



GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT



Theme Seminar “Water Security, Climate Change and Sustainable Development”

Monday, January 12, 2015 | Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar

Press Release

‘Water Security, Climate Change and Sustainable Development’

As part of Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015, Gujarat Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Climate Change Department and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. organized an International Seminar on the topic “Water Security, Climate Change and Sustainable Development” on January 12, 2015 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat with Third World Centre for Water Management, Mexico and KPMG as the Knowledge Partners.

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon’ble Union Minister of State, Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India; **Shri Vijaybhai Ramniklal Rupani**, Hon’ble Minister for Transport, Water Supply, Labour and Employment, Government of Gujarat and **Mr. Mogens Jensen**, Hon’ble Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation, Denmark were the guest of honors. Distinguished dignitaries present in the seminar were **Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri**, Chairman, IPCC, and Director General, TERI, New Delhi, India; **Prof. Asit K. Biswas**, Co-Founder the Third World Center for Water Management Mexico.

Other distinguished and internationally renowned speakers comprising of eminent experts, industry representatives and noteworthy academicians graced the event and shared their experiences and vision on the need to utilize every possible source of energy in a sustainable, cost effective and environment friendly manner.

Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary, Water Supply Department and Climate Change Department, Government of Gujarat and Managing Director, GNFC Ltd. delivered the introductory remarks. He briefly explained the initiatives of Government of Gujarat to tackle water scarcity through ‘State-Wide Water Supply Grid’.

Hon’ble Minister, Shri Vijaybhai Ramniklal Rupani, introduced and welcomed notable dignitaries and invited all the delegates to participate enthusiastically in the succeeding discussions, and brainstorm on the way forward towards a future of water industry.

Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri delivered the keynote address by categorically stressing the need for sustainability in water sector and also its security. He mentioned that the sustainable development and water security is fundamental to human development and an investment in the collective future.

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon’ble Union Minister of State, Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India announced ‘Water Literacy Mission’ for water conservation. “Public awareness is most needed for water conservation and for protection of natural resource. No act or law could ensure this target if not taken up by the people as a mass movement.” said Mr. Javadekar.



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Following the inaugural session, the event comprised of three theme-based sessions.

The speakers in the first session primarily discussed the climate change and current scenario of the climate and also analyzed its implications in terms of operations, planning and policy making. Subsequently, it was discussed how advancements in storage technologies could help to reduce overall damage and increase the water level in the natural resources.

The second session led to an extensive discussion on sustainability development of water and how to utilize the maximum resource to improve the damage of the natural resource, the session was moderated by **Prof. Asit K. Biswas**.

The final session was moderated by **Mr. Jeremy Bird**, Director General, International Water Management Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Main topic discussed in this session was Constructive discontent: an approach to sustainable development.

Around Five hundred participants attended this International Seminar which included senior representatives from the Government of Gujarat, Government of India, Industry representatives, noteworthy academicians, research scholars from all over the world. All plenary sessions were followed by a brief questions and answers session wherein the participants interacted with the panelists.