

From the Chairman's Desk

Water footprint, handprint & heart print

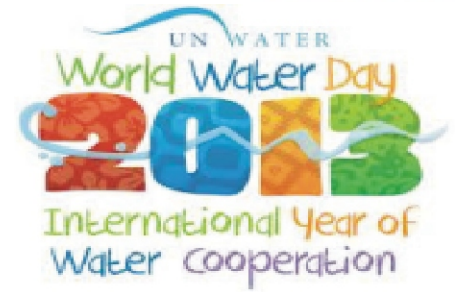
We all are hammered through media about our negative impact on the planet. That may be needed to wake us up from our addiction to consume more and more. For example, 'water footprint', a concept introduced in 2002 by UNESCO's Institute of Water Education as an alternative indicator of water use. One Ethiopian consumes 30 liters of water per day (that includes drinking, domestic, agricultural and industrial use) where as one American consumes 400 liters. That conveys a strong message of unequal use of the water among the nations. Preparation of an average vegetarian meal consumes 1500 liters of water where as non-vegetarian meal consumes 4000 liters. That is powerful message to the earth's citizens to make choices for dietary habit if the scarce freshwater resources are to be conserved. But scaring the people all the time through our negative impacts on the planet, a game being played by more and more experts, without pointing to the positive impacts that we leave behind may not be very effective. That gave rise to idea of 'handprints'!



Rajendra Shende
Chairman, TERRE

Gregory Norris, of the Harvard School of Public Health was dismayed

by the way that current 'footprint maths' was telling his students that, after calculating their life-cycle assessment, the world would have been better off if they hadn't been born. Maybe true, but unremittingly depressing and far from inspiring! He came up with idea of 'handprints'. '...environmental footprints are only half the picture. The other half is just coming into view. It's called a handprint, and it measures the positive impacts we can make, simply by changing the way we do things, at home, and at work', he said. Idea is simple, if you keep harping the negative messages, people just accept to flow with the current like the flash floods sweeping them. So why shouldn't we use a positive approach to inspire positive action? 22nd March is celebrated as World Water Day. Year 2013 is declared by United Nations General Assembly as International Year of Water Cooperation. I am of the opinion that we need more than just 'foot prints' and 'hand prints'. We need 'heart prints'. I would like to define the 'water heart print' as the amount of fresh water passionately saved by individuals, groups or companies or nations through collaborative approaches. Footprints wake us up, handprints inspire us for actions, and heart prints would make our actions happen passionately and resolutely.



Environment Tip

Challenge of Drinking water & what we can do ?

The provision of clean drinking water has been given priority in the Constitution of India, with Article 47 conferring the duty of providing clean drinking water and improving public health standards to the State. Despite an estimated total of Rs. 1,105 billion spent on providing safe drinking water since the First Five Year Plan was launched in 1951, lack of safe and secure drinking water continues to be a major hurdle and a national economic burden. It is clear that the large investments have not yielded comparable improvements in health and other socio-economic indicators.

Around 37.7 million Indians are affected by water borne diseases annually, 1.5 million children are estimated to die of diarrhea alone and 73 million working days are lost due to waterborne disease each year. The resulting economic burden is estimated at \$600 million a year. What we can do as individuals?

First Step : take in glass only as much water that you need to drink -not more, not less. Do not throw the remaining water from glass or bottle.

Energy utility Masdar will begin a pilot project

Energy utility Masdar will begin a pilot project to desalinate water using power from renewable sources with the aim of building a full-scale plant by 2020. Masdar and its partners will test different technologies at the plants through 2015, with the aim of starting construction on a commercial desalination facility in 2016, he said. The full-scale facility may have capacity to treat 50 million to 100 million gallons of water a day.

Masdar, the renewable energy company run by Abu Dhabi's government, will begin a pilot project to desalinate water using power from renewable sources with the aim of building a full-scale plant by 2020.

The company will join with private partners in three test plants to study new desalination technologies, Masdar Chief Executive Officer Sultan Al-Jaber said today at a news conference in Abu Dhabi. Masdar and its partners will test different technologies at the plants through 2015, with the aim of starting construction on a commercial desalination facility in 2016, he said. The full-scale facility may have capacity to treat 50 million to 100 million gallons of water a day.

Middle Eastern states including the United Arab Emirates, of which Abu Dhabi is the capital, rely on treatment plants to remove salt from seawater to make it drinkable. Al Jaber said Masdar still needs to choose the pilot project partners and would then develop estimates for the cost of the plants.

Maharashtra fights severe drought, villages migrate in search of water



Marathwada : As north India battles the cold, Maharashtra is facing a crisis of another sort. There is a severe water crisis in Marathwada, which is forcing entire villages to migrate in search of water and jobs.

People migrating is a familiar sight today in Maharashtra's Osmanabad district which among the worst affected in the Marathwada region hit by drought.

In neighbouring Jalna, residents are supplied water once in a month and sometimes that wait stretches to 45 days. Having to rely on private tankers, locals say their monthly budget is spent in buying precious water.

So desperate is the situation Marathwada that Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar has suggested mass migration if the situation continued. Across Jalna, Osmanabad, Beed and Aurangabad with no water or fodder,

cattle are being sold.

The extent of the crisis speaks for itself, what looks like arid farmland now, is in fact the Khasapuri dam. The dam is so dried up that cracks have developed along its length.

Railway wagons, the government suggests, could be used for carrying water to the affected areas. The contingency fund has been increased in the hope of militating the crisis - the worst in at least a decade.

Source:

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/maharashtra-fights-severe-drought-villages-migrate-in-search-of-water/313419-3-237.html>



According to the UN, roughly 11% of people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water. That is almost 800 million people! People in developing countries go without while we in North America take water for granted. We take 20 minute showers, let faucets leak and plant water hungry lawns. Drought threatens hydropower and agriculture as well as the global water supply. Conservation is imperative.

In New Mexico there is only about 12" of rain a year, but the last few years have been very dry and hot. One can't even collect water off the roof if there is no precipitation! If any luck then may catch a rainstorm, so conserving every drop of it is better option, because you don't know when you'll get more.

Flooding and global climate change

We saw excessive flooding with the changing cycle of rains and precipitation areas. This type of storm is getting to be normal. That is scary! We cannot build to withstand weather like this, but we can certainly make buildings stronger and put them away from vulnerable areas. Flooding also contaminates water supplies. Imagine all the dirt, debris, grease and chemicals on a city street.

Water scarcity is a global issue

A flood carries it right into the municipal water supply. Seawater damages fisheries, too, not only during flooding, but this will be a concern as sea levels rise.

Water systems and pollution

Pollution is another culprit in the water crisis. Run-off, as in flooding, carries dirt, chemicals, bacteria and viruses into water supplies. Fracking refers to the procedure of creating fractures in rocks and rock formations by injecting fluid into cracks to force them further open. The larger fissures allow more oil and gas to flow out of the formation and into the wellbore, from where it can be extracted. Fracking has resulted in many oil and gas wells attaining a state of economic viability, due to the level of extraction that can be reached, this contaminates the water bodies in large number. The fracking contaminated their well, making the land useless and unfit for living. This is getting to be all too common. We can't be ruining what little water we have, while others go without.

What can we do?

We can save water at home, but we have no control over the intense

storms, flooding and drought that new, unfamiliar weather patterns are creating. We need to think ahead. Governments need to adapt to our changing environment and put policies in place that address municipal water conservation, increased efficiency during collection and processing, and waste reduction. Building codes need to include water saving and collecting measures. Public buildings should not only save water with the large number of people who work in and visit them, but they would also be setting a good example and educating people about water usage.

Water is not something we can afford to waste or ruin. Governments need to tighten up regulations to limit pollution. They also need to look at worst-case scenarios for floods and drought, and come up with practical emergency plans. I think water will be a big issue this year.



Quick Question

How much water on earth is available for human use?

- ☐ 3 %
- ☐ 91 %
- ☐ 23 %
- ☐ less than 1%3

Send in your entry to us at terrepolicycentre@gmail.com

Last Issue's Answer

Forests : Nature at Your Service
was the theme of 2011 World Environment Day

Quick Answer

Sylviya Fernandise, Dubai



Continental breakfast



Water Trade and Geopolitics

Prices are stated in litres of water required to produce one dish.
Production of food services is not included.

Source

http://www.waterfootprint.org/Reports/Virtual_WaterTrade_and_geopolitics.pdf

Vegetarian menu



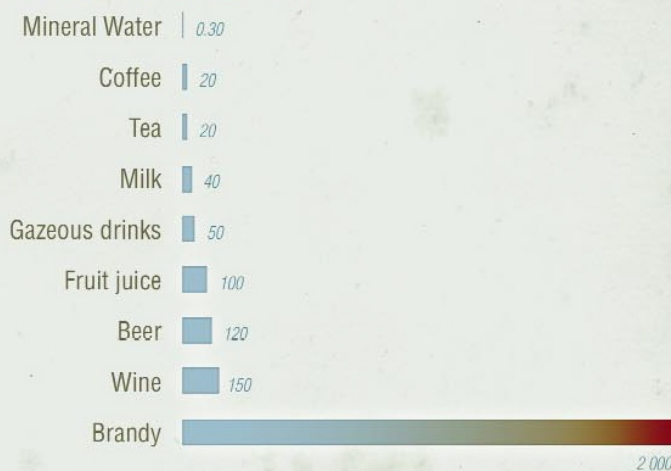
Oriental menu



Continental menu



Beverages (per glass)



This box uses a different scale than the other boxes

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