

Integral University, Lucknow

A Report on “World Water Day 2018” in the campus on 22nd March, 2018

The Department of Civil Engineering, Integral University Lucknow commemorates “World Water Day 2018” to raise awareness among masses regarding water conservation and management. The theme for the year 2018 was “Nature for water”- exploring nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face in the 21st century.

Initiating the programme, Ms. Neha Mumtaz, Assistant Professor, Integral University welcomed the dignitaries that included Hon’ble Chancellor, Integral University; Chief Guest Mr. G. Pattanaik (IAS), Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam; Professor Jamal Nusrat, Water and Land Management Institute; Prof. M.K.J. Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor (acting), Integral University and the programme convener, Prof. Syed Aqeel Ahmad Head, Department of Civil Engineering, Integral University, Lucknow.

In his welcome address, Prof. Syed Aqeel Ahmad convener of the event briefed the audience regarding the background for World Water Day. He highlighted the facts that after observing growing problems of population and economic activities United Nation General Assembly responded by devoting a day to water which came to be known as World Water Day. Since its inception in 1993, it is being celebrated annually on 22nd March as World Water Day. He emphasized to use the Nature Base solutions to deal in the water problem being faced in 21st century.

Special Guest, Prof. Aqil Ahmad, Controller of Examination, Integral University, enlightened the audience regarding the distribution of water on earth and in human body. Further, he emphasized the fact that water is the prime element for life on earth quoting Dr. A.P.J Abul Kalam, he said World War III will be on water. Water level is going down as it is being extracted beyond capacity an alarming situation.

Distinguished Guest, Prof. Jamal Nusrat, stressed about decreasing ratio of Water availability and water demand. He focused about the help that nature has been offering for many centuries. He correlated the word **BHAGWAN** with the five elements of nature i.e. BH as bhoomi, G as gagan, W as vayu, A as Agni and N as neer. He quoted various references from religious text to highlight the importance of water in nature cycle and ecosystem and their inter-conversion. He further quoted, Former U.S President, John. F. Kennedy “**The best scientist is the one who can desalinate the sea water in least cost**”. He concluded that sun is the ultimate source of energy and we should adopt means to harness that solar energy.

Guest of Honour, Prof. M.K.J Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor (Acting) begin his address that water is an asset and it involves everyone and everything. He expressed his concern over the decreasing water level and recommended that water should be used judiciously by minimizing the water demand.

Chief Guest, Shri G. Pattanaik (IAS), Chairman, U.P Jal Nigam initiated by saying we did not understand that water is our asset. He further elaborated that 96.26% of volume of water on the earth is not available for human consumption. Regarding decreasing water level he gave the example of Noida city. He further added that 19th century boasts of industrial revolution but we could not manage the model of development. He gave example of Israel that 70% is desert but ISRAEL creates water by recycling 90% of waste water. He concluded that changing lifestyle of people even in villages lead to the environmental imbalance.

Hon’ble Chancellor, Prof. S.W. Akhtar, Integral University, Lucknow and President of the function welcomed the guests and emphasized on the growing need of doing something concrete to save our future generation from water crisis. He suggested various means of water conservation and management such as interlinking of rivers and groundwater recharge. He cited specific example of BASRA city, Iraq that city is so well planned that water level cannot go down. Since the streams are link to sea and as sea water moves it loses its salinity. Similar types of water management programmes need to be implemented in our country also. He concluded that Water Day should not be celebrated just like a day but should be taken as a message and pledges to take care of our water resources.

To disseminate water consciousness various events viz. Poster Presentation, Aquatech Quiz and Group Discussion were organized which witnessed a wide range of students participation from diverse background. Distinguished Guest, Prof. Jamal Nusrat, Water and Land Management Institute, Lucknow delivered an informative and thought provoking lecture in the technical session addressing various global water issues and discussed their sustainable solutions.

Shri. Syed Waseem Ahmad, OSD to Hon'ble Chancellor also interacted with students in the Technical session and shared his experiences related to Water Conservation and Management.

Shri. Sabih Ahmad, Former Head, Department of Civil Engineering, Integral University, Lucknow proposes the Vote of thanks and conveyed his deep regard for the guest and finally he thanked all the organizers of World Water Day 2018.

