

DATE: 22 MARCH 2021

A FUTURE SCENARIO- WE MAY HAVE MORE OIL RESERVES THAN PORTABLE WATER

“Wars of this century are fought over oil, and the wars of the next century will be fought over water,” this was predicted by the World Bank way back in 1995, and almost 25 years later this still resonates with a dire possibility. The United Nation’s World Water Development Report of March 2020, warns that currently 2.2 billion people do not have access to safely managed drinking water, and 4.2 billion or almost 55% of the world’s population, are without safely managed sanitation. Thus, water resources are an essential part of the solution to climate change and for our very own survival and that of planet Earth. annual rainfall in Goa has increased by 68% over the period 1901 2018 and with increasing rainfall. Dr. Sarmokadam said that the communities living in low lying areas, the tourism sector, existing migrant labourers, riverine ecosystem creeks and backwaters are the most affected. Further, Dr. Sarmokadam highlighted the need for doing water audits; this he said would help in understanding water consumption patterns and preparing an action plan. The United Nations has declared 22nd of March each year as ‘World Water Day’ and this year the theme was ‘Valuing Water’. WTC Goa organized a webinar to celebrate this day and highlighted the theme of valuing water in terms of industrial development, future mobility, rain water harvesting and state government policy. Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Bio Diversity Board, in his address quoted the findings of his flood vulnerability analysis which shows that 14.73% of land is under 15 meters, and much of it is in the costal zones, which are severely vulnerable to flooding from both, extreme rainfall events and sea level rise. Amongst these, Salcete, Tiswadi and Bardez talukas are the most vulnerable. Mean Mr. Gaving D’Souza, Director, Lila Digital and Environmental Solutions Pvt. Ltd, while speaking on valuing water through rain water harvesting, mentioned that a water crisis was on the horizon, where one third of world’s water will run out in a few years, and 1 out of 3 people will lack basic sanitation due to water scarcity. He also added that portable water will run out, before oil does. Mr. D’souza further made a presentation highlighting the irresponsible use of water and the careless attitude of citizens toward this vital resource. He also explained the entire process of rain water harvesting systems and informed the delegates about the costing for setting up a rain water harvesting system. Ms. Sucheta Chendvankar, Senior Executive - Human Resource & Systems, Pyro Electric Instruments Goa Pvt Ltd, spoke on the best practices of using water at their plant and factory premises. She highlighted the practices of in-house awareness which is done by word of mouth, banners and slogans placed at various notable places in the factory unit. She further shared that in her factory, water is classified into two categories, one for industrial use and the other for domestic use. Ms. Chendvankar also informed delegates about installing rooftop water harvesting system where the groundwater is recharged by collecting water from the rooftops of a premise. Mr. Jocelyn Britto, Independent Business Consultant, spoke on valuing water for future mobility. He pointed out that electric vehicles are gaining a lot of ground today and he sees that this will progress to hybrid systems of propulsion. This will then graduate to a system that converts oxygen available in water to hydrogen that will propel the vehicles of the future. Mr Britto revealed that this will be a gradual up-scaling in the technology available which will lead us from electric vehicles to vehicles that run on water, where in pollutants from this class of vehicles will be minimum, in turn protecting us and mother earth. Mr. Cyril Desouza, Assistant Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, in his address, expressed confidence that the event would promote awareness about the different aspects of valuing water. He also urged delegates to put into practice where ever possible, to help conserve water to make available important water resources for our use and the use of future generations to come.

This webinar was held on March 22, 2021.