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**Point for discussion this month**

**Protection of Lakes Who's Responsibility?**

(For private circulation only)

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Dear Readers,

Saving the lakes especially urban lakes has become a huge task due to greediness of land grabbers. There are rules, guidelines and special divisions to look after the protection of lakes. But there efforts do not match with the pace of development. In the rules, it is stated that a developer must plant a number of trees to compensate the vegetation erased during the developmental process. There is no such rule of an eye for eye in case of lakes or catchment being decimated for the development. If lake services are considered, there ecological values are uncountable. These services include resources, regulatory and cultural products with innumerable supportive services. This was nicely presented by Dr. Nakamura and Dr. Rast in the workshop organized by SERI and its associate organisations in last month in Pune. The cover page photograph spells out the conspired decimation of lake in the very name of development. Now the lake is surrounded by huge concrete jungle profusely affecting its catchment and feeding runoffs. This has changed its residence time from 10 - 12 days in the monsoon to just 2 - 3 hours. Interaction with Dr. M. S. Kodarkar has stimulated enthusiasts of IT giant WIPRO to take up the pioneering lake conservation activity for social cause using ecosystem approach with technological support from SERI. It's the need of the time everybody should look after the healthiness of water bodies for their own healthy environment and survival.

Thank you,  
Chief Editor

**From SERI's DESK**  
**More about Ecology Day, ILBM Workshop  
and Visit to Ujjani Lake**

**Ecology Day!**

SERI celebrated the Ecology Day on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug., 2008 It was very cherishing day for all who gathered at the venue on the banks of river Mutha. The theme of the day was River Scape. The programme kits were sponsored by Praj Foundation. Managing Trustee of Praj Foundation, Mrs. Parimal Chaudhari charmed for the Ecology Day programme with her elegant presence .

Dr. Masahisa Nakamura, Chairman ILEC, Japan addressing the students, parents and concerned citizens



Dr. Walter Rast, Vice Chairman, ILEC discussion the impacts of river pollution,



Dr. Mohan Kodarkar mesmerising the audience with his witty speech,



Dr. Amar Supate of MPCB spoke about the concept of Eco-village initially,



Abhijit Ghorpade, journalist, explained the dire condition of rivers of Maharashtra,



(R to L) Mrs. Sayali Joshi, CEO-SERI, Sandeep Joshi, examiners of Green Expressions Dr. V. S. Ghole, HOD, Department of Environment, University of Pune, Er. V. M. Ranade, Dr. Mohan Kodarkar, and Dr. Nagesh Tekale are engrossed in the performances of students,



**The ecology day celebration was absolutely different experience for the audience full of participation, expressions and knowledge. Many teachers and parents expressed that every year this kind of programme should be organized to promote the actual field work. Next year's theme is LAKE ENVIRONMENT.**

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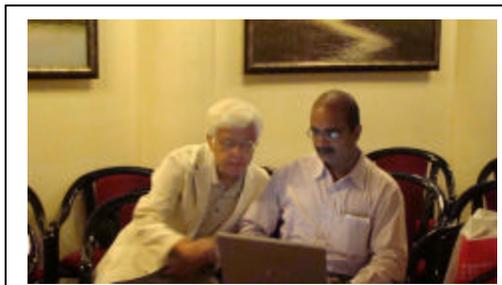
## ILBM Workshop on Ujjani Reservoir

One Day Workshop on Integrated Lake Basin Management of Ujjani Reservoir, Maharashtra (India) on Sept. 1, 2008 was organized by Indian Association of Aquatic Biologists (IAAB) Pune Chapter, Upper Bhima Water Partnership, Pune in association with The Institution of Engineers of India Pune Local Chapter, Indian Water Works Association, Indian Environment Association, Pune Chapter and Shrishti Eco-Research Institute, Pune.

Er. Vidyand Ranade (retired Secretary, Irrigation, Maharashtra Government) explaining his work to Dr. Walter Rast ,



Dr. Masahisa Nakamura and Sandeep Joshi rehearsing the programme,



Esteemed audience of this workshop comprised of environmental professionals, engineers, foreign delegates, government officials, journalist and students,



## Visit to Backwaters of Ujjani Dam

A visit to Ujjani Reservoir was organized by Indian Association of Aquatic Biologists, Pune chapter in association with Jal Dindi Pratishthan and Shrishti Eco-Research Institute on Sept. 02, 2008

On the way to Ujjani Reservoir at about 100 km distance by road, the guests visited to Purandar lift irrigation scheme near Urali Kanchan,



The Mula - Mutha river remains polluted where the water is lifted to irrigate the agriculture in Purandar Taluka,



Nowadays, rivers flowing through the city are laden with inanimate, synthetic products and wastes to such an extent that pumping stations suffer huge problems. Plastic is a curse for pumps and Mula-Mutha rivers carry tons of it downstream leading to unhealthy conditions with organic pollution, and odour problems making it unfit for any use.

The findings at Urali Kanchan Pumping Station are serious as far as exposure to the health problems the farmers are exposed to. The concern was expressed during this visit by delegates and wished in near future respective corporations would take appropriate steps to curb their pollution in their city limits only.

Then the delegates went to village Padashthal near Ujjani Reservoir and interacted with them, (L to R) Dr. Mohan Kodarkar, Dr. Nagesh Te kale, Dr. Nakamura, Dr. Rast, Sandeep Joshi, Dr. Vishwas Yevale,



Dr. Lahu Kadam, a noted paediatrician in the region is explaining the importance of protection of Ujjani Reservoir,



Demonstration of checking water quality of tube well in the village,



Dr. Pramod Salaskar demonstrating the testing dissolved oxygen in Ujjani Lake ,



All the delegates enjoyed delicacies, sweets prepared by lovable villagers at the farms near Padashthal after visit to reservoir on sunny day ,



This journey of ILBM in Pune started on Aug. 31, 2008 when the delegates listened the experiences of Jal Dindi (a sacred voyage on rivers) from Dr. Vishwas Yevale in the lecture hall of Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Pune



Shri. Vinod Bodhankar, Secretary, Jal Dindi Pratishthan spoke about networking networks and their importance in maintaining resources pollution-free. Dr. Vikram Ghole, HOD, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Pune, welcomed delegates and explained their research programme of monitoring the rivers to evaluate the impact of rapid urbanisation.



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