

World Water Day 2024: Celebrating Water for Peace



Celebrating World Water Day 2024: A Call to Action for Sustainable Water Management

In commemoration of World Water Day, Development Alternatives recently spearheaded a series of impactful events aimed at addressing critical issues surrounding water conservation, management, and cultural significance. Collaborating with esteemed partners such as the Climate Reality Project, NIUA, W. for. W Foundation, and WICCI, these events provided a platform for experts, policymakers, practitioners, and cultural enthusiasts to come together and engage in meaningful dialogue and action.

The inaugural event, the **Roundtable on Water for Peace**, marked a significant milestone in the collective effort towards water conservation. Keynote speaker Shri. Ashish Tiwari, Secretary of MoEFCC, Govt. of UP, set the context for the discussion as the roundtable convened 25 water experts from diverse sectors. The discussions centred on the urgent need for the protection, conservation, and restoration of water resources. Through programs, policies, and cultural integration, participants pledged their commitment to sustainable water practices. The event emphasised the indispensable role of water in achieving peace and underscored the shared responsibility for its preservation.

Following the roundtable, the **trialogue 2047 - "Water for Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships"** delved deeper into the nexus between water management and sustainable development goals. Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, delivered a keynote address, setting the stage for a dynamic panel discussion. Joined by esteemed panelists including



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Ms. Hyun Hee Ban from UNICEF, Dr. Debolina Kundu from NIUA, and Ms. Nidhi Pundir from HCL Foundation, the *trialogue* 2047 focused on building a consensus for India's transition to a sustainable future. The discussions highlighted the interconnectedness of water management with broader socio-economic contexts, emphasising inclusive dialogue and collaborative partnerships as key drivers for comprehensive sustainability.

The culmination of the evening featured a captivating cultural event titled "**Dastan Gol**". Led by Dr. Mansee Bal Bhargava and the team - Ms. Swati Sharma, Mr. Sukrit Sen, and Mr. Palash Chaturvedi from the Living Waters Museum in association with East India Dastangos, the event immersed attendees in the rich tapestry of India's rivers and their significance. Through storytelling, the audience gained insights into the challenges facing these vital water bodies and the imperative for collective action to ensure their sustainability and vitality.

In reflection, the series of events organised by Development Alternative served as a powerful call to action for sustainable water management. From informed discussions at the roundtable to inclusive dialogue at the *trialogue* 2047 and engaging cultural narratives at "Dastan Gol", participants were inspired to deepen their commitment to preserving our most precious resource - water. Moving forward, it is imperative that we continue to foster partnerships, implement innovative solutions, and advocate for policies that prioritise the conservation and equitable distribution of water resources. Together, we can pave the way towards a future where water sustains not only our planet but also the prosperity, peace, and well-being of all its inhabitants.



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