

Genetically Modified Food - Boon or Bane
Guest Speaker - Dr. I. S. Dua

Friday, August 20, 2010

Time : 7:00 P.M.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Chandigarh Midtown initiates Rainwater Harvesting Project

Preliminary Report by AG Prof. S.K. Sharma

Fresh water is a unique but critical resource which has united as well as divided society, communities and nations since time immemorial. There are numerous instances in human history where civilization were created and perished by water. With ever increasing population of the world and over exploitation of water for agriculture, industrial, commercial and house hold use , it has been predicted that wars will be fought over its in near future. Inter governmental panel on climate change predicted that a 1-2 degree Celsius rise in temperature and 10 percent decrease in rainfall, which is a distinct possibility, the water run will decrease by 40-70 percent creating catastrophic situations in many parts of the world.

Although 3/4th of the earth surface is covered by water, only 3 percent of the total available water (37.5 million cu.kms) is fresh water, while rest is saline water unfit for drinking or irrigation. Lakes, rivers and streams constitute only 1 percent of the total fresh water. 77 percent of this fresh water is locked in glaciers and polar ice cap, another 11 percent is ground water below 800 meters which is difficult to exploit and only 11 percent ground water available up to a depth of 800 meter is being used.

Groundwater supplies about one-third of the world's population. Excessive withdrawal of groundwater, in quantities greater than the ability of nature to renew the aquifers, is now widespread in different parts of India. Over exploitation of this meager source of water for agriculture, industrial and domestic use has resulted in its depletion and thus lowering of water table to alarming levels.

Thus, it has become critical to charge the ground water with rain water, 85 percent of which just drains in to the sea some times bringing insurmountable miseries in its wake.

Rainwater harvesting is defined as process of infiltration of surface run off into the ground by artificial methods. Rain

water harvesting is essential to arrest decline in ground water level, increase in vegetation cover so as to improve ecology, reduce flooding. In urban areas like Chandigarh percolation of rain water in subsoil is substantially reduced due to construction of buildings roads and pavements. As a result, the underground aquifers are not replenished and ground water level is falling due to over exploitation of ground water. Rainwater harvesting can improve water table and reduce flooding and accumulation of water on the road and low lying areas during rainy season.

Rain water in urban areas can be harvested by storing rainwater in containers above or below the ground in small building. However, in large buildings, rain water can be directly charged in to the soil through bore well to recharge aquifers to augment ground water.

Each rain water harvesting system will have four elements namely: Catchment area (roof); Conduits pipes to collect water from different structures of school; Settlement Tank to remove impurities and Recharge well to deliver water in the deep aquifer. A mapping of the under ground aquifers has been already done to identify the suitable aquifer for the charging. In some locations there is gravel in underground strata which will require great care while boring

the recharge well. After the careful evaluation of the current projects, it is proposed to implement this project in all the 125 schools of Chandigarh.

Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown District 3080, has undertaken a World Community Service Matching Grant Project in partnership with the Rotary Club of Madison, District 7980, United States of America and The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International to install rainwater harvesting systems for charging aquifers in 8 schools of Chandigarh at a total outlay of 12 lakh rupees. The Project Inauguration is expected in the forthcoming week at the Sector 46 Government School, Chandigarh.



Independence Day Celebrations

Report by Co-Editor Dr. Mrs. Shashi Jain



Our Club celebrated Independence Day with the Children of Blind School, Sector 26, Chandigarh. Immaculately dressed in off-white shirts and brown trousers, holding the tri-colour in their hands looking smart and determined like 'Swatantra Senani'. The programme was beautifully compered by Madhu Dhawan. She began by paying rich tributes to the martyrs who had laid down their lives to free our country from the shackles of the British, though today we have yet to free our country from the evils of poverty, illiteracy, corruption and terrorism.

The Children began by invoking the blessings of the Almighty with

Itni shakti hamedena data, man ka vishwas kamjor hona

Singing with gusto, they appeared to be determined to sacrifice their talents for the country.

Singing in praise of the beauty of the motherland, they followed up their repertoire with

Sarejahan se acha Hindustan hamara

Hum bulbulen hain iske yegulistan hamara

With the tri-colour in their hand, the symbol of our dignity, pride, enthusiasm and patriotic fever, they sang spiritedly to keep it flying high

Vijai vishaw trianga pyara, Jhanda uncha rahe hamara

How can we forget the thousands of brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the sake of motherland? The following song is a tribute to those countless brave soldiers

Yeh desh hai veer jawano ka albelon ka mastano ka

After the song the meeting room rented with slogans of 'Vande Matram'. The whole atmosphere was full of patriotic



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fever. The rendering of song by special children was so touching and amazing that all Rotarians and Anns sang along with them.

The last song which was sung in a chorus by the Children and the Rotarians together was:

Hum hongekamyab ek din

Man mehai vishwas aisa hai

Hum hongekamyab ek din

The children looked really determined to succeed in life in spite of their disability. We wish them all the best!!!

Nasadiya, granddaughter of Urmil and President Elect Raj Kumar Luther dressed as 'Jhansi Ki Rani' recited a poem. She was accompanied by her sister Abadhya.

The formal vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Gurinder Dua for the amazing efforts of the children. She said that their songs touched everyone's heart.

Dr. Inderjit Singh Dua greeted the Rotarians who celebrated their birthdays last week as well as the Anniversary couples.

Anita Kapur and Madhu Dhawan sponsored the gifts for the children. We are extremely grateful to them for their generosity.

Third Micro Credit Disbursed from All Italian Districts Micro Loan Fund

One more micro credit of Rs. 20,000.00 was extended last week to Mr. Vijay Bahadur of Janata Colony for expanding his Karyana shop.

Chairman of this Microloan Fund, Arjan Singh, invites all Rotarians to send in applications from needy candidates so as to increase the reach of our efforts. There is a need to publicize the availability of the loans within the club as well as within the District. Kindly spread the word and contact Arjan at 99884-28035.

Sakuji Tanaka choice of Nominating Committee

Sakuji Tanaka, a member of the Rotary Club of Yashio, Saitama, Japan, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International in 2012-13. Tanaka will become the president-nominee on 1 October if there are no challenging candidates.

Tanaka said he would like to see Rotary "continue its vital work as the force to improve our communities."

To do this work, Rotary needs active, involved clubs, he added. "We are fortunate to have our revised RI Strategic Plan to help build strong clubs that are vibrant, action-oriented, and relevant in the changing world."

For 32 years, Tanaka was president of Tanaka Company Ltd., a wholesale firm that went public in 1995 and later merged with other leading wholesalers in Japan. Currently, he serves as vice president of the Yashio City Chamber of Commerce and adviser to Arata Co. Ltd., an animal feed and pet food wholesaler. He also chaired the National Household Papers Distribution Association of Japan for eight years. Tanaka studied business at Nihon Management Daigakuin and Tokyo Management Daigakuin.

Currently a trustee of The Rotary Foundation, Tanaka chaired the 2009 Birmingham Convention Committee. His other service to Rotary includes RI director, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, district governor, and member of the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force, the Permanent Fund Committee for Japan, and the Future Vision Committee.

Tanaka established an endowed Rotary Peace Fellowship, and he and his wife, Kyoko, are Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors of the Permanent Fund, and Major Donors.

He is a recipient of RI's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.

Tanaka said that eradicating polio will "fulfill the promise we made to children in the world" and that "there is no doubt in my mind that the day of this success will be realized in the near future."

Tanaka and Kyoko have three children and five grandchildren.

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Ladakh Disaster Relief Fund

As announced by President Prem Anand, we have received the following message from District Governor Madhukar Malhotra:

"I appeal for funds/supplies to support the residents of the villages in & around Leh which were hit by a cloudburst last week. A number of villages have been very badly affected & lives lost. Villages have been totally wiped out. The loss is tremendous and Leh needs our help today. Rotarians have always provided relief and rehabilitation for the victims of natural calamities. Please make the cash contributions by way of Cheque / Demand Draft in favour of 'Rotary 3080 District Fund' or 'Chandigarh Rotary Club Service Trust' if you seek 80G tax benefit. We look forward to your support in the face of this national tragedy."

The following have contributed in cash and/or kind from our Club already. We appeal to members to please contact our Club President and/or Secretary with their Contributions.

Inner Wheel Chandigarh Midtown	Rs. 5000.00
Col. Dr. V.K. Kapoor	Rs. 5000.00
Mrs. Kanan Diwan	Rs. 2500.00
PP Indrajeet Sengupta	Rs. 2000.00
Daulat Ram Aggawal	Rs. 2000.00
Om Prakash	Rs. 1250.00
President Prem Anand	Rs. 1000.00
Inderpal Singh Suri	Rs. 1000.00
Santosh Khaitan	Rs. 1000.00
PP D. P. Khandelija	Rs. 500.00
Arjan Singh	Rs. 500.00
PP Capt. M.S. Kahlon	Rs. 500.00

Dr. Anurag Sharma on 'heartbroken syndrome'

Dr. Anurag Sharma, Senior Interventional Cardiologist at Alchemist Hospital, Panchkula, is a member of our Club.

Dr. Sharma recently presented a paper on 'heartbroken syndrome' also known as stress cardiomyopathy, at the International Conference of Emergency Medicine in Singapore.

According to Dr. Sharma, this is triggered by extreme or sudden emotional trauma, on encountering news of death, feeling of fear, rage, or even surprise, as against blockages or blood clots in coronary arteries causing heart attacks.

He was recently featured in "The Hindustan Times" for this.

Chandigarh Midtown in aid of Pregnant Mothers

When Director Community Service Mrs. Kanan Diwan and PP Saroj Jhawar visited the Health Centre at Mauli Jagran the doctors requested for Calcium tablets for Pregnant mothers as help. This was promptly provided by them.

Greetings

Birthday of Rotary Ann's

Malabika Sengupta



August 26

Birthday of Rotarians

Tejbans Singh Jauhar

August 22

PDG Shaju Peter



August 23

Chiranjiv Singh

August 25

Punctuality Draw

Won by Dr. Mrs. Shashi Jain



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