

## Dr. Arvind Kumar

As a renowned water activist, Dr Arvind Kumar has provided new impetus to the water movement in India by disseminating knowledge on water-related issues with specific emphasis on Right to Water, Water Rights for Social Inclusion, Inter-Sectoral Convergence in Water Sector, Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach, equal emphasis on Hard and Soft approaches in



water sector, Sectoral to Collective approach and Regional Water Diplomacy etc. In his capacity as President of India Water Foundation, a non-profit organization established for the purpose of generating a heightened public awareness at national level in India and sub-regional level in Asia-Pacific, Dr Kumar has made efforts in getting these innovative ideas into practice in order to find lasting sustainable solutions to water related problems.

Being cognizant of the vital role water plays in the people's daily lives, and the impact it generates on human health, economic growth and environmental sustainability, he has tried his best to involve all stakeholders in water sector and to bring them on a single platform where they could seek sustainable solutions to water related issues.

Dr. Arvind has been instrumental in making endeavours to foster mode of convergence between and amongst various ministries of Government of India on the one hand and Central Government and various states of the Indian Union on the other, in water sector. He has also tried to promote synergy between Government of India and UN agencies and other international agencies in water sector, especially Ministry of Water Resources GOI, and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other UN and regional agencies. His endeavours in this direction have yielded fruitful results and a Regional Workshop on Water Quality Monitoring in Asia-Pacific region is being organized by India Water Foundation in collaboration with UNEP-GEMS/Water programme in New Delhi on 5-8 November 2012, which is being supported by Ministry of Water Resources and some other ministries of GOI.

Keeping in view the close nexus between water, energy and food, Dr Kumar has emphasized on seeking solution to water related problems through this '**nexus approach**', which seeks to find solutions based on convergence between various sectors or disciplines and which can serve as a bridge that could engulf the gap between the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

Dr Kumar has pioneered the cause of attaching equal emphasis to Hard as well as Soft approaches to water related problems. Hard Approach seeks engineering and technological solutions to water related issues and the Soft Approach entails capacity building of the people which can be accomplished by sensitizing, incentivizing and galvanizing the people about water-related issues.

Treating water as a common heritage of humankind, Dr Kumar has been emphasizing on promoting collective approach to water related issues. In view of the fact that various UN agencies like UNEP, UNESCO, WHO, FAO, UNICEF etc and international water organizations look upon water from their regional or problem-centric perspective, he has called for collective

approach and not sectoral approach. Accordingly, he lays emphasis on inter-nation and inter and intra-organizational synergy in water sector to tackle the problems pertaining to water and thereby ensuring sustainable supply of safe drinking water globally.

He commands rich and varied administrative and managerial experience garnered by having served as Managing Editor for four years (1996-2000) with a leading National Hindi Daily published from New Delhi. Presently **Editor** of the **Sar Economist**, a magazine of South Asia Region and **Focus Global Reporter**, an online monthly journal, both published from New Delhi. He is a renowned political commentator, frequently contributing articles on contemporary political, socio-economic, environmental and defense related issues in prominent journals.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND VARIOUS POSITIONS HELD** :

- He has published over 200 research articles in recent years on national, regional and international issues in reputed journals like *Third Concept*, *SAR Economist*, *Lawz* and *News Street* etc.
- He was invited as Expert in water sector and represented India Water Foundation at the 25th session of the Governing Council of the UNEP held at Nairobi (Kenya) from 16-20 February 2009.
- He was instrumental in initiating inter-sectoral convergence in the two official level meetings held in Vigyan Bhawan on water-related issues in 30 April 2009 between and among the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and some other ministries of the Government of India.
- Participated in the Singapore International Water Week meeting held at Singapore on 21-25 June 2009.
- He Presided Over an all India meeting with representatives of the Netherlands Desk and captains of Indian Industry at Gurgaon (Haryana) on 13 February 2010 to explore the possibilities of cooperation between Indian Industries, Civil Society and the Netherlands Government in water sector.
- He made a presentation as Keynote Speaker at World Water Day Celebrations on 20 March 2010 at Nairobi (Kenya) jointly hosted by UNEP, UN-Habitat, the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), and the Government of Kenya.
- Made a presentation on "Armed Forces and water Security" at a National Seminar on "Water Management in Armed Forces", organized by the three wings of the Armed Forces of India at New Delhi on 7 June 2010.
- Presented a Paper at the Regional Workshop on Integrated Water resources Management organized jointly by the Central Ground Water Board, Government of India and the Government of Meghalaya at Shillong, Meghalaya on 1-2 November 2010.
- He participated as special invitee at the First International Environment Forum For Basin Organizations, organized by UNEP in cooperation with the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, on 26-28 October 2011 at Bangkok, Thailand."
- Under the leadership of Dr Arvind Kumar, the India Water Foundation, New Delhi in collaboration with Rajasthan Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO), Jaipur, organized on 9 November 2011, an International Conference on Water Use Efficiency in Water Sector at Jaipur, Rajasthan. Apart from Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources, many Ministers and senior officials from Rajasthan Government, experts from the Planning Commission, GOI, best of Who's Who in water and industry sectors, media and experts from other fields also graced the occasion.
- The IWF was represented by its President at UNESCAP's High Level Sub-regional Forum Meeting on Accelerating Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in South Asia held in New Delhi on 17-18 February 2012, New Delhi.

- On 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Dr. Kumar was invited as a **Keynote Speaker** at the International Seminar on “**Disaster and Environmental Management: A Global Perspective**”, at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi (U.P.) and he also presented a paper there on “**Environmental Challenges and National Security: An Indian Perspective**”.
- He made a Presentation on “Water Resource Management and Capacity Building: A Conceptual Approach”, at the **India Water Week** held under the aegis of Union Ministry of Water Resources at New Delhi on 12 April 2012.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012, Dr. Arvind Kumar was invited as a panelist in panel discussion at the Inauguration of the **IPCS** non Traditional Security Programme Water conflicts in South Asia at IPCS Conference Room, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.
- On 16-18 May 2012, he participated as representative of India in the Regional Workshop on Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture held under the auspices of **ICID** (International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage) and WHO, UN Universities and UNEP at PUSA Institute, New Delhi.
- He was invited as Keynote Speaker and panelist in Panel discussion on one day workshop on “**wetland Inventory & Assessment status of Uttarakhand State and Release of Wetland Atlas**” on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 organized by Uttarakhand Space Application Centre, Department of Science & Technology Govt. of Uttarakhand. Chief Guest Shri Surendra Singh Negi Hon’ble Uttarakhand Minister of Science & Technology and Dr. P S Gusain Secretary, Department of Science & Technology Uttarakhand preside over the conference and other major dignities, representative from centre state government departments, NGOs and Media person.
- Made a PPT presentation on “Coalition Building: From Periphery to Mainstream”, at the India Association Congress 2012 organized by India Association Congress on 24-25 August 2012 at Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai.

## **EXPERTISE**

1. Dr Arvind Kumar specializes in innovative concepts like Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Auditing, Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), Public-Public Partnership (PUP), Public Trust Doctrine (PTD), inter-sectorial convergence, water-energy-food nexus approach to sustainable development, Soft Approach in water sector, from sectoral approach to collective approach etc. He has consistently made efforts in implementing some of these concepts in water, energy and food sectors.
2. Dr. Arvind Kumar, President India Water Foundation, is Member of a group Constituted with the approval of J S (Admin.) MoWR, GOI, New Delhi, on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 Shram Shakti Bhawan, to interact and deliberate on the idea of setting of India Water HUB, to further discuss the idea/concept of India Water HUB and suggest strategies/activities to be taken by various stakeholders, to promote dialogues amongst various stakeholders and to ensure necessary coordination for operationalisation of the HUB .
3. He has provided new impetus and direction to water movement in India by emphasizing on capacity-building of the people through sensitizing, incentivizing and galvanizing the people – the main stakeholders in water sector – through the dissemination of knowledge on water-related issues through participation in seminars, conferences and through his writings.

## **PERSONAL DETAILS**

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