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Point for discussion this month

Integrated Lake Basin Management

(For private circulation only)

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Dear Readers,

Lotus is a flower of intelligence and wisdom! (It's always successful in keeping itself away from the mud from where it is originated) A lake full of Lotus flowers always freshens your mind and soul.

It's a very good example of rich lake ecosystem! See how beautifully nature helps in treating the waste!! As Sandeep Joshi always says, pollution is nothing but nutrition for the ecological cycles and trophic levels. That serves as source of energy and matters.

SERI's efforts are focused on the remediation of polluted water bodies using natural powers. That's why; we always say that we are with you in pursuit of maintaining quality of freshwaters. In this issue, we have given glimpses of ecotechnological treatment.

SERI's students are active in community environment management. Despite of non-cooperation from some concerned authorities of public transport, temples, canteens etc., our students toiled to know wasting patterns of the individuals of society.

In next month, on 11th Aug 2008, SERI is organizing Ecology Day. We request all our readers to celebrate 11th August as Ecology Day by visiting rivers, lakes and forest ecosystems and try to explore man's relation with nature.

Thank you,
Chief Editor

NewsAnalysis

Judiciary Punishes Administration Over Inadequacies In Curing Pollution

A case of administrator being imprisoned and fined due to failing to control sewage pollution of river in Sirsi District of Karnataka State has set a new trend in fixing up the responsibilities of municipal authorities to provide amicable environment for the residents. This historical decision came in the month of May 2008.

In June 2008 Member Secretary and hospital administrators were fined by Mumbai High Court due to neglecting management of biomedical waste. The amount of fine is immaterial but the importance is the lacunae in the system which regulates or manages the waste have been recorded publicly and service departments of the government are expected to deliver in compliance with the rules, acts and norms.

It's the system failure which has been mentioned in India's National Environment Policy, 2006 also. So, there is need to evolve the system based on ecosystem approach of exchanges of resources and wastes with immediate surrounding environment (and well-set feed back mechanisms) for sustainability of ever polluting urbanised land uses. It's an urgency to use ecotechnologies to control enormous pollution of waters, airs and soils in urban sectors. So, administrators need to approach experts who understand environmental processes in urban systems for amicable solutions and healthy environment for residents.

P-Ecology

With the awakening of international politicians on the threat of climate change, ecology is taking centre stage in world scenario. Al Gore, a noted politician of United States, has become vociferous on climate change issues which brought him noble prize also. Not only Al Gore, but there are many celebrities involved in awareness and education of masses on the global environmental issues.

The new entrant is ex- prime minister of UK, Mr. Tony Blair. Now he has stepped in Global War on climate change. He emphasizes the consensus on low-carbon economics at national and international levels. He envisages the immense political and economical difficulties and hoping that present set of technologies deliver 70% of the changes needed.

He points out that energy efficiency and control of deforestation will account for 45% of success. He suggests putting the right incentives to help market respond, and human creativity get to work. He is worried about new power stations using coal being built in US, India and china. It seems that european politicians are now training their guns towards US, India and China.

Political ecology (P-Ecology) is being reshaped, with acceptance by India and China of climate change as everybody's problem, shift in attitude of US and Japan and consensus in need to act in Europe. This will really help science, engineering and technology to innovate for the sustainability of human being on the Earth.

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From SERI's DESK

Glimpses of Soil Scape Filtration for the treatment of domestic as well as industrial wastewaters



First Soil Scape Filtration unit was installed by SERI in 1996 in Bosch Chassis Systems (I) Ltd., Jalgaon for the treatment of industrial and domestic wastewaters. .

Summer Training by SERI



Soil Scape filtration unit installed in one International school in Baroda looks very green, remains absolutely odourless and mosquito free.



View of the Soil Scape Filter without plants. Wastewater is distributed on the top of Ecofert layer using grid of pipelines.



No machinery is required for the degradation and absorption of pollution. The work is done by green plants and bacteria.

Uday

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SERI's team is always interested in giving guidance to environment science or engineering students for their environment related projects or to extend help for summer training. SERI always encourages students to have hands on experience in the field of environment management.

Recently some students from Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune have completed one project of studies of wasting habits of citizens at public places like temples, roads, bus stands, railway stations, squares, canteens, commercial and industrial complexes.

SERI's initiative to train the students for hands on experience in dealing with urban waste management as a part of their summer training was well acclaimed by print media. DNA, Pune published an article on studies of six students in evaluating the wasting patterns at various public places like temples, bus stands, railway stations, government offices, canteens etc.

New skyscrapers of the modern cities



Do you want a sliding ride?



Outcomes of their studies have raised some questions such as –

Can we pay attention to community cleanliness and quality of environment for all?

Can local administration take up the mandatory massive city cleaning effectively

for their own tax paying citizens?
Can cities' polity and policy be centered on waste management, maintaining water resources pure, and providing healthy environment for their taxpayers?
Why local initiatives by NGOs, CSOs, and professionals are always insufficient and counterproductive?
Is there any possibility to evolve a strong institutional mechanism which deals with waste problems rather than just evoking the cane of rules?
Is money available for that?

Deepak

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Celebration of Ecology Day

SERInews's readers are requested to celebrate 11th August as ECOLOGY DAY as last year it was announced that every year the DAY would be celebrated at the instance of first of its kind workshop organised on Potential of Ecotechnologies in Water Supply and Sanitation.

Sandeep Joshi, Environment Technologist, in his speech requested the young enthusiastic audience of workshop to feel experience and live the experience of ecosystems by visiting them on 11th August every year. His views were endorsed by Dr. M. S. Kodarkar, a visionary supporter of Ecosystem Approach.

Celebration of Ecology Day should be the understanding of ecological designs, free expression of ideas, and following ecological principles of recycling waste as useful commodities. This year's theme is RIVERSCAPE. We request readers to send brief on their celebration of Ecology Day on seri_news@yahoo.co.in.

Announcements

Greenself, Greenmovement & Greentech capacity building programme

SERI has commenced greenself, greenmovement and greentech programmes for value addition training for undergraduates, graduates, professionals and industrial employees. These courses will equip the candidate with in-depth understanding of environment and eco-

responsibilities in his or her profession. For more details please visit website: www.seriecotech.com or write to envedplm@yahoo.com.

Outreach Programme: Enviro-legal Services

Many industries, organisations, NGOs look for guidance and advice technico-legal matters of environmental monitoring and pollution control. Hence, SERI is in process to develop such outreach cell to help those who such services. This cell will guide organisations in activities to be undertaken as environment related CSR projects for the benefits of society. For more details please contact: Mrs. Sayali Joshi on seriworld@seriecotech.com.

Eternal Words

Mr. Anil Agarwal, Founder Director CSE

"It is clear that the 21st century is going to be a century of the environment in which literally every new technology will have to meet environmental needs.

Investments in Science for Ecological Security will have to become a very critical element of our investments in Science for food security, our health security, our industrial development, our livelihood security and indeed, even our national security in the larger sense.

In the years ahead, people and technologies, will have to move much closer to the Nature's own geophysical cycles and to more gentle use of nature's sources like energy and water, and will replace the dinosaur technologies of the 19th and 20th centuries. In this alone lies the possibility of human survival and growth."

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