

Let's Rejuvenate Urban Pond Ecosystem!



Our esteemed speakers on the launch of learning programme on Rejuvenating Peri-Urban Pond Ecosystem

On 29 August 2024, Development Alternatives hosted an engaging online launch event titled "Rejuvenating Peri-Urban Pond Ecosystem." This learning programme is an excellent opportunity for professionals and community leaders who wish to deepen their understanding and make a tangible impact on water conservation and ecological restoration.

With 53 participants in attendance, the event focused on the critical issues surrounding water conservation and the rejuvenation of peri-urban ponds, with particular emphasis on practical strategies, community engagement, and sustainable practices.

The session featured insights from prominent leaders, including G. Asok Kumar, former Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga and Senior Advisor (hon.) for Development Alternatives, who highlighted the increasing recognition of water as a vital yet limited resource. Zeenat Niazi, Chief Advisor for Circular Economy and Climate Resilience Programmes, DA spoke on ecosystem restoration through pond rejuvenation, presenting it as a nature-based solution to various environmental challenges. Ankit Kumar, Deputy Manager of HCL Foundation, further emphasised the significance of pond rejuvenation by sharing a case study from Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, illustrating the impact of effective pond rejuvenation on local communities.

Dr Swayam Prabha Das, Associate Vice-President at Development Alternatives, opened the event with a broad perspective on water and climate change, setting the stage for the discussions that followed. Aakriti Uttam, Programme Officer at Development Alternatives, shared the organisation's journey in pond rejuvenation, highlighting key milestones and achievements.

The event culminated in the announcement of a three-day Learning Programme on Pond Rejuvenation, scheduled from 25 to 27 September 2024. The course was officially announced by Mr Shrashtant Patara, CEO of Development Alternatives and Executive Vice President of the Development Alternatives Group. This comprehensive course will delve into various aspects of pond rejuvenation, including understanding the context, pre-rejuvenation planning, implementation, sustainability, and community engagement. Participants will also learn from good practices adopted across India and partake in an exposure visit.

Maj. Gen. Rahul Bhardwaj, COO of TARA and Associate Vice President of Development Alternatives Group, concluded the event with a vote of thanks and outlined the way forward.

For more details or to register, participants can visit the registration link <https://forms.gle/6a1K7LazTTv8Y6QE9> or reach out to pondrejuvenation@devalt.org.