

CII Water Institute organized a **Conference on Emerging Tech Solutions in Water & Waste Water Management** today.

Press Release

A holistic approach to address issues of Environment Sustainability

required: Dr. Anil Kakodkar

Structural changes to leverage deployment of technology to manage water and wastewater in an integrated manner: Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission

Dr Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission & Chairman of Jury, CII National Awards for Excellence in Water Management. stressed for structural changes to leverage deployment of technology to manage water and wastewater in an integrated manner. However, Dr Kakodkar, cautioned to ensure equitable deployment of technologies necessitating accrument of desired benefits in simultaneously manging the depleting fresh water and treating generated wastewater. According to him, inequitable use of water in agriculture & pollution should be dealt with in the contemporary context. He applauded the role of industry in progressively deploying technology not only for their operations but also for their engagement with community in driving forward the management of sustainable water resources.

Dr Anil Kakodkar was the Chief guest at the Conference on Emerging Technology Solutions in Water & Wastewater Management organised by CII Water Institute today through Virtual platform.

Dr Kakodlkar urged the industry to look at the present challenges for environment sustainability with an enlarged horizon beyond water and wastewater, encompassing other aspects of environment including air so as to ensure a holistic approach towards addressing the issues of environment sustainability and the disparities that are creeping in our society.

Dr Shyam R Asolekar, MPCB Chair Professor, Environmental Science & Engineering Department (ESED), Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) referring to the article 21, “Right to live” of Constitution which is interpreted in favour of environment protection and has been equated to right to live in “clean environment” and Right to “healthy living” said that, this has led to the emergence of new concept of environmental Justice that is justice to humans and also the environment. This leaves a huge responsibility on the citizens and industry on the responsibility to curb pollution, stressed Dr Asolekar.

Dr Asolekar stressed that wastewater management is critical for conservation and health of the ecosystems. Elaborating on the imminent challenges in water and wastewater management, he made a strong plea for adopting Nature based solutions, deployment of cost effective technology and affordable ZLD. For transitioning to a sustainable future, Dr Asolekar highlighted the criticality of leveraging innovative science & technology. Elaborating further he opined that “Frugal Engineering” will be of immense importance, given that we are a large country, and will have to be fugal in every way to bring out cost effective products. Therefore, a new branch on Frugal Engineering needs to be developed, he stressed.

Preventive Environmental Management and Incremental Development encompassing development of masses would also be important, said Dr Asolekar.

Dr (Mrs) Sadhana Rayalu, Chief Scientist, National Environmental Engineering, Research Institute (NEERI), spoke on the emerging Energy Environment Nexus (E2N) and strategic issues around the globe for improving the quality of life and maintaining it as well. Dr Rayalu, elaborated on the various technological solutions based on highly advanced catalytic processes, solar energy triggered catalysis and plasmonics systems bring to make systems energy neutral. Dr Rayalu, also highlighted various R&D related challenges in developing these technologies.

Dr (Mrs) Anita Gupta, Head - Technology Missions Division (Energy, Water), Department of Science & Technology, Government of India apprised the audience on the various water technology initiatives, missions and international partnerships and startup initiatives taken by DST in water sector and stressed on partnership with industry in upscaling and marketing of technology. Briefing on the water technology initiative, she informed that the DST has identified 19 water related challenges in 23 states and has proposed 42 convergent solutions to address the challenges.

Mr Ajay Popat, Conference Chairman, Chair – Core group on Promotion of New and Cutting-edge Technology for Wastewater Management (National Committee on Water) & President, Ion Exchange (India) Limited welcoming the members earlier in the session felt innovation in water and wastewater technologies will be imperative in addressing water scarcity and transitioning to a circular economy. He briefed on the the core group on “Promotion of New & Cutting-edge Technology for Wastewater Management” under National Committee on Water, which will identify wastewater technologies that are scalable, commercially viable on life cycle cost basis and sustainable in the short & long term in four sectors (Distillery, Pharmaceutical, Chemical & Agrochemical and Iron & Steel).

Science and technology have an important role to play in water resources development and management of wastewater. To reinvigorate debate on criticality of adoption of technology in water management, CII organized a Conference on “Emerging Technology Solutions in Water & Wastewater Management”. It aims to propagate technologies for water & wastewater management which are cost effective, energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

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