



PCRWR NEWS

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National Water Conference on Emerging Water Challenges



Program of Cooperation with CDA and FGEHA for Resolving Water Issues in Islamabad

In view of prevailing water crises in Islamabad, PCRWR has signed a Program of Cooperation (PoC) with Capital Development Authority (CDA) on 8th July, 2021 and with Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) on 22nd September, 2021. PCRWR will provide technical assistance to CDA and FGEHA for resolving water issues in Islamabad. The focus of these PoCs is water conservation, development of groundwater regulatory framework and mass awareness.

The details of major activities include enhancing groundwater recharge and establishment of monitoring network, complete groundwater resource assessment, development of automatic system for the estimation of system losses for managing

demand and supply gap, formulation of groundwater regulatory framework, water quality monitoring and analysis of surface water, wastewater and wastewater re-cycling for multiple uses.

In line with directions of Honorable Prime Minister Imran Khan, Ministry of Science and Technology under leadership of Federal Minister for Science and Technology Senator Syed Shibli Faraz is making efforts to translate knowledge, research and experience into action towards sustainable water resource management. Mr. Asad Umar, Minister for PD&SI and Mr. Ali Nawaz Awan Special Assistant to PM on CDA were also present in signing ceremonies.



National Water Conference on Emerging Water Challenges in Islamabad

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) in collaboration with International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and UNESCO Pakistan organized a National Conference on Emerging Challenge in Pakistan Water Sector on 15th July 2021.

Honorable Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Syed Shibli Faraz was the Chief Guest of the Conference. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that despite being blessed with immense resources, Pakistan was facing grave challenges in the shape of climate change and water scarcity. Moreover, he applauded PCRWR and its allied partners on organizing the conference and emphasized that the outcomes of this conference shall be promulgated to international stakeholders in order to translate research into tangible development for public benefit so that the coming generations could have a water secure Pakistan.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman (PCRWR) while addressing the conference, stressed on the importance of setting research priorities according to the emerging issues. He added that lack of data warehouse of water sector in Pakistan was an issue that needed to be addressed on urgent basis for sustainable management of water resources. He

concluded with the proposal to arrange water weeks in Pakistan to facilitate Industry-Academia-Water experts to disseminate knowledge to all key stakeholders.

International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Country Representative, Dr. Mohsin Hafeez highlighted that the policy making was being done with noble intentions. However, without evidence-based knowledge and data, these policies are doomed to fail. Therefore, there should be a mechanism to develop a central database in collaboration with all national stakeholders and sectoral institutions. He added, that the emerging challenges could not be addressed in isolation and required a coherent effort.

Speaking on the occasion, UNESCO Country Representative, Ms. Patricia McPhillips said that once a water abundant country, Pakistan had now become a water stressed country. UNESCO, in collaboration with PCRWR has taken initiatives at pilot scale. However, to achieve SDG Goal 6 regarding water and sanitation, immense efforts are required alongwith addressing the emerging issues of climate change and unregulated exploitation of groundwater. Speakers from various national and international organizations presented their work.



Ms. Patricia McPhillips, Director UNESCO and Syed Shibli Faraz, Minister S&T speaking on the occasion

A Delegation of Korean Experts Visited PCRWR

A delegation of Korean experts from Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), K-Water and Urban Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy visited PCRWR on 4th August, 2021. The meeting was held to discuss the implementation of the newly approved Project “Capacity Building on Water Quality Monitoring and SDG 6 (6.1) Reporting”.

Chairman PCRWR, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf briefed the Korean Experts on the research, development and capacity building initiatives of PCRWR specifically on water management and water quality. Secretary, PCRWR Engr. Faizan ul Hassan demonstrated the Indus Telemetric System, Rainwater Harvesting and Groundwater Recharge Technologies at PCRWR premises. Dr. Hifza Rasheed, Director General (WQ) demonstrated the water quality assessment and management facilities of ISO-17025

accredited National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) and National Capacity Building Institute (NCBI).

The Deputy Director, KOICA, Mr. Junho Choi appreciated the contribution of PCRWR in addressing the water challenges of Pakistan. It is worth mentioning here that PCRWR has contributed in conceptualization and development of this Pak-KOICA joint project and will be the main partner in the project implementation.



Meeting with Korean Delegation

Participation in KOICA-ICEC Global Online Fellowship Program

The International Climate and Environment Center (ICEC) and KOICA organized online fellowship program on “Sustainable Water Resource Management for Climate Change Response for Pakistani officials from 3-10 August, 2021. In total 16 participants attended the course from PCRWR. The purpose of this online training was to share knowledge on sustainable and safe water resources management in line with the climate change response, and to enhance capacities of participating countries. The ten days intensive training course was designed to strengthen the international cooperation network by revitalizing participation of local governments, and thus

aid in preparing the next generation of water managers. PCRWR's officials prepared and presented action plans specifically applicable to Pakistan. Through these action plans, ICEC and UEA will look for collaborative opportunities for regional projects.



Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of Karez System Cultural Landscape

The 4th Steering Committee meeting was held on 29th July 2021 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Planning & Development (P&D) Department, Government of Balochistan. The main agenda was to review the progress on cultural mapping process for the possible nomination of Karez System Cultural Landscape. The meeting was attended by the Country Director UNESCO Pakistan, Chairman PCRWR, and representatives of steering committee members. The Secretary, PCRWR, presented

an updated progress on the Karez Cultural Landscape potential nomination process.



Group photo of the members of steering committee

Visit of UNESCO's Delegation to Karez site

The UNESCO's Director to Pakistan, Ms Patricia Mcphilips visited the demonstration site of a Karez located near Quetta and interacted with local community regarding the functions and social uses of Karez cultural landscape. The Karez stakeholder community informed the delegation how Karez rehabilitation work has benefited the communities in management of their cultivated land and orchards, thus improving their livelihood.



Secretary PCRWR briefing Director UNESCO at Karez site

Initiation of Project Policy Review of Adapting to Salinity in the Southern Indus Basin

Under an ACIAR project “Living with Salinity”, PCRWR has initiated a study to dig out policies and strategies relevant to salinity management in the southern Indus Basin, analysing their effectiveness and data gap analysis. Under this study, Focus Group Discussion and interviews were conducted from 13-15 September 2021 in Hyderabad, 28 September 2021 in Lahore with relevant stakeholder organizations and individual farmers.



FGD in Lahore

Representation in 4th Extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

4th Extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) was organized on 29th September to 1st October 2021. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR and Faizan ul Hasan, Secretary, PCRWR participated in the meeting on behalf of Pakistan. The meeting was held in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris while all member countries participated online due to COVID. It is worthwhile mentioning here that PCRWR is the Secretariat of Pakistan National Committee on Intergovernmental Hydrological Program of UNESCO.

Training Workshop for PHED Professionals

A one-day training workshop was organized for representatives of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) on 23rd August, 2021 to familiarize with installation and calibration of instruments (colorimeter, autoclave, membrane filtration assembly for microbiological analysis).



Photograph of the training session

Participation in UEA Yeosu Summit, 2021

PCRWR professionals participated in an online opening session of 2021 UEA (Urban Environmental Accords) Yeosu Summit held from 29th September - 1st October, 2021

in Korea. This Summit was organized into 7 thematic sessions encompassing different aspects of urban sustainability and net-zero waste. Various stakeholders illustrated their regional perspectives alongwith the common challenges and goals.

Meeting with Delegation of World Bank

A delegation of World Bank visited PCRWR on 9th July, 2021. The Bank was more interested to know about water issues of South Punjab. The Chairman, PCRWR briefed the delegation about the experiences of PCRWR in Southern Punjab.



Meeting with the World Bank Delegation

Visit of Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology

Dr. Akhtar Nazir, Federal Secretary visited PCRWR on 23rd September, 2021 and was briefed about various facilities including National Water Quality Laboratory, Indus Telemetry System, and rainwater harvesting demonstration. He particularly appreciated groundwater recharge well technology that was simple and cost effective.



Chairman PCRWR briefing Federal Secretary MoST on recharge well

Meeting with delegates of Water-Aid

A meeting with the representatives of Water-Aid was held at PCRWR, Islamabad on 12th August, 2021 regarding development of groundwater regulatory framework. Water-Aid has engaged a legal firm Mussawi, they will help PCRWR in drafting groundwater regulation for Islamabad.



Meeting with Water-Aid & Mussavi

Awareness Sessions for Safe Drinking Water

PCRWR regional office Karachi organized awareness sessions with local community, stakeholders on provision of safe drinking water at Pak colony, Keemari town, Karachi during the month of August, 2021.



An awareness session at school

Retirements

Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director Finance on 1st September 2021, Mr. Gulab Chandio, SDO on 5th July 2021 and Mr. Nawaz Siddiqui SDO on 31st July 2021 were retired honorably.

Launching of Rainwater Harvesting Project by UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT has launched a project “Enhance community, local and national-level urban climate change resilience to water scarcity caused by floods and droughts in Rawalpindi and Nowshera districts” under Adaptation Fund in partnership with Ministry of Climate Change, NDMA, Federal Flood Commission, WASA Rawalpindi, TMA Nowshera, SheherSaz (NGO) and PCRWR.

Quarterly Monitoring of Bottled Water

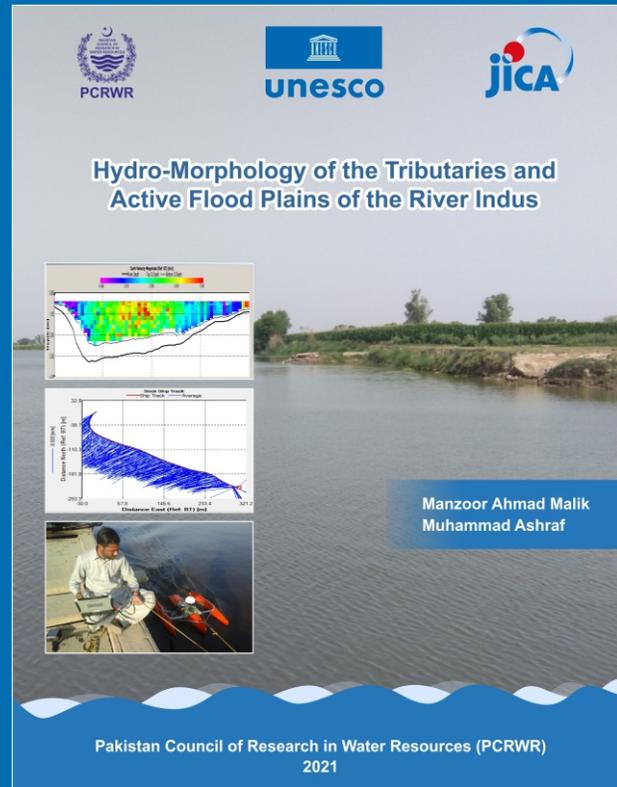
The government of Pakistan has designated the PCRWR as focal point agency for the quarterly monitoring of bottled water brands. For the current quarter, total samples of 187 commercially available bottled water brands have been collected from 21 major cities (Lahore, Sialkot, Karachi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Sahiwal, Faisalabad, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Quetta, Peshawar, Mianwali, D.G. Khan, D.I. Khan, Badin, Tandojam, Sukkur, Gilgit, Bahawalpur and Loralai). All samples were analyzed in ISO-17025 accredited National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) of PCRWR. Comparison of test results with permissible limits of Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) reveals that out of 187 brands, 20 were found unsafe for human consumption mainly due to microbial and chemical contamination.

Publication of PCRWR Annual Report

PCRWR has published its annual report for the financial year 2020-21. The report contains key achievements, R&D activities and regular studies, services and activities of PCRWR during the reported year. A copy of the PCRWR Annual Report 2020-21 is available on PCRWR's website. The link of the report is <http://pcrwr.gov.pk/annual-reports>.

Hydro-Morphology of the Tributaries and Active Flood Plains of the River Indus

PCRWR has released an important publication "**Hydro-morphology of the tributaries and active flood plains of the river Indus**". This is a pioneer study which pertains to the hydro-morphological features of the eastern tributaries of the river Indus and physico-hydraulic characteristics of the Indus Basin. These data sets have helped improve the early warning and flood management system of Pakistan and in future will also contribute towards better water resources management, disaster risk reduction and agricultural productivity enhancement. In this study, PCRWR has used state of the art Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) for the measurement of river flow regimes and morphological profiles. UNESCO and JICA provided the financial support.



This report may be downloaded from PCRWR website:

[Flow Regimes and Allied Attributes of the Eastern Tributaries of the River Indus \(pcrwr.gov.pk\)](http://pcrwr.gov.pk)



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