

December 2014

# Progress report of Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies

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**Progress report**  
**October 1- December 31, 2014**



## 1. Highlights

- Networking with other organizations, collaborative research and action projects initiated.
- Exposure opportunities given to students.
- Panel discussion on ‘Cleaning of Indian rivers- design of participative approaches’ held on October 7, 2014 in the presence of Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Ms Uma Bharti.
- Two more PhD students enrolled with the Department in December 2014, making total number of PhD scholars in the Department to Three.

## 2. Research projects and funding

The Department has been making efforts to start research and projects which will not only help student and faculty member’s academic growth, but will also help in the growth and visibility of the Department and build-up the knowledge capital. Focus is also on partnership building and collaborative research. Table 1 gives a brief on the collaborative funded projects.

Table 1. List of funded projects in the Department

S.No.	Title of the project	Collaborating Partners	Duration of the project	Remarks
1.	Socio-ecological metabolism study for urban water planning: a case study of Delhi	University of Toronto, Canada	One year	Funded by Enel Foundation
2.	Strengthening water and sanitation in urban settings	TERI, Coca-Cola and some NGOs	Three years	The project sets out to reach 20 municipal schools and 2,500 students through school WASH programs, 50,000 beneficiaries in low-income settlements, and over 300 professionals through WASH governance studies.
3.	Understanding decentralized energy interventions and their success conditions in select countries of Asia – Pacific	Tongji University, China; AIT, Thailand; University of Gahdah Madha, Indonesia	One year	Funded by ProSPER.Net, Japan

## 3. Exposure opportunities to students of the Department

### 3.1 Field visits for students

Students of the first semester were divided into six groups and taken out on study tours during the month of September, 2014. They visited places in India like Agra, Roorkee, Alwar, Lucknow, Jagdishpur and Mukhteswar. The objective was to give them an exposure to

understand sustainability issues, challenges faced in urban, rural and natural habitats and management of natural resources. Annexure I gives a brief on the study tours.

### 3.2 Participation of students in outside events

The students of WSG programme attended National seminar on Sanitation on December 9, 2014 at India International Center, New Delhi. The event was organized by HE Times (Health and Environment Times). The focus area of the seminar was the need for convergence of views on planning and capacity building measures in the field of sanitation. Eminent speakers included Dr. NB Mazumdar, Mr Gouri Sankar Ghosh, Dr. Regina Dube, Mr.Sujoy Majumdar amongst others. The event brought together an opportunity for our students to listen to and interact with many eminent personalities.

### 3.3 Lectures by Visiting faculty

Dr Mansi Jasuja of Water Governance Centre, Netherlands was invited in the month of August, 2014 to deliver a lecture on water foot print to the students of the Department. She is an urban environment expert, working in the field of water resilient urban development, climate change impact and adaptation, so her lecture to the students was very informative.

Dr Greg Koch, Global Water Stewardship Director, Coca-Cola interacted and gave a lecture on *Global water stress and response: views of major water challenges, future changes, and response by a global beverage company* on November 14, 2014.



Photo: Students of Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies interacting with Dr Koch

### 3.4 Inter-Department competition

The students of the Department organized an inter Departmental talk on “Whose Land, Whose Water’ on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 in the University. There were seven participants for the event from various Departments of the University and they spoke enthusiastically on their Departmental perspectives on the issue. The talk veered towards ground water and its exploitation and the need for firm policy and strict laws in the matter. All agreed that sustainability would have to be the key for management of water resources efficiently in the future.

## **4. Conduct of a Panel discussion – a major event**

To set the tone of the programs offered by the Department and enthuse public to the challenges of water management and the need for multi-disciplinary solutions, the Department organized a half day event on the theme “Cleaning of India’s Rivers - Design of Participatory approaches” on October 7, 2014. Successful cleaning of the river is a major urban governance challenge, and has been brought to the forefront as a national priority. The Honorable Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation delivered the Keynote address at this event. Invited delegates included decision makers and representatives from academic institutes, multinational organizations, policy makers, and NGOs. The event provided a platform to discuss challenges, strategies and opportunities for cleaning of rivers for sustainable water management.

### **Brief report of the event**

*“She is a symbol of India’s age old culture and civilization, ever changing, ever flowing and yet over the same Ganga.”* These words prelude the short film – Ganga Diaries – produced by the film division of The Energy and Resources Institute. And, not just the film, these words form the narrative of today’s effort of Indian Government, and Indians in general, of cleaning their rivers.

The event started with the screening of the short film, Ganga Diaries, in the august presence of Sushri Uma Bharati, Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ambassador of Netherlands; Shri Venkatesh Kini, President Coca Cola India and South-West Asia; Dr. R. K. Pachauri, Chancellor of TERI University and Director-General of TERI; Dr. Leena Shrivastava, Vice-Chancellor of TERI University, and other distinguished guests from Ministry, Coca Cola India, TERI and other reputed organizations. Dr. Leena Shrivastava in her welcome address emphasized the need of industry-academia participation, multidisciplinary approach towards learning, capacity building to respond to the emerging diverse needs and training students to become leaders of sustainable future. She gave an elaborate account of Coca-Cola and TERI-University’s collaboration in various projects including projects related to sanitation. She welcomed the Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies as a step towards capacity building and creation of opportunities in the interdisciplinary study of water. She also declared the inter-university competition on Integrated Water Resource Management as an initiative for spreading awareness about conservation among students. Shri Kini expressed the Coca-Cola’s commitment towards water conservation and community development through various initiatives undertaken by Coca-Cola. He gave a brief account of what has been the

achievement of Coca-Cola like reduction of water consumption per liter of beverage by 47% and projects with community participation for building water storage capacity of ten billion liters. He reaffirmed Coca-Cola's commitment towards rejuvenation and replenishment of fresh water resources and said that Department of Regional Water Studies is a step to reinforce it in form of creating professionals who can work in water sector with interdisciplinary understanding and approach. Dr. R. K. Pachauri congratulated the TERI-U and Coca-Cola and encouraged the gathering to think about participatory approaches towards rejuvenation and management of water bodies. He quoted examples from his experiences in USA and gave an assurance that the task of cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers, which is in the priority in India currently, can be done with the participation of millions of those who live near the rivers as their livelihoods are dependent on them. The Hon'ble Minister congratulated TERI-U and Coca-Cola for their efforts. While she was speaking about river cleaning and rejuvenation, she stressed on the importance of trained and skilled professionals. She also made it clear that the ministry is committed towards participatory planning and that the role of women is of utmost importance in this whole endeavour. She expressed her concern about the environmental flow and natural ecosystem of the river. She also invited academicians, industrialists, environmentalists, activists, communities to come forward for this noble cause.



Photo: The event captured by various print media in India

## Student field trip report

Students of the first semester were divided into six groups and taken on study tours in the month of September, 2014 to different places like Agra, Roorkee, Alwar, Lucknow, Jagdishpur and Mukhteswar in India. This was their first study tour after joining the University and the idea was to give them an exposure to sustainability issues, challenges faced in urban, rural and natural habitats and management of resources including water resources. TERI University's endeavour to attune students to technology options for betterment of life in rural habitat like rural electrification through solar lighting initiatives (part of TERI's project on lighting a billion lives) was shown to the group who visited Agra and its vicinities in a village near Mathura and Dayal Bagh Education Institute in Agra. While the group which went to Roorkee visited the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) and they were apprised of the latest equipment in the various laboratories of NIH. They also visited a nearby village in Uttar Pradesh where the students of IIT Roorkee have commissioned biogas plant producing 4kW electricity and is used for irrigation by farmers. The student group which went to Lucknow and its vicinity visited village Panhauna in rural Uttar Pradesh which runs on solar micro grid- a part of TERI initiative to light a billion lives (LaBL mission). In another village Ashrafpur, the students experienced how the stainless steel improved biomass cook stove (TERI used forced draft technology to improve cook stove design) has improved the lives in rural habitats by improving fuel efficiency and reduced pollution. This group was also taken to Dudhwa National Park.



The student group which visited Nainital, went to the Jim Corbett National Park and Kafli, a remote hill village near Mukhteswar amongst other places. They saw working of low cost water management technologies, roof top water harvesting facilities and herbal oil distillation plant setup by TERI for villagers.



The group that visited Alwar and Jaipur in Rajasthan visited Siliserh Lake which was constructed in 1845 by the local King. this lake is still used for irrigation in adjacent areas. In addition, students visited sites which have derived benefits from water conservation structures built by Tarun Bhagat Sangh. They also visited Barefoot College in Tilonia. The Barefoot College is unique as it is completely run on solar generated electricity and has developed women self- help groups who make solar heaters and solar cookers amongst other things.



The students unanimously agreed that their study tour gave them an exposure to challenges faced in urban, rural and natural environments. They appreciated the various sustainable solution initiatives that have been taken up in various locations.