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Point for discussion this month

Code of Conduct for Environment Professionals

(For private circulation only)

Dear Readers,

A team of SERInews and SERI with all its business and education associates wish you very happy, prosperous and green new year 2007.

This time, we are focusing on the environmental business as news are coming up regarding the setting up of infrastructural company which will cater the needs of industrial and domestic polluters; and NRBPT has developed a document for quality assessment of EIA consultant to generate quality reports.

It's a good indication that authorities have taken interest to revolutionize the present environment business to deliver goods to the society and environment as a whole and it's a bad news for others who turned to environment business just to mint money.

Thanking you,
Chief Editor

Environment Business: More Serious Than Thought

**- Sandeep Joshi
Environment Technologist**

Every day's news and issues entail that there is urgent need to look at environmental problems whether local or global seriously based on its merits and root causes.

It's really surprising as well as delighting news that MPCB has mooted to develop Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) - an investment tool for managing the environment and controlling pollution in the state.

This initiative was needed for a long as the issue of river pollution is worsening day by day. The effectiveness of the rules, acts, and norms was getting diluted in many ways on demand or because of negligence. Secondly, it had another dimension - low level of awareness among the stakeholders and masses regarding the environmental processes and impact of pollution

In the Indian context, till today the environmental business means the trading of equipments or units or technologies designed or manufactured by non - Indian

experts. Author was told that there was no need to develop indigenous technologies since the enough revenue was generated through the sale of imported technologies to sugar industries, distilleries, and other industries. "Developing technologies is a futile effort because we lack in knowledge, experience, planning, honesty and sincerity in execution of the work", the manager argued strongly discouraging himself and others also.

We must agree with the latter half of his argument. That's why; we can sense that the pollution is increasing day by day despite of some activities are done, but we are unable to understand today's economic and health losses as well as scale of impacts in future because of lack availability of reliable data. This is a system failure which has been highlighted in National Environment Policy 2006 also.

When it comes to delivery of goods in the field of environment management, the money spent on pollution control never reflects in the results as expected. The 1500 crores are spent on cleaning of Ganga River through installing state-of-the-art modern pollution control equipments in the cities and industries along the river bank. Even then, the reports say that the river is still polluted.

Ahmedabad city claims that the river has been beautified. There is a need to look into the quality of river water and the drains in its urban watershed. A lot of being talked about the river pollution in Pune but when it comes to planning a pollution control project, the focus is beautification of the river and not the purification and improvement of quality of river water. So, the objective of cleaning river is lost in the infrastructural projects which add concrete jungle to the riverine ecosystem. But there is a need to revitalize the naturalness of the river in the urban areas.

There are many rivers like Yamuna, Mutha, Waldhuni, and Mithi etc. which are severely polluted due to wastes streams from the cities and industries. The environment professionals need to focus on the quality of discharges from the point and non-point sources.

The news about climate change, temperature

rise are hitting the headlines. Many experts including Stephen Hockings are warning about the rising temperature of earth. This is all happening because of inappropriate exploitation of natural resources and indiscriminate disposal of wastes which are accumulating due to present consumption and wasting patterns, ever increasing market demands and lack of environmental consciousness of the civilized society.

Hence, there has to rethinking on waste – misplaced resources management. The wastes should not be just piled up in isolation but efforts are to be done to recycle them as far as possible for energy and other commodities and to facilitate the assimilation of non-recyclable material in the nature. Then those technologies will help humanity to reduce the pollution i. e. unfavourable condition for growth and survival.

SERI's concept of Ecotechnology is that the wastes can be assimilated in the nature using natural forces only so that the materials extracted from the nature will be redistributed in the nature evenly. The Ecotechnology is applicable not only to liquid wastes and solid wastes but gaseous wastes also.

For the pollution control, there is need of designers who can combine ecology with engineering. Only civil or mechanical or chemical engineer cannot deliver the goods as the pollution control processes remain limited to transformation of waste material from one state to another state means from liquid to solid or gaseous. So, the understanding of ecology and biogeochemical cycles is equally important.

The environmental business is more serious because the very survival of global community and economy is dependent on that. All the environmental professionals should get good support not only from civilized community but from market and government agencies also. Then the mission will be successful.

NewsCapsule

🌱 SERI's Ecotechnological on-site Pilot plant on chemical industry effluent to treat COD about 16,000 mg/L has brought down COD from 35,000 mg/L to less than 600 mg/L.