

Chapter – 13

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Qaumi Ekta Week

The week from November 18-25, 2006 was celebrated as Qaumi Ekta Week by the Institute. Keeping in view the objectives of this, i.e. to foster the spirit of patriotism and national integration, on November 18, 2006 the National Integration pledge was administered by Director, NIH to all members of staff of the Institute.

Organization of 12th National Symposium On Hydrology With Focal Theme On Groundwater Governance: Ownership Of Groundwater And Its Pricing

The 12th National Symposium on “Hydrology” with focal theme on “Groundwater Governance :Ownership of Groundwater and its Pricing” at New Delhi, was organized during 14-15, November 2006, jointly by the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee and the Central Ground Water Board, Faridabad. About 315 participants, invited guests, and eminent personalities attended the symposium, from different walks of life. The Inauguration function of the symposium was addressed by Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India, as Chief Guest, and Presided over by Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz, Union Minister for Water Resources, and also addressed by Shri Jai Prakesh Narayan Yadav, Union State Minister for Water Resources, as Guest of Honor. Shri Jai Prakesh Narayan Yadav, Union State Minister for Water Resources as Chief Guest, addressed the valedictory function. About 13 State Governments’ Groundwater Departments attended the Symposium besides many Central Departments.



Honorable Union Minister for Water Resources, Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz addressing the gathering in the inaugural function of the 12th National Symposium on “Hydrology”, held during 14-15 November, 2006, at New Delhi. The other dignitaries seen on the dais are : (from R to L) , Hon’ble Shri Jai Prakesh Narayan Yadav, Union State Minister for Water Resources; Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission; Smt. Gauri Chatterjee, Secretary, MoWR; Dr. Saleem Romani, Chairman, CGWB.



A view of the participants attended the 12th National Symposium

Recommendations of the Symposium

1. There is a need for proper assessment of groundwater resources at the macro and micro level, for each state, delineation of the potential aquifer systems, adopting newer technology and integrated groundwater information system needs to be put into place.
2. Upconing of saline water occurs in the fresh water areas underlain by saline ground water due to indiscriminate pumping without scientific consideration. Management models are required to determine optimum pumping rates in space and time to minimize saline water upconing.
3. High groundwater consuming industries should be preferably located in areas with high potential of ground water.
4. A paradigm shift in the role of government from provider and financier to facilitator especially for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of groundwater involving participation of stakeholders.
5. There is need for establishing a National / State Centre / Centres of Excellence in Ground Water Sector including Groundwater Modeling for carrying out comprehensive ground water management.

6. Efficient water management techniques using water saving devices like sprinkler, drip irrigation system, etc. should be encouraged comprehensively.
7. The National Water Policy needs suitable modifications and redrafting including evolving an appropriate Policy for ground water governance for each State, strategies could be suitable to location specific, considering resource, enhancement & socio-economic set up.
8. The governance and ownership and property right issues in ground water sector have not been properly resolved, and this is causing anomalies in water management. The regulation and management of ground water has to reflect equity and protection of weaker sections issues as also to quality and environmental concern.
9. It is to revamp all water related laws, including the essential act, into an integrated system of water laws.
10. Planning of ground water resource be based on hydrological boundaries rather than administrative boundaries and States sharing common aquifers should develop a regional approach to water ownership so as to ensure equity.
11. For Ground Water Legislation to be more effective, stakeholders should be made conscious of their role in utilization and protection of the resources. Hence, there is an imperative and urgent need of educating and creating awareness among users for economical and optimal use of ground water resources.
12. Groundwater development requires immediate action to strengthen the groundwater institutions in all states for better governance of groundwater resources, implementation of artificial recharge projects, managing saline aquifers etc.
13. Research and development activity in groundwater sector should be undertaken with more integrated, multi-disciplinary and sustainable approach to groundwater governance including utilization of saline ground water.
14. For proper implementation of legislative measures, an authentic data base is a pre-requisite. Information gathering and resource planning based on systematic scientific research, initiating demand and supply side management within a standardized and integrated frame work may be geared up for management of groundwater data infrastructure.
15. The ownership of ground water needs to be vested with the State Government by making suitable amendments to the constitution to give effect to the provisions of the National Water Policy 2002.

16. Model Bill 2005 needs to be modified through bottom up approach with community partnership and rational ground water pricing policy.
17. A clear cut demarcation needs to be established between ownership and right to use the resource by enacting laws. The question of land owners and land less needs to be addressed within the legal framework taking into account principles of access, justice and social equity.
18. There is a need for establishing a regime of water rights and entitlements along with dependable water access systems in the predominantly agricultural watersheds to off-set the inequities arising out of natural endowment factors.
19. The slab systems for water pricing structure need to be adopted wherein the economically weaker section of the society and small farmers can be charged at a subsidized rate whereas the big users with the increasing demands, the water price can be increased substantially.
20. It is difficult to prescribe the 'pricing' as one of the tool for better ground water management, because it is difficult to price or regulate a resource as the ownership rights are not clearly defined.
21. A regulatory mechanism has to be evolved by introducing slab system of pricing ground water for different uses and also on the quantum. Higher the consumption more should be the price.
22. People's partnership participation is a pre-requisite for any groundwater management activity. However, the long term effectiveness of the activity needs to be assessed in a scientific way.
23. Formation of watershed Committees and people's partnership should be a pre-requisite for watershed development, groundwater augmentation and the Committee/individuals should be made responsible to take measures to recharge the groundwater.
24. Women's partnership should be an integral part of ground water governance.

World Water Day

The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

The United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March of each year as the World Water Day by adopting a resolution. This World Water Day was to be observed starting in 1993.

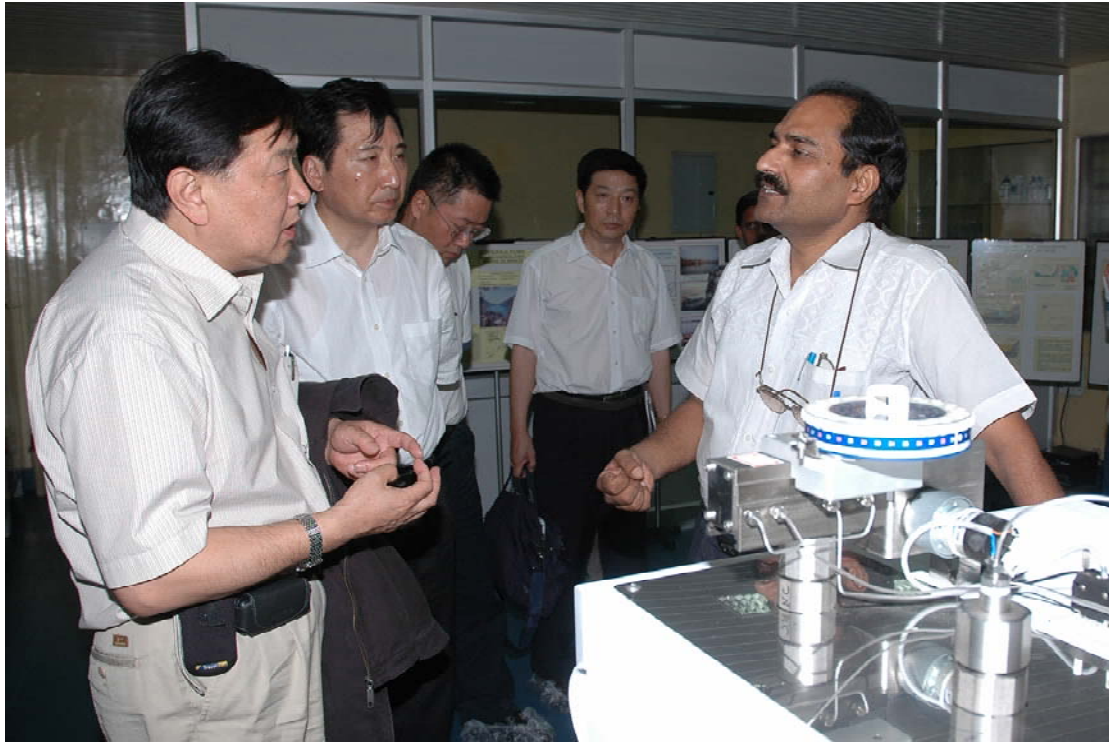
National Institute of Hydrology celebrated this day at its headquarters and regional centers. A team headed by Shri V K Dwivedi, Sc. E1 has celebrated this day by educating the rural women at Lemdgao, District Tehri, and Uttarakhand. A large number of rural women participated in the programme and were taught about water conservation and practices.

At headquarters this day was observed as Open Day for general public. An invitation pamphlet with do's and don'ts about water was circulated in the newspapers. The general public and children visited the laboratories and enjoyed the scientific interaction with the scientists of the Institute. The open day function was coordinated by Shri Omkar Singh, Sc.E1 and Shri S S Kanwar, Documentation Officer. A drawing competition on the theme of "Water Conservation" was held for the children of various age groups. In this competition, 66 children participated and exhibited beautiful ideas in different colours. There were four groups from class LKG to XI. The winners from each category were selected and rewarded. The painting competition was organized by Shri A K Lohani, Sc. E1 and Dr Anupama Sharma, Sc. C. During the second half, a quiz competition was held for the employees of the Institute. Six teams participated in the competitions. Questions related with Water Resources/Hydrology, Current Events, Freedom Struggle, Indian History, Audio Visual Section and Sports were asked. All the teams participated actively and the two winner teams were awarded. The first prize was awarded to Shri V K Sharma, JE (Senior Grade), Shri M K Sharma, JE (Senior Grade) and Shri Furqanullah (Asst. Library Information Officer) and the second prize was awarded to Shri Mohar Singh, Shri S K Sathyarthi and Shri G S Dual. The quiz competition was held by Dr Sudhir Kumar, Sc. E1 and Dr Manohar Arora, Sc. B.

A popular lecture on the theme "Water Resources Development in India: Issues and Problems" was delivered by Dr B N Asthana, Professor, WRDM IIT Roorkee. Dr Asthana shared his experiences with the scientists and employees of the Institute.



Workshop for Water Conservation for Rural Women on the occasion of World Water Day-2007 at Lambgaon, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand held on 22 March, 2007



13.1: Visit of Chinese Delegation to the Nuclear Hydrology Laboratory of NIH, Roorkee on 28 September 2006



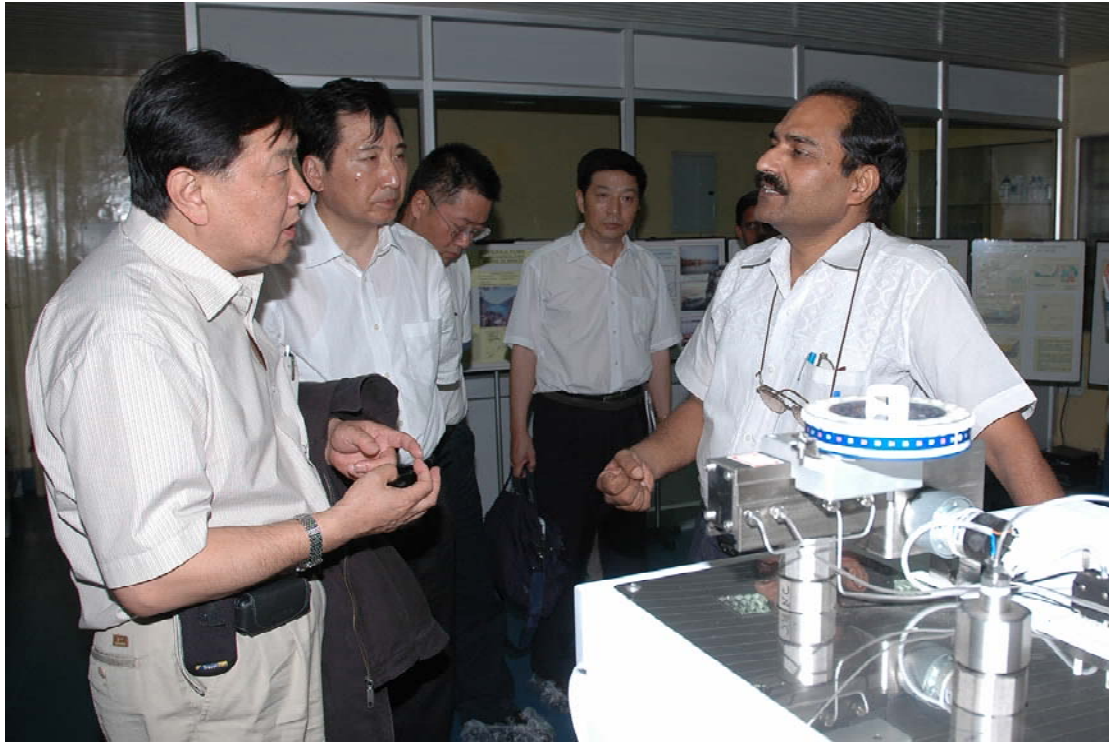
13.2: Visit of Iranian Delegation to the GIS and Remote Sensing Laboratory of NIH, Roorkee on February 16, 2007



13.3: Visit of Shri S Manoharan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India to the NIH Nuclear Hydrology Laboratory on 28 March, 2007



13.4: Shri. M. Subramanyam, IAS, District Magistrate and Collector, East Godavari District, A.P addressing the gathering on the occasion of World Water Day at DRC, Kakinada on 22 March, 2007



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