

World Wetlands Day 2013, at East Kolkata Wetlands...

South Asian Forum for Environment, SAFE with gratitude acknowledges the US Consulate Kolkata, Hyatt Regency Kolkata, East Kolkata Management Authority (EKWMA), Central Institute Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Department of Fisheries, Govt of West Bengal, and Birla Institute of Technology Museum (BITM), for joining hands to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2013. This year, Wetlands Day celebration experienced the best of multiple stakeholder partnership where international partners stood together for East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) and local government authorities joined hands to see it come true in all articulations, at a event held at Jhagrashisha Bheri of East Kolkata Wetlands on 2nd Feb 2013. SAFE every year observes the World Wetlands Day on 2nd February, in congruence to the Ramsar Secretariat at Geneva, to emphasize on the awareness regarding the conservation of wetlands. This year, 2013 is the UN International Year for Water Cooperation and International Decade for Biodiversity Conservation, thus it is an ideal opportunity for us to look at the bond between water and wetlands. Ramsar's theme this year is 'Wetlands and Water Management'.

U.S Consul General Dean R Thompson, expressed concern about the significance of wetland conservation. He shared the recent policy structures in US by the department of agriculture and environment in conserving wetlands for its unique potential in reducing emission footprints. Appreciating the endeavors of SAFE in saving EKW, he said, “This was a great initiative on wetland conservation and we are glad to have been part of this green mission. The walk-through in EKW was particularly enlightening and revealed much about the close dependence of the city on these wetlands, an issue which is not very often addressed...”. He also appealed to the school students to take back from this program and contribute towards the cause of conservation by amplifying this message further. Donation of 100 saplings to the site is a sustainable contribution by the U.S. Consulate Kolkata that underscores our commitment to the environment and to the conservation of these important sites.

Mr. Arijit Bannerjee, Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA, while participating in the brainstorming workshop with school students said, “One single solution doesn't exist and isolated efforts cannot find its way to conservation. Partnership and greater participation have enormous potential to fetch a hopeful future for our East Kolkata Wetlands”.

Mr. Marc Lorenz, General Manager, Hyatt Regency Kolkata, shared Hyatt's objective in realizing partnership efforts through corporate social responsibility in conserving wetlands worldwide as the environmental mandates of Hyatt are pro-conservation framed on low carbon initiatives. He added, “This gives us a great opportunity to give back a meaningful touch to the 'City of Joy', where we live”.

Dr.Dipayan Dey, Chair, SAFE, said, “Environmental problems are not confined to geographical boundaries. These are global issues but needs to be addressed through local reciprocal partnership and stakeholder participation. It is a great success step that international partnership has come on board for a common issue to save this critical ecosystem and its wetlander's.”

Mr. Sashidulal Ghosh, scientist and member, EKWMA, Mr. Chandrim Banerjee, Advisor of State Welfare Board, Government of W.B graced the occasion with their valuable contribution, the day observed active participation from school children, teachers, experts, state government officials, young researchers and community representatives of fishermen association of EKW.

Stepping into the future, the proposed PPP framework for conservation of East Kolkata Wetlands would include...Community based interventions for Biodiversity conservation, habitat restoration, preparation of wetland inventory, mapping of Land Use Pattern Changes, Pollution control and reduction of landfill emissions by recycling of solid waste, and alternative livelihood for local people.

Join hands with SAFE to make a sustained difference!

Photos from the event:

Celebrating World Wetlands Day at East Kolkata Wetlands, organized by SAFE:



Consul General, US Consulate, Marc Lorenz, GM, Hyatt Regency, Dr.Dipayan Dey and Sashi Dulal Ghosh at an World Wetlands Day celebration:



School children celebrating World Wetlands Day 2013:



US Consulate, Hyatt Regency, SAFE, EKWMA join hands to save East Kolkata Wetlands:



Poster

WETLANDS TAKE CARE OF WATER... WE TAKE CARE OF WETLANDS

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

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02 February 2013
JHAGRASHIS BHERI
East Kolkata Wetlands

