



PCRWR NEWS

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources

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World Water Day 2021



Celebration of World Water Day 2021

PCRWR in collaboration with the UNESCO Pakistan Office, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Riphah Institute of Public Policy, The Asia Foundation, ICIMOD and Technology Times celebrated the World Water Day on March 15, 2021 at PCRWR Headquarter, Islamabad. This year's theme of World Water Day is "Valuing Water".

Chief Guest of the event, H.E. Dr. Jeoffery Shaw, Australian High Commissioner addressed audience and mentioned long-term partnership of Australian and Pakistan governments in water sector. Speaking on the occasion UNESCO Country Director, Ms. Patricia McPhilips said that it was encouraging to see the involvement of young people in water resources education. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PCRWR remarked that it was high time to recognize the value of water

to preserve it for our future generations. Mr. Farid Alam, Director Programs, The Asia Foundation; Mr. Muhammad Ismail, Country Representative ICIMOD; and Syed Paras Ali, Editor in Chief Technology Times also addressed the audience.

PCRWR Regional Offices at Lahore, Karachi, Bahawalpur, Quetta, Peshawar and DRIP, Tandojam organized events to celebrate World Water Day, 2021. PCRWR Water Quality Laboratories also organized events for the celebrations of the day.

On this occasion lectures on theme valuing of water were delivered in schools, tree plantations and walks were arranged to create awareness on water related issues and future water challenges. Government officials, students, social workers and representatives of the corporate sector participated by carrying colorful banners on importance of water.





Sinow Water Services **Water Care Services** **UNESCO**

One Day Webinar on "Valuing Water" on 22nd March, 2021
(World Water Day)

Objectives:

- Create the opportunity for raising voice on inter-globally challenges.
- Identified the diverse barriers and opportunities for new financial models and alternative approaches in Pakistan.
- Identify priorities and strengthen partnerships to develop, test and scale-up new and existing approaches.

Speakers:

Dr. Saima Butani Water Sector Researcher Water Sector Researcher (WSR)	Prof. Dr. Sabina Farooq Plan Executive, WAWRF Former In-charge PCRWR-CD Chairperson of Intersectoral Water Resource Management Task Force Chairperson of Intersectoral Water Resource Management Task Force
Asif Ali Khan Water Quality Control Officer Water Quality Control Officer (WQCO)	M. Arman Riaz
Mr. Irfan Hussain Water Quality Control Officer Water Quality Control Officer (WQCO)	Mr. Aslam Khan Chairman Chairman

Date:
22nd March, 2021

Organized by:
Department of Chemistry, Govt. College Women University, Faisalabad in collaboration with PCRWR



World Water Day Celebrations at PCRWR Regional offices: Lahore, Bahawalpur, Tandojam, Karachi, Quetta, Gilgit, and Water Quality Laboratories in these regions

Inter University Water Resource Mapping with GIS Application Competition

PCRWR in collaboration with UNESCO organized a competition among university students for submitting short research studies proposals on region specific topics. The core objective of these studies is to figure out viable solutions of hot issues being faced in different regions of Pakistan through geospatial technology in relevance with World Water Day. About 32 research proposals were received by the students against their respective provincial topic. Three research students for water resources mapping research were shortlisted after comprehensive peer review of these research proposals. After successful submission of

their research work, students were given shields and certificates on March 15, 2021 at the occasion of World Water Day. The winning project will be part of UNESCO IHP-WINS database.



Ms. Maryam Khan, receiving shield for 1st position



Mr. Saleem Munawar receiving shield for 2nd position



Ms. Fariha Ansari receiving shield for 3rd position

10th Meeting of PCRWR Board of Governors

The 10th meeting of Board of Governors (BoG) of PCRWR was held in the committee room of Ministry of Science and Technology on February 25, 2021. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Arshad Mahmood, Vice-President of BoG/Federal Secretary for Science and Technology. The members from outside Islamabad attended the meeting virtually. The Board approved amendment in Section-16 of PCRWR Act-2007 through Presidential Ordinance as well as newly

framed PCRWR Draft Employees' Service Rules 2021 for vetting from quarters concerned.



Screenshot of the participants

EssayCon Essay Competition among Youth

PCRWR in collaboration with The Asia Foundation and Technology Times organized an essay competition among high school and undergraduate university students. Theme of the essay was to elaborate water related issues and their solution. About 82 students

from different universities, colleges and schools submitted essays for the competition. Top three essay writers were rewarded with cash prizes and certificates on March 15, 2021 at the occasion of World Water Day 2021.



*Mr. Arsalan receiving shield for 1st position in
Essay Competition*



*Ms. Aleena Shahid receiving shield for 3rd position in
Essay Competition*

Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Visits PCRWR Headquarter, Islamabad

Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan, Mr. Khalid Khurshid Khan visited PCRWR Headquarter, Islamabad on January 11, 2021. Chairman, PCRWR with his team briefed about the organization and its research areas. He also briefed the Chief Minister about the water issues of the country and more specifically of the Gilgit Baltistan. The Chairman, stressed that Gilgit Baltistan is the mother well of the

country and there was a dire need to give focus on Gilgit Baltistan's water issues. The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of PCRWR and offered to work jointly to mitigate the water issues and sustainable management of water resources. He also suggested PCRWR for capacity building of relevant departments of Gilgit Baltistan.



Chairman PCRWR with his team briefing CM Gilgit-Baltistan and demonstrating technologies on site

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology Visits PCRWR

Dr. Arshad Mahmood, Federal Secretary for Science and Technology visited PCRWR Head Office Islamabad on February 2, 2021. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PCRWR with his team briefly presented the work of PCRWR being done in the water sector. The Federal Secretary appreciated

PCRWR's efforts and stressed that more research of applied nature has to be done in water sector and PCRWR being the national organization has to play a leading role. He also assured of his full support for solving administrative and financial issues of the Council.



Federal Secretary during meeting with PCRWR officials



Chairman PCRWR briefing Federal Secretary about Indus Telemetry System

Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Visits PCRWR

Capt. (R) Muhammad Mehmood, Commissioner Rawalpindi Division visited PCRWR Headquarters, Islamabad on January 20, 2021. The Chairman, PCRWR along with his team briefed about the organization and recent activities carried out regarding water resource management, rainwater harvesting and water quality in the twin cities. The

Commissioner appreciated the efforts of PCRWR and asked for technical support of PCRWR to cope with Rawalpindi water issues. The Chairman, PCRWR assured of his full support and assigned his team for assessment of Commissioner's office building for rainwater harvesting for groundwater recharge.



Chairman PCRWR with his team briefing Commissioner Rawalpindi and demonstrating technologies/initiatives on site

Consultation Workshops and Trainings on IWRM Guidelines

PCRWR organized Consultation Workshop and Trainings on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Guidelines in all the provinces of Pakistan during the quarter January-March, 2021. The objective of the consulting workshops was to develop a document on IWRM under UNESCO's Guidelines for IWRM implementation at River Basin Level.

First workshop was organized in Karachi on 9th February, second in Hyderabad on 10th February, third in Peshawar on 17th February, fourth in Lahore on 8th March, fifth on 10th March in Bahawalpur and sixth on 22nd March, 2021 in Quetta. The professionals and scientists from academia, provincial departments and stakeholder organizations attended the workshops.



Group photo of participants at Karachi



Group photo of participants at Lahore



Group photo of participants at Hyderabad



Group photo of participants at Bahawalpur



Group photo of participants at Peshawar



Group photo of participants at Quetta

Executive Director, INWRDAM, Jordan Visits PCRWR

Dr. Marwan Muhammad Al Raggad, Executive Director and Mr. Jalal Al Qaryouti, Program Manager, INWRDAM: Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management visited PCRWR Headquarters on February 12, 2021 and held a meeting with Chairman PCRWR. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman briefed the delegates about PCRWR activities of mutual interest of both the organizations. Dr. Marwan briefed about the upcoming

activities of INWRDAM and hoped for the active participation from the member countries. It was decided in the meeting that new avenues of mutual interest especially in field of transboundary water distribution, water diplomacy, wastewater management, dryland agriculture and hydroponic agriculture should be explored and collaborative efforts should be made to address water related issues.



Chairman PCRWR in meeting with delegates from INWRDAM



Ms Saiqa Imran briefing the INWRDAM delegate about National Water Quality Laboratory

Training on Discharge Measurement through ADCP

PCRWR organized a training on Discharge Measurement through ADCP on February 1-4, 2021 at PCRWR Headquarter, Islamabad. The training was organized to build capacity of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) and PCRWR professionals for initiating the project activities for Groundwater Investigation and Mapping in Sindh. The training consisted of three-days lectures and one-day field training on River Jhelum. Fifteen participants attended the training.



A group photo of the participants of ADCP training

Capacity Development Workshop on River Profiling and Discharge Measurement

PCRWR in collaboration with International Water Management Institute (IWMI) organized a workshop on river profiling and discharge measurement with ADCP on March 1-3, 2021 at its Headquarters in Islamabad. The objective of peer-to-peer learning was to provide an opportunity for water professionals across Pakistan to learn from each other. The training consisted of one-day lecture and two-days field training on River Kabul and River Swat in Khyber Pukhtunkha (KP).



Participants of training workshop

Two Days Training Workshop on “Drinking Water Quality Treatment”

PCRWR in collaboration with Mojaz Foundation, Water Aid and PepsiCo organized a two-days training workshop on “Drinking Water Quality Treatment and related Testing” on February 15-16, 2021. Total 35 participants from water user committees, members of Humak, Saidpur, tube well operators and school staff were trained on drinking water treatment. The workshop was aimed to improve the participants knowledge on water quality testing and treatment methods.



Chairman PCRWR addressing the audience



Group photo of the participants

Chairman, IRSA Visits PCRWR

Mr. Rao Irshad Ali Khan, Chairman IRSA visited PCRWR and met with the Chairman, PCRWR on January 07, 2021. In the meeting, progress on the telemetry system and water related issues were discussed.



AoC between PCRWR and Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD)

Chairman PCRWR, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf and Country Director, HHRD M. Saleem Mansoori signed Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) at PCRWR Headquarters Islamabad on February 22, 2021. This Agreement is aimed to establish the terms and conditions under which PCRWR will facilitate the HHRD to resolve the water related issues and improve the quality of water all over Pakistan, including AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan.



Executive Director, CGSS Visits PCRWR

Lt. Col. Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) and Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative of Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Pakistan visited PCRWR and met the Chairman on February 16, 2021. The meeting intended to explore new areas of mutual interest for strong collaboration among the organizations.



Meeting with The Asia Foundation and Riphah University

A meeting with Mr. Farid Alam, Country Director, The Asia Foundation, Dr. Rashid Aftab, Director, and Mr. Kashif Zaheer, Lecturer, Riphah International was held on January 05, 2021. The meeting intended to discuss post proceedings of the 6th International Water Conference jointly organized by the partners in December 2020.



Meeting with Expert Panel of UNESCO's IHP

Two online meetings with the expert panel of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme were held on 18th and March 24, 2021. The meetings were held to incorporate expert's feedback and views in preparing the pre-final draft of IHP-IX strategy.

Country Director, IWMI Visits PCRWR

Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, Country Director, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) visited PCRWR on February 17, 2021 and met with the Chairman, PCRWR. In the meeting, draft IWRM implementation guidelines for Pakistan were discussed. Dr. Mohsin Hafeez gave his inputs on the draft guidelines.

Meeting with 2030 Water Resource Group

Two online meetings were held with the World Bank's 2030 Water Resource Group experts via zoom link on January 28 and March 04, 2021. The meetings intended to discuss the water resources issues of Pakistan, especially issues related to wastewater management, agriculture water use efficiency and groundwater management.

Meeting with IFAD-UN Delegation

A 2-member delegation from IFAD-UN visited PCRWR on January 6, 2021. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman PCRWR presented an overview of Council's R&D activities.

Quarterly Monitoring of Bottled Water Brands (January- March, 2021)

The Government of Pakistan through Ministry of Science and Technology has designated the task to PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled/mineral water brands and publicize the results in the best interest of public health. For the last quarter (January to March, 2021), 170 samples of Mineral/Bottled water brands were collected from 20 major cities.

Comparison of test results with permissible limits of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has revealed that 15 brands were unsafe for human consumption. Seven brands (i.e. KOYO, NENO, Blue Life, A.R.M.D, H2O EVO, ONE and Sunlay) were found to be unsafe due to presence of higher levels of sodium ranging from 60-92 mg/L than PSQCA bottled water quality standard (50 mg/L). One brand (i.e. Pure Nature) was found unsafe due to presence of high level of Arsenic (26 µg/L) than PSQCA water quality standard (10 µg/L). Three brands (i.e. CENAB, Alkaline Water and Blue Plus) were found unsafe due to low level of pH. Six brands (i.e. McWay, Aqua Dore, OXY, Alkaline Water, Al Umer and Sunlay) were found microbiologically contaminated and thus were unsafe for drinking.

Sad Demise

Syed Ejaz Ahmad Bokhari, Director (Rtd) breathed his last on January 05, 2021. May his soul rest in eternal peace and may Allah, the Almighty bless his bereaved family courage and fortitude to bear this solitude.

COVID-19 Prevention Tips



WASH

Wash your hands frequently - for at least 20 seconds



COVER

Use tissue paper when you cough or sneeze and dispose them off immediately, use your elbow if a tissue paper is not available



AVOID

Do not touch surfaces and then your mouth, eyes or nose



DISTANCE

Practice social distancing by not shaking hands, hugging etc.



ISOLATE

Stay home if you become ill and prevent the spread of the illness



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