

World Water Day; 22nd March 2017

Theme; “Fresh Water”



World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March as the World Water Day (WWD) and celebrated 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day. An international day in response to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) commonly called the Earth Summit. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater resources. The theme for 2017 is "Wastewater".

The day focuses attention on the importance of universal access to clean water and the need to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. WWD is also used to highlight the need for improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in developing countries. Today, there are over 663 million people living without access to a safe fresh water supply close to home, spending countless hours queuing or trekking to distant sources, and coping with the health impacts of using contaminated water.

South Asia is home to about a quarter of the global population, but has less than 5 per cent of the world's annual renewable water resources. Low per capita water availability, coupled with a very high relative level of water use (dominated by irrigation), makes South Asia one of the most water scarce regions of the world. Fresh water quality is polluted by dumping untreated sewage, solid waste and industrial effluents into rivers, streams and other water bodies. The poor segment of the society is using fresh water from these water bodies without any filtration or treatment and thus are highly vulnerable to various diseases. Let us commit ourselves to respect fresh water resources both in quantity and quality as it is an essential component of life on earth.