Dr. Richa Dave Nagar, Assistant Professor, AIES

Presiding the inaugural of the Webinar on “Wetlands: Securing Fresh Water for Sustainable Development”

Dr. Richa Dave Nagar, Assistant Professor, Amity Institute of Environmental Sciences, AUUP on behalf of Hon’ble Founder President Sir, Hon’ble Chancellor Sir and Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, welcomed all the respected dignitaries and the participants of the Wetland Day Celebration. The event started with the curtain raiser followed with the invocation of Goddess Saraswati by rendition of Saraswati Vandana and the lighting of the lamp of knowledge in virtual mode.
Dr. Renu Dhupper, Joint Coordinator, AIES:

She greeted and welcomed everyone for joining the webinar on Wetland day. She welcomed all the guests, eminent speakers and participants. She explained the importance of wetland in ecosystem and the role they play in climate change mitigation. It is celebrated on 2\textsuperscript{nd} February and was adopted in an International Treaty of 1971 to raise awareness for the conservation of wetland. She said 90\% of world’s wetland has been degraded and we are losing wetland at a faster rate than forest. She talked about the critical importance of wetland on biodiversity, fish availability, climate mitigation, world economics and many more. We should focus at international and national level to conserve and restore wetland. She thanked founder president Dr. Ashok Kumar Chauhan for the guiding force. At the end, she welcomed Chancellor sir, Dr. Atul Chauhan and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Balvinder Shukla mam.

**Introduction to theme**

Dr. Manju Rawat Ranjan welcomed everyone and wished Happy Wetland Day. She talked about the theme is action of people in nature. Wetland are conserved and save it from disappearing. She said 46 Ramsar convention wetland. She said it is called kidney of the earth. It provides habitat for terrestrial plants and animal. Wetlands add recreational aesthetic beauty. There are 2 wetlands in Montreux Record in Rajasthan and Manipur which are in degraded state and we need to improve. As responsible citizen we need to protect it for the economy and the local people. In Najafgarh Lake will be added in Ramsar Wetland convention.

Prof. D. K. Bandyopadhyay, 

Chief Advisor FPO / Chairman, Amity Law School, Mentor, Amity Institute of Environmental Sciences, Amity University Uttar Pradesh

He congratulated AIES for organizing this important event on Wetland. He welcomed everyone. He said we have discussed about the importance of wetland. He said 17 sustainable development goal helped in focusing in conservation of wetland. He talked about wetland contribute to all the 16 SDG. Wetland protection wise use help government to combat desertification and CBD. He said that Wetland play important role freshwater cycle. It holds rainwater. He mentioned about the agricultural residues that suffocates the wetland.
Dr. J.K. Garg,

Governing Body Member, Wetland International South Asia or Former Dean, University School of Environment Management, GGSIPU, New Delhi

He thanked and welcomed everyone. He talked about the Theme of wetland focusing on wetland conservation for the environment and the local people. Wetlands are low-lying area and can be natural or manmade. He said the convention was started in 2nd Feb 1971. Wetland is the only global convention which covers wild to coastal ridge of wetland. He said as of today 49 wetland and 2 wetlands are added today. In this year, we will cross 50 wetlands. The total surface 1093636 hectare is covered by Ramsar Sites. In 1981, we had only 5 wetlands but now it is increasing. Wetland water saturated land and are not more than 6meter as per Ramsar convention.

Dr. Shivakumar Magada,

Professor and Dean, College of Fisheries, Mangalore, India

He thanked everyone for this great event. He said enough science is known to humans and people are busy in learning facts and figures. But science is organized thinking. Future threat is hunger to humanity. He said our target is to feed 350 millions of people by 2025. 85% of the country is facing water stress and ignoring the wetlands. He wetlands help in purification of heavy metal, maintaining hydrological cycle and maintaining atmospheric temperature. We should observe on the taking action on the objectives of wetland theme. He requested for collaboration with Amity to work for the conservation and protection of wetland.

Dr. Neeraj Kumar,

Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Meerut College, Meerut, U.P

He thanked and wished everyone Happy wetlands Day. He talked about the Wetland need conservation. He mentioned about the services rendered by wetlands-water purification, control erosion, carbon sequestration. He talked about the research gap in wetland which can be fulfilled by Ph.D scholars in Amity University. He said about the different degradation stages of wetland. He mentioned about the effect of climate change on wetland- increased flooding, drought, severe storms, precipitation, temperature and water regimes. He talked about the repairing functions of the wetland.
Valedictory Session

Dr. Ambrina Sardar Khan, Assistant Professor, AIES played a documentary film on Wetland. Vote of thanks was given by Dr. Ambrina. She thanked Hon’ble Founder President Sir, Hon’ble Chancellor Sir and Hon’ble Vice Chancellor. She thanked eminent speakers for explaining the importance, conservation strategies and threats exposed to wetland. She mentioned about the protection of wetland all through the year 365 days and not only on just 2nd February. She expressed her gratitude by thanking Joint Co-ordinators, faculties, non teaching staff and all the participants for the efficient conduction and celebration of Wetland Day.