

Chapter – 13

WORLD WATER DAY

Major programmes / activities carried out during World Water Day - 2009 by National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee and its Regional Centres

World Water Day is celebrated every year on 22nd March in order to focus international attention on the importance of freshwater and to take concrete steps for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. Initiated by the United Nations, World Water Day invites countries all over the world to implement UN recommendations and evolve useful strategies to tackle the current global water crisis that is even more serious than the economic meltdown.

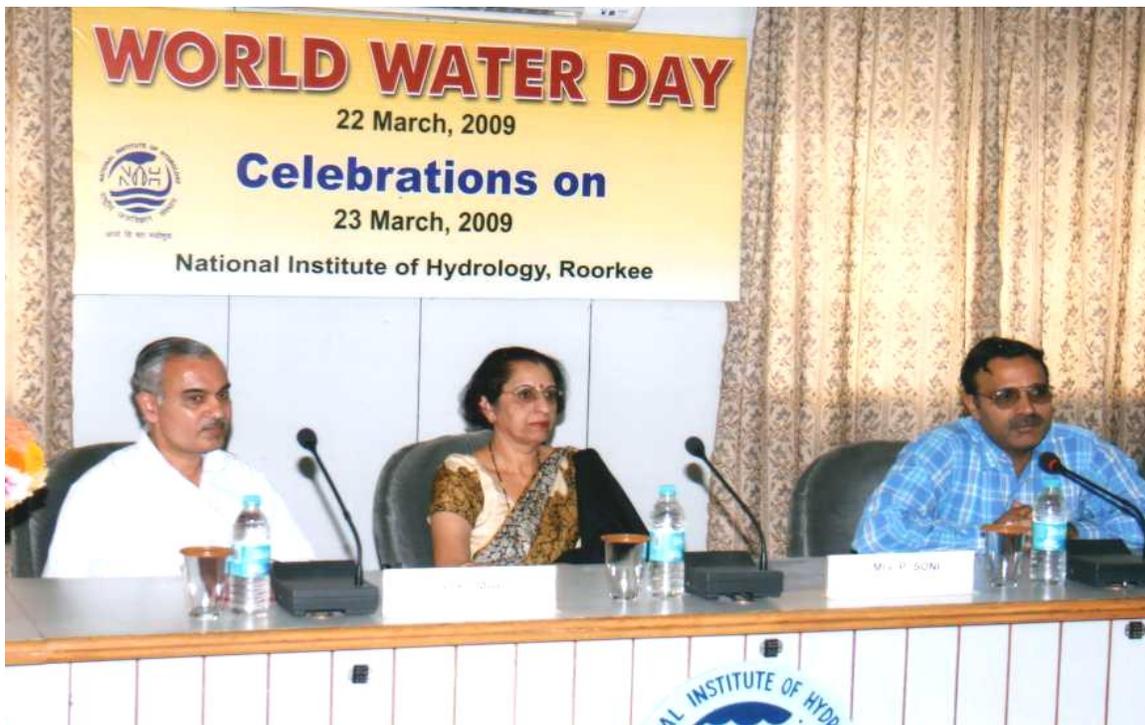
Theme for this year's World Water Day is "Transboundary water" and the focus is on transboundary waters i.e. sharing water and sharing opportunities. With every country seeking to satisfy its water needs from limited water resources, some foresee a future filled with conflict. But history shows that cooperation, not conflict, is the most common response to transboundary water management issues.

Over the last 60 years, there have been more than 200 international water agreements and only 37 cases of reported violence between states over water. We need to continue to nurture the opportunities for cooperation that transboundary water management can provide. We share the responsibility for managing the world's transboundary waters for current and future generations.

National Institute of Hydrology celebrated this day at the headquarters and regional centres. To create awareness on the hydrological problems and as a part of World Water Day celebration, a drawing competition was organized on 23rd March, 2009 for Class VI to VIII students. It was held two categories – one for local schools and other for children of NIH staff members. The topic was "*Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources*". A total of 27 students participated in the competition, out of which 14 were from various schools and 13 were children of NIH staff members. The drawings sketched by the students clearly give an idea that our younger generation has perspectives and vision about the importance of water. A written quiz competition was organized on 23rd March, 2009 for students of class IX and XI on the topic "*Floods and Droughts in India*". A total of 20 students from various schools and children of NIH staff members participated in the quiz. By looking at their performance, one can say that our young students are quite aware about the hydrological problems in the country.



World Water Day – 2009 Function at National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee



Workshop on “Ecosystem Security” on the occasion of World Water Day – 2009

A Workshop on "*Ecosystem Security*" was conducted on 25th March, 2009. On this occasion, an expert lecture on "*Ecosystem Security*" was delivered by Mrs. Prafulla Soni, Head, Ecology & Environment Division, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun and discussions were made with the scientists and scientific staff of NIH. Faculty members and students from IIT, Roorkee were also invited for the workshop.

Mrs. Soni explained about (a) ecosystem services, (b) ecological footprints, (c) biodiversity, ecosystem services and adaptation, (d) linkages of climate change, adaptation and biodiversity, and (e) principles of National Action Plan on Climate Change. The participants showed keen interest in the lecture and there was active interaction regarding ecosystem security. Based upon the discussions, the following salient recommendations emerged from the workshop.

1. Unprecedented additional efforts would be required to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss at all levels.
2. More progress in reducing biodiversity loss can be achieved through:
 - Better integration into broader development and poverty reduction strategies and greater coherence and synergies among sectoral responses
 - More systematic consideration of trade-offs among ecosystem services
 - More equitable and fair access to and sharing of ecosystem services
3. The challenges of climate change have to be addressed urgently.
4. The energy security has to be ensured.
5. Inclusive growth with adequate employment creation in rural areas.
6. National local resources should be used to the maximum.

In order to make the public aware about various facts regarding the availability of fresh water resources and wastage of water, information was prepared and circulated through local classified publication. The activities organized on World Water Day-2009 were covered by a number of daily newspapers. The World Water Day – 2009 was also celebrated at the Regional Centres of National Institute of Hydrology.