

Tamil Nadu River Week 2017

Theme: *River as Ecosystem*

Scope, Challenges and Pathways to Restore River Ecosystems



Venue: **Tata-Dhan Academy**

Date: **July 4-5, 2017**



DHAN Foundation

Organizing Partners

Water Knowledge Centre
Tata - Dhan Academy



DHAN Vayalagam (Tank)
Foundation

Background



“By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes”.

- ‘Transforming our worlds: the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development’, UN General Assembly, 2015 (one of 169 targets)

Rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands are considered the most important ecological assets of any nation. Rivers in particular connects people and contributes to livelihoods, food security, sanitation and overall people's prosperity. Needless to say that many great civilizations have evolved and prospered along river banks.

A country's economic development and food security depends upon the health of its rivers. If rivers fail, it goes without saying that a country's economy, society and polity will be greatly traumatized. Access to fresh water is also absolutely necessary for maintaining biodiversity, ecological security and to maintain groundwater resource. A dry river or a polluted river would mean a complete loss of ecology, bio-diversity and groundwater resource. Therefore, what we need is sustainable development which drives home the key point that river and river water could be used without compromising the needs of the future generations.



Today, all across the world, more than 650 million people still live without protected drinking water supply; lack of protected drinking water and sanitation is the second biggest killer of children below 5 years. Do we need any other data to draw attention to the prime necessity to protect our rivers in this world!

Tamil Nadu Rivers – Present Status & Concerns



Our major rivers in India and in Tamil Nadu state are in great danger today due to multiplicity of factors: Tamil Nadu has 17 major rivers and most of which are heavily damaged. A few are west flowing, but majority are east flowing originating in the western ghats, the most important being the river Cauvery and its tributaries (Bhavani, Noyyal, Amaravathi and Kodaganar), Vaigai, Gundar, Vaippar, Thamaraparani, Palar, etc. Rivers at the moment are treated as dumping yards for solid and bio-medical wastes, urban sewage, building debris, industrial effluent which greatly threaten the health of rivers and endanger aquatic life, bio-diversity and overall riverine ecosystem. The flood plains and even riverbed in some places are encroached. sand mining has damaged the riverbed thoroughly, as a result the river bed aquifer is completely damaged / depleted.

Furthermore, all the rivers are indiscriminately dammed as a consequence of which sediment flow is practically stopped flowing to downstream. On the whole, all human induced activities are unabated which is disastrous for the sustenance for the entire humanity. It's like destroying one's own lungs - the breathing space.

First Tamil Nadu River Week 2017

With a view to raising debate and awareness about the importance of rejuvenating rivers, India River Week was first organized in 2014 in New Delhi by a consortium of institutions comprising WWF-India, SANDRP, Toxics Link, INTACH and PEACE Institute. Its second meeting was held in the year 2016 in New Delhi. After seeing the tremendous success of this initiative it was decided to hold Tamil Nadu River Week on the same lines with the theme. DHAN Foundation, Madurai is intended to take this initiative jointly with few potential consortium partners, having experience on the theme with their meritorious works and hereby announcing the first Tamil Nadu River Week 2017 at Madurai on July 4-5, 2017 on the following broader theme namely.

'River as Ecosystem'

Scope, Challenges and Pathways to Restore River Ecosystems

| Timeline | Focus and Events |
|-----------------------|--|
| July 4 Morning | Inaugural Session – 'River as Ecosystem' & Lecture on 'Understanding the Health of Rivers' |
| | 'Restoring River Ecosystem' Scope, Challenges and Pathways to Restore River Ecosystems |
| Afternoon | Paper and Poster presentation on "Tamil Nadu North River System" River in focus: Palar, Chennai urban rivers, which includes Adyar, Cooum, and Kosasthalayar, Vellar, South Pennaiyar (Parallel Events) |
| July 5 Morning | Paper and Poster presentation on "Tamil Nadu South River System" River in focus: Cauveri, Pambar Kottakaraiyar, Vaigai, Gundar, Vaipar, Thamirabarani |
| Afternoon | 1) Panel Discussion – Scope and Pathways to Restore River Ecosystem 2) Concluding Session |





Paper Presentation

Only invited paper presentation

Poster Presentation

Participants can send their abstracts and posters on the topics/theme shared in the schedule to wkc@dhan.org before 25th June 2017. Selected participants will be intimated through email and to be presented during respective event.

- Abstract word limit : 400 – 500 words
- Poster : A1/A2 size, Word count: 300-800, Portrait/Landscape, Name, Designation and Institution should be mentioned in bottom right corner of the poster.

Registration

- Only 250 participants allowed per event
- 250 rupees for the students per day
- 500 rupees for Research Scholars, Professors and others per day

The registration fee would cover tea snacks and lunch on every day. Lodging has to be met by the participants. The registration would be completed on or before 30th June 2017. The registration fee could be paid at the time of registration in cash / cheque or Demand Draft in the name of “**DHAN Foundation**” payable at Madurai.

Tamil Nadu River Week Organising Committee

Dr. S. Janakarajan, Professor (Retd), MIDS and President, SaciWATERS
Mr. A. Gurunathan, Director, Tata-Dhan Academy

Convenors

C/o **DHAN Foundation**

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