

PRESS RELEASE
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Water Conversations on World Water Day
Development Alternatives Brings together *People & Partnerships*
for a Peaceful, Prosperous Blue Planet.

- *The **ROUND TABLE** on Water for Peace witnessed the participation of 30 water specialists (Corporates, Water Conservationists, Government officials, International Organisations and likeminded NGO's) to deliberate on the looming water crises, innovations and policies that intend to enhance water security for the present and future.*
- *At a **27th trilogue2047**, the stellar speakers focussed on Water as it connects with "Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership" and the impact of water on socio-economic and ecological systems and the urgent need for conservation, restoration, rejuvenation, based on collaborations and partnerships.*
- *The 'Dastan Goi on Water' showcased water and it's connect with various aspects of our life, including behavioural change as an important tool to redefine our relationship with water.*

New Delhi, Oct 20th- On the eve of World Water Day, Development Alternatives (DA) brought together Corporates, Institutions, Individuals, Government officials, environmentalists and Multilateral agencies to create an groundswell around water. In the background of escalating water crises both nationally and globally this multi stakeholder platform is the need of the hour. The cross-cutting themes in both the events is scale and partnerships. This event will serve as a central hub, drawing stakeholders from various sectors to delve into the complex connections between water management and peacebuilding. It actively promotes the sharing of best practices, identification of barriers, and emphasises upon the integral role of community engagement. Acknowledging the crucial influence of national policies and international agreements, the event advocates for innovative and sustainable approaches to water management. A critical plea is made for heightened investment to bolster resilience and foster global collaboration. The overarching goal is to forge impactful partnerships that effectively address shared water challenges and contribute to global peace.

The main discussion platforms were

ROUND TABLE

This objective is to unite diverse perspectives through programs, policies, and cultural integration, fostering a commitment to sustainable water practices. The closed door round table had 30 panellists from organisations such as Government of UP, UNDP, IUCN, NGO's and agencies that work specifically on water such as DA, CEEW, CANSA, TERI, Gurujal, Sehgal Foundation and other. From corporates there were CSR teams of leading corporates. The outcomes of the dialogue while stressing on water scarcity also laid emphasis on social and ecological aspects covering equity in access and intergenerational equity in the water

sector. Collaboration and collective action in a public-private-community-academic model will be important to drive the agenda towards efficient water management and to move towards a water positive future

The themes that were discussed included Exploring interconnectedness, Challenges and barriers to water cooperation, National and International Policies and Frameworks, Financing mechanisms, Innovative approaches and technologies:

27th trilogue2047

The trilogue threw light on the urgent need to balance people, prosperity issues with specific focus on affordable access to water without compromising on ecological health. The “*trialogue2047*” brought together key stakeholders on one shared platform. The theme of the 27th trilogue on Water for Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. Shri Suresh Prabhu, Honourable Member of Parliament, was the keynote speaker of the event. Ms Hyun Hee Ban, Chief, Social Policy, UNICEF India; Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs and Ms Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR, HCL Foundation were the esteemed guests. They discussed the need for united efforts to address water-related issues, underscoring the imperative to view water not merely as a vital resource but as a catalyst for global collaboration towards a harmonious and sustainable future.

Quotes

Mr Suresh Prabhu- Hon’ble Minister Of Parliament -in his keynote address emphasised on the Scenario of water in 2047 is going to be a challenging one. Too much water is a problem, so is too less of it. By 2047, per capita availability of water would be under severe stress. Climate change is irrevocable – we need to figure out the best way of saving water.

Ms Hyun Hee Ban, Chief, Social Policy, UNICEF India asse, gender equality. UNICEF with Ministries has ensured that water is available in schools and universities because water is an important component within the overall human development “Water touches upon many SDGs from health to education, gender equality. UNICEF with Ministries has ensured that water is available in schools and universities because water is an important component within the overall human development”.

Zeenat Niazi, Senior Vice President, DA Group shared her fresh perspective on the alarming issue of water and its scarcity “Green is the new blue – if you don’t manage green, blue doesn’t stay” “

Dr. Debolina Kundu, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs shared her views on some of the **governance challenges for ensuring that water conservation, blue-green issues and demand side management are prioritised in urban planning. She said,** “In my experience in the urban sector of a few decades, I have seen a gap. A set of institutions formulate policies, a separate set of them implement them on the ground, and individual “ownership” of ecological resources lies with local communities, while the responsibilities of custodianship are promptly placed on the government. There needs to be contiguity from the government in formulation as well as implementation of policy, whereas local communities need a sense of fiduciary responsibility towards their water resources and need to be given space in conversations around planning and conservation” “ ”

Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President, Global CSR, HCLTech & Director, HCLFoundation

HCLF – the CSR arm of HCLTech has taken a systems strengthening approach to water conservation. In a very limited time, we have harvested more than 60 Billion Litres of water and rejuvenated close to 200 waterbodies, big and small. We work with rural and urban local bodies to rejuvenate the ‘commons.’ Our afforestation efforts lead to the ‘green’ efforts. We are a Tech company, with a low water footprint, yet water conservation is core to our CSR strategy. We were awarded the National Water Award as Best in Industry for our efforts. Success of these efforts lies in the Public Private Partnerships, Citizens and Volunteer Engagement.

Two appeals we have for citizens and government are that we should completely stop touching the ground water, there should be a ban on extracting ground water near water bodies which we are rejuvenating. Other, all water bodies must be marked and notified under law. No urban/rural expansion should be allowed on water bodies. This will enable other corporate to invest in rejuvenation of water since the risk of losing impact will be minimised and they will feel protected.

We are in a situation of crisis already. Time to act is NOW! Our publication ‘Water – the essence of life’ which we unveiled at the UN Water Conference, presents several such models which can be upscaled across geographies”

About Water

Water, a universal lifeline, has historically sustained civilisations, supporting agriculture, transport, and trade. Amidst escalating global population and urbanisation, demand for water has surged. However, climate change, dwindling reservoirs, and erratic weather patterns intensify challenges. Increased floods and droughts strain water access for drinking and sanitation amidst escalating demands for food security and energy. Climatic shifts, aquifer depletion, and biodiversity loss threaten ecological balance and aquatic ecosystems. Persistent pollution in rivers, ponds, and lakes compounds the challenge, making effective water resource management and sharing an imperative and formidable task.

Collaboration and cooperation in water management symbolise a shared responsibility for efficiently and effectively addressing impending challenges. Water, as a connector, becomes a tool to craft a peaceful and prosperous global landscape. Urgently, there's a need to unite to safeguard and conserve this precious yet increasingly scarce resource.

Given the magnitude and vulnerability of our shared resource, Water, the World Water Day (WWD) with its theme, "Water for Peace," aptly aligns to foster partnerships and encourage collaboration on a shared agenda. This commemoration serves as a timely recommitment to prioritise the sustainable use of water resources.

About trialogue2047

- trialogue 2047 is Development Alternatives flagship discussion forum for building consensus on directions and measures India must take to accelerate a transition towards a truly sustainable future. This platform aims to create a shared understanding on structural changes required in our economic, political, and social systems. It provides a forum for open debate and discussions challenging the current norms of development and channelling the focus on urgent issues of poverty alleviation, environment sustainability, inequity, social justice, and building resilience amongst the poor and marginalised.
- The aim of trialogue 2047 is to build a community of people who are aware and concerned with the issues of sustainable development in India. This is achieved through engaging a large multidisciplinary audience, including the youth, in conversation with eminent speakers who can provide a diverse set of views and insights bringing out a varied set of perspectives.

About Development Alternatives

- Development Alternatives (DA) is a think tank with a global presence in the fields of green economic development, social empowerment, and environmental management. It is credited with numerous innovations in clean technology and delivery systems that help create sustainable livelihoods in the developing world. With the focus on empowering communities through strengthening people's institutions and facilitating their access to basic needs; enabling economic opportunities through skill development for green jobs and enterprise creation; and promoting low carbon pathways for development through natural resource management models and clean technology solutions. DA works in addressing three global challenges namely- **Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy, Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration, and Livelihood Security and Inclusive Entrepreneurship.**

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