standing committee has asked the government to explore state funding to private water bodies restoration, accounting for more than half of the 5,50 lakh water bodies in the country, which provide irrigation to 6.27 lakh hectares. – Financial Chronicle, November 28, 2012
  
-  **NCR channel will help meet Gurgaon's water needs** – The availability of water in Gurgaon will be enhanced by almost four times with completion of the NCR channel, which has a capacity of 800 cusecs. This would help in supplying adequate quantity of water for the growing population of the town, an official spokesman said here on Wednesday. He said that the State Government had spent Rs 322 crore on construction of the channel - <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/states/ncr-channel-will-help-meet-gurgaons-water-needs/article4143645.ece>
  
-  **Yamuna a drain, not a drop of fresh water** - The Yamuna is a drain with not a drop of fresh water in its 22-km stretch through Delhi, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) informed the Supreme Court. River Yamuna ceases to exist downstream of Wazirabad barrage during a major part of the year and gets its flow due to Najafgarh drain at Wazirabad downstream, a two-member expert body appointed by the court said in its interim report - [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-11-10/pollution/35033843\\_1\\_najafgarh-drain-sewage-water-waste-water](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-11-10/pollution/35033843_1_najafgarh-drain-sewage-water-waste-water)

## Upcoming Events

- 💧 The sixth meeting of National Water Resources Council is being organised by the Ministry of Water Resources on December 28, 2012 to consider draft National Water Policy. The meeting will be chaired by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh where the new National Water Policy is likely to be adopted.

The National Water Resources Council was set up by the Government of India in March 1983. The Prime Minister is the Chairman, Union Minister of Water Resources is the Vice-Chairman, and Minister of State for Water Resources, concerned Union Ministers/ Ministers of State, Chief Ministers of all States & Lieutenant Governors/ Administrators of the Union Territories are the Members. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources is the Secretary of the Council. For details visit - <http://wrmin.nic.in/>

- 💧 **India Water Week – 2013** - Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India is organising its annual policy and technology event India Water Week from April 8-12th April 2013. The theme for India Water Week- 2013 is “Efficient Water Management: Opportunities and Challenges”. The event will have a conference cum policy dialogue forum coupled with a Business to Business exhibition.

For details visit - <http://www.indiawaterweek.in/>

## Sector Report

### Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management –

This report by UN Water looks at the issues that pertain to the management, development and use of fresh water resources. Its starting point is in the Earth Summit’s Agenda 21 recommendation for an integrated approach to the management of water resources. The findings demonstrates that while there is still a long way to go, progress towards the goal of sustainable water resources management is undoubtedly being made.

Download the report - [http://www.unwater.org/downloads/UNW\\_status\\_report\\_Rio2012.pdf](http://www.unwater.org/downloads/UNW_status_report_Rio2012.pdf)

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

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