

NEWSLETTER

World's Historical Resolution Where it stands and What next?

The world leaders in year 2000 made historic resolution like never before. That was in the Millennium Summit in September 2000. I was working in United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on global agreement of the Montreal Protocol to protect the Ozone Layer. That year the largest gathering of world leaders, not only in the history of United Nations but in all of the history of human civilization, adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme sufferings in the world and setting out a series of time-bound targets, with a deadline of 2015. This framework has come to be known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that consist of 8 specific goals with its 18 targets and 48 indicators to measure the progress. The MDGs are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions-income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion-while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights-the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter, and security. The Millennium Project that followed in 2002, was implemented by 10 thematic Task Forces, comprised a total of more than 250 experts from around the world including: researchers and scientists; policymakers; representatives of NGOs, UN agencies, the World Bank, IMF and the private sector. The massive exercise at country level was set with most of the attention on the developing countries. After 13 years, what is the status of that global resolution? In the words of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon:



Rajendra Shende
Chairman, TERRE

“Significant and substantial progress has been made in meeting many of the targets including halving the

Chairman Message

number of people living in extreme poverty and the proportion of people without sustainable access to improved sources of drinking water. The proportion of urban slum dwellers declined significantly. Remarkable gains have been made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis. There have been visible improvements in all health areas as well as primary education.

(However) ... the achievement of the MDGs has been uneven among and within countries. Children from poor and rural households are much more likely to be out of school than their rich and urban counterparts. Wide gaps remain in basic knowledge about HIV and its prevention among young men and women in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been hardest hit by the epidemic. One in eight people worldwide remain hungry. Too many women die in childbirth when we have the means to save them. More than 2.5 billion people lack improved sanitation facilities, of which one billion continue to practice open defecation, a major health & environmental hazard. Our resource base is in serious decline, with continuing losses of forests, species and fish-stocks, in a world already experiencing the impacts of climate change”.

I am proud that my OzonAction Programme was part of the successful implementation of the Goal number 7, i.e. 'Ensure Environmental Sustainability'. Each of annual progress reports sited the successful implementation of the global efforts of protection of the Ozone Layer. The latest report on MDG states:

“The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is an undisputed and still ongoing success story, leading to a 98 per cent reduction in consumption of ozone-depleting substances since 1986. Because most of these substances are potent greenhouse gases, the Montreal Protocol is also contributing

continued on page 5



Tribute to Nelson Mandela

Former South African President Nelson Mandela, who served 27 years in prison for anti-apartheid activities and led his continent into a new era-Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. Born Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela in Transkei, South Africa the civil rights activist would become the linchpin in South Africans' move to end the country's notorious apartheid regime. The impact of his efforts -- to reconcile generosity with pragmatism and to find the common ground between humanity's higher values and his own aspiration to power, ultimately went well beyond South Africa's borders, and earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. Rising through the ranks of the African National Congress (ANC), initially by way of the organization's youth wing, which he helped establish in 1944, Mandela was ultimately asked to lead the armed struggle and help form Umkhonto we Sizwe ("Spear of the Nation"). On Jan. 11, 1962, using the adopted name David Motsamayi, Mandela left South Africa secretly. He traveled the continent and abroad to gain support for the armed struggle. Before returning to South Africa in July 1962, Mandela also received military training in Morocco and Ethiopia.

The would-be South African president spent 18 of his 27 prison years on Robben Island confined to a small cell with the floor for a bed and a

continued on page 5



Beijing Air Pollution Crossed Toxic Levels:

Yellow Alert Issued By Meteorological Authority
The year 2013 began with a warning bell, the meteorological authority of China issued yellow alert in various cities including Chengdu and Beijing. Yellow alert indicated the presence of fog that shows dangerous smog levels in the northern as well as western regions of China. The alert mentioned that China was reeling under the effects of worst ever pollution record.

JAN

Scientists from the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) explained about recent study that the reason for expansion of sea ice of Antarctica is climate change:

The sea ice expanded during Southern Hemisphere autumn and winter in response to the development of a fresh, cool surface water layer, which floated on the denser, warmer salty sea water below. This fresh water is ultimately derived from enhanced melting at the base of the Antarctic ice shelves. Satellite gravity measurements of Antarctica had revealed that the continent is losing mass, rather than gaining it. This falls in line with predictions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

APR

UN General Assembly formed UN Forum to Boost Sustainable Development Efforts:

The United Nations General Assembly on 9 July 2013 established a new High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to replace the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). The decision was taken with an aim to boost efforts to tackle global economic, social and environmental challenges. The forum will be responsible to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development alongwith reviewing progress in the implementation of related commitments.

JUL

Cyclone Phailin:

Tropical Cyclone Phailin made landfall in northeastern India. Among the most powerful historical cyclones in the region, it led to the evacuation of close to 1 million people. Even though Phailin weakened slightly prior to landfall, destructive winds well over 160 kph (100 mph) and flooding rain of at least 200 mm (8 inches) pummeled the region. Over 200,000 hectares of agricultural land, 200,000 houses and 40 transmission towers have been destroyed, as per the state government.

OCT

Winter Storm Nemo Hits the Northeast United States and Canada:

Two areas of low pressure collided to create Winter Storm Nemo, also referred to as the Blizzard of 2013. Boston, Massachusetts received 24.9 inches of snow, the fifth-highest snowfall in the city's recorded history. Portland, Maine got 31.9 inches of snow, a record for the city. However, the highest snowfalls were in Connecticut with Hamden receiving 40 inches. The storm also brought hurricane-like winds and flooding.

FEB



UNESCO declared Nicobar Islands as World Biosphere Reserve:

The World Biosphere Reserves are considered as sites of excellence, where new and optimal practices to manage nature and human activities are tested and demonstrated. The island chain is home to 1800 animal species and some of the world's most endangered tribes. The UNESCO basically recognizes them under the programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science.

MAY

Most Endangered bird species, Puerto Rican Parrot made a comeback:

Researchers working in the Rio Abajo Nature Preserve in western Puerto Rico, revealed that one of the most endangered bird species of the world, Puerto Rican parrot, made a comeback. The researchers found the wild nest with the eggs of Puerto Rican parrot, the first discovery of this kind in 42 years. The researchers also revealed that there were 400 parrots in captivity as well as over 100 tracked in the forests across the island. Earlier, the population of these parrots dropped down to merely 13.

AUG

Typhoon Haiyan:

Typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda in the Philippines, was an exceptionally powerful tropical cyclone that devastated portions of Southeast Asia, particularly the Philippines killing at least 6000 people. Haiyan is also the strongest storm recorded at landfall, and unofficially the fourth strongest typhoon ever recorded in terms of wind speed (160 mph) and the thirtieth named storm of the 2013 Pacific typhoon season.

NOV

The New Zealand Government declares worst-ever drought in 30 years in the entire North Island of the country :

Scientists explained that dry subtropical weather, which leads to the formation of deserts in countries like Australia and Africa, was inching closer towards the poles of the world. Climate scientists from Victoria University of Wellington forecasted that more summers and drought conditions like these were on their way in New Zealand because of global warming. This led to losses in agriculture and shaved off about 1 % of economic growth of the country.

MAR

Cloudburst causes flash floods in Uttarakhand:

A multi-day cloud burst caused devastating floods and landslides in the country's worst natural disaster since the 2004 tsunami claiming more than 5000 lives. Mountainsides, villages and towns, thousands of people, animals, agricultural fields, irrigation canals, domestic water sources, dams, roads, bridges, and buildings anything that stood in the way was swept away, leaving about 100,000 pilgrims and tourists trapped in the valleys.

JUN

Quake in Pakistan's Remote Southwest Kills 328:

A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake hit Balochistan province in southwest Pakistan killing at least 328 people and injuring more than 445. The quake's epicenter was 120 kilometers southwest of Khuzdar at a depth of 10 kilometers, but was felt as far away as India's capital, Delhi, and Dubai. The quake released jets of methane from the seabed that raised enough mud, sand and rock to form a new island five kilometers (three miles) from the coast.

SEP

Super Greenhouse Gas Discovered 7,100 Times Stronger Than CO2:

Scientists from the University of Toronto have identified a chemical in the atmosphere that appears to be a long-lived greenhouse gas that breaks all other chemical records for its potential to affect the climate. The chemical perfluorotributylamine, or PFTBA is the most radiatively-efficient chemical found to date. The PFTBA has been in use by the electrical industry since the mid-20th century. Its application is in electrical equipment, such as transistors and capacitor and calculated over a 100-year time frame, a single molecule of PFTBA has the equivalent climate impact as 7,100 molecules of CO2. Seems to be a beginning of new challenges for 2014....

DEC



“ I still remember the days of my childhood when most of the elders like parents, teachers and even the peer group enquiring me about my New Year resolution..!! When I turn those pages back again, it leaves back a smile on my face and makes me think was I really silly...? ”

We all know in this fast pace of life we daily contribute in polluting our planet by adding up to the carbon footprints. On an average to support our life style, it takes about 2.9 global hectares of earth's area to regenerate the same. At this rate, earth's atmosphere is deteriorating fast which will make life on earth tougher. As an able and knowledgeable citizen of the world I wish to make the following resolution for the upcoming year to spend it in an environment friendly way:

Save more than a ton of CO2 per year by changing my driving habits like anticipating the stops and starts and maintaining steady speed

Reduce the carbon footprint of my travel by walking short distances, using carpool and servicing my vehicles regularly

Reduce the carbon footprint of my home by gradually switching to energy star rated appliances ”



Shreedhar Manda
MBA Student

“ I always research a lot before my shows. My aim is to provide the audience something more than just entertainment. In the coming year I have decided that I will make aware my audience about the water issues in our country either directly or indirectly. ”



Mangala Khadilkar
Compère and Orator

“ From my childhood to adulthood I have made many new year resolution on every 1st January, but not followed a single. But this year its different. Interning at TERRE, I feel more responsible and sensible to adhere to my decisions. Here are few resolutions that I will stick to in 2014-

Save electricity: I have started working towards it from this year only. I have replaced all the CFL bulbs, even though they are energy efficient, with LED bulbs (5W , 10W) which are highly energy efficient. I will also motivate others to replace the incandescent bulbs with CFL or LED bulbs (something I learnt at TERRE). Another power saving technique is to unplug the mobile charger when not using it. Usually only about 5 % of the energy used by the charger actually charges your cell phone and rest is wasted by leaving the charger plugged in.

I will use stairs rather than escalator and will try to loose extra 15 pound ;) I am not going to buy any new clothes unless and until my clothes are torned up. I will pay utility bills online to reduce paper consumption and overhead expenses (gasoline and time). ”



Aniket Choudhary
Intern, TERRE

“ I love pet animals very much. In the year 2014, alongwith my studies I will try to make more pets. I will regularly take care of all the street dogs in my locality. ”



Ananya Patankar
Standard 5 student

“ I will continue guiding people to organise and concentrate our energies to liberate our seeds and food from the toxic, greedy and lethal clutches of global corporations. We will give Real Food Prizes to Real Food Heroes in our communities, who actually bring us real and healthy food. ”



Vandana Shiva
Environmental activist

“ While spelling out the resolutions, I would like to keep them at two levels: personal and public.

On a personal level:

1. I would definitely be using my bicycle as a means of transport within the city. For the rest I am already using public transport for moving around.

2. I would stop using the treadmill and run outdoors for my jogging sessions, since the treadmills are energy eater machines.

On a Public level, I would like to organise following events in my city, through the collective started by me and my friends called 'Aamhi Mitra Mitra':

1. School based competitions for environment projects

2. Identifying environmental issues in my city; sharing it with people via posters, social media etc. trying to brainstorm creative solutions towards the same

3. Organise a lecture/talk of a person from the environmental field

4. Organise a book exhibition specifically for the subject of environment ”



Dhaval Joshi
PhD scholar at TISS

Resolutions





Resolutions

“ My resolution for the coming year 2014 is to best do my part in making the environment more friendly and clean for me as well as my fellow citizens to live in. I make a resolution to avoid wastage of food, water and other essentials. I will keep a bowl of water in the balcony for the birds to quench their thirst. Try reusing materials and products and not dump them in the bin (card-board boxes to store suitable things, one-side printed papers, etc.). Plant saplings at home and society garden to encourage greenery. I will avoid unnecessary use of deodorants as they too account to deterioration of the environment. Try and use maximum amount of natural air and lighting thus saving on electricity bills and fossil fuels.”



Swapneel Bhadra
Automotive design professional

“ Every year as a family we prepare a new year resolution which is mostly of personnel in nature. But this year I have decided to take a green resolution to protect our mother earth. I will not use plastic bags this year and will also ask my family to reduce their plastic use. The useful and simple alternative could be a Jute bags. I am a ladies representative of my society through which I will promote the use of Jute bags amongst all our society tenants and will also request our 'bhajiwala' (vegetable vendor) to use only jute or biodegradable bags.”



Pratibha Hude
Housewife

“ At the very outset let me wish you a happy new year. We celebrate new year with a pooja of Lord Balaji who fulfills all our wishes and gives us a good yield in crops. But depending on god every year will not help us to save our crops. This year we have decided to save more water and use it judiciously by using sprinkling filters in our field. We have decided to pump less water from our borewells in order to maintain ground water table. We will also use minimum quantity of fertilizers to maintain soil condition good. We are obliged to protect our mother earth.”



Humant
Farmer, Karnataka

“ I have a fabrication shop and manufacture concrete lifting machines for construction sites. For manufacturing we do various machining operations. I am working on a plan to combine different machining operations together to save time, reduce machining and electricity cost. I will remove all paint, solvents and other residues from materials before any welding or torch-cutting processes are performed to curb hazardous fume release and tell other shop owners also to do the same. I will try to reuse scrap material wherever possible rather than giving it directly for recycling.”



Hemant Kedari
Fabrication Contractor

“ I am born on 3rd Jan. So like every year, I will make a new year resolution this year as well on my birthday. This year it is related to Environment. I am planning to plant 5 trees in my society premises which will help my society and my house to have fresh air and help maintain environment balance. Other resolution is minimum utilization of plastic bags. So any shopping I do in year 2014, I will try not to use plastic carrybags. Hope these resolutions help my society, and make it a environment friendly place to live in.”



Sangram Ghorpade
iGate Global Solutions Limited



Happy New Year
2014





Environmental facts

Even though the usage of pesticide and fertilizer is high, it cannot increase the grain production in the world. Since 1985, the grain production in the world is declined rapidly.



Plastic bags are used for many purposes. If you reduce the usage of bags up to 10 pieces a month, you can save 2.5 billion bags every year.



27,000 trees are felled each day for toilet paper. You can save 380 gallons of oil if each ton of office paper is recycled. Paper can be recycled only six times. After that, the fibers are too weak to hold together.



By reducing the aluminum can production, people can save much energy. From one recycled aluminum can, people can use the saved energy to watch TV for 3 hours.



The amount of water on Earth is constant, and continually recycled over time: some of the water you drink will have passed through a dinosaur.



Tribute to Nelson Mandela

From Page 1...

bucket for a toilet. During his imprisonment, Mandela was forced to do hard labor in a quarry and was allowed one visitor a year for 30 minutes. During his presidency, from 1994 until June 1999, Mandela used the nation's enthusiasm for sports as a pivot point to promote reconciliation between whites and blacks, encouraging black South Africans to support the once-hated national rugby team. He was inspired by a poem written by William Ernest Henley by the name Invictus. I feel the last four lines of that poem is a real tribute to Nelson Mandela:

It matters not how strait the gate,

How charged with punishments the scroll.

*I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.*

The captain, the storm is now resting in peace.



Dr. Vinitaa Apte

World's Historical...

From page 1...

significantly to the protection of the global climate system”

United Nations system is now busy in making post-2015 resolutions called SDGs i.e. Sustainable Development Goals. While MDGs were top-down model, hope SDGs set up bottom-up framework. This last issue of 2013 brings to us the aspirations of the new generation to live in a eco-friendly way. Hope that they contribute in building a sustainable future for themselves and the generations ahead.

Happy new year 2014!

TERRE Policy Centre

7, Hemdatta Apartments, 38 Mrutyunjay Colony Kothrud, Pune - 411029
Pandit Ajgaokar Scheme, Khandobacha Mal, Bhugaon, Pune - 411042

For feedback, suggestions and contributions contact us at terrepolicycentre@gmail.com
www.terrepolicycentre.org

Editor NewsleTERRE:
Dr. Vinitaa Apte (President, TERRE)

Editorial Team : Mrunmayi Apte, Amol Ghorpade

DECLARATION: TERRE Policy Centre is a non-profit organization and this NewsleTERRE is a purely informative and non-commercial activity of TERRE Policy Centre. The source of information is always credited, where applicable.

