

FOREWORD

By

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY PROCEEDINGS

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ON

THE THEME OF “GREEN ECONOMY – DOES IT INCLUDE YOU?”

All Praise to Allah, the Almighty, The Benevolent and The Merciful Who created everything in the universe on ‘Aiedal’, the equilibrium or say the balance. The Holy Quran, revealed on Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), is replete with verses in this regard. To quote a few, Allah Ta’ala revealeth that to stay put the earth, mighty bolts of mountains to hold it, lest it became unsteady; the sun & the moon move in their respective orbits never to collide; the large hot and cold currents in the oceans flow together concurrently never to mingle with each other and so on. Similar equilibrium is manifest in the case of natural environment.

It went well till the mankind was sparse on Earth. But when it started growing out of proportion, the man started improvising ways and means to supplement his resources of food and Fiber. And with such efforts took to interfering with the natural equilibrium without ever caring to restore it to normal state with counterbalance arrangements.

For example he started:

- Constructing water channels which in their wake, brought waterlogging menace, rendering erstwhile fertile lands waste, breeding mosquitoes or other pests in stagnating water in pools creating health hazards and disturbing fauna and flora in the absence of proper drainage which ought to have been arranged at the very outset.
- Constructing roads, highways where vehicles emit carbon mono-oxide and other toxic gases which not only affect pulmonary systems of the human beings and animals alike but also contribute a horrific source of global warming. This is because greenery to the extent necessary for restoring oxygen gases to counter excessive generation of carbon monoxide is not being attended to.
- Constructing Industries at various places en-masse which drain effluents waste without treatment and pollute the adjoining aquifers. The polluted water pumped out by the inhabitants for human consumption become a source of multiple diseases.

And so many other environmental hazards.

All these transgressions seriously imbalance the natural environment.

1. Vice-President Pakistan Engineering Congress

The international community was seized with the dilemma that if such a recourse continued unabated and viable counter-balance measures were not evolved on top priority basis, to help bring the Environment on even keel, the life on earth was fraught with the danger of speedy extinction.

It was, therefore, with the inspiration from Stockholm convention in 1972 that Environment Protection Ordinance was enacted in 1983 followed by National Conservation Strategy (NCS) in 1992. In Pakistan it was classified as the Environment Protection Act specifying the National Environmental Quality Control Standards as a benchmark. In the year 2001 "National Action Plan" was formulated to stem the ever increasing degradation of environment.

For countering the Environmental pollution, a specific topic is proposed every year for discussion at the World Environment Day moot by every country in the month of June. On this occasion technical papers relevant to the theme of the year are presented by eminent professionals/ specialists which are duly discussed and the authors of the papers elaborately reply to the questions raised by the audience.

Till this year seven of such events have been observed starting in June 2005 and the technical papers presented on various topics have been published and circulated amongst the authors, the members of the Engineering Congress and the national libraries.

This year, the topic of the World Environment Day was "**Green Economy – Does it include you?**"

Whereas the authors of all the technical papers laid great emphasis on evolving mechanism whereby we in Pakistan must improve our forest land area to green lands on war footing from 5.31% of total landscape to the acceptable level now being far below of 18.21% of China and 23.68% of India. Unless we achieved the desired levels the posterity is doomed to face horrible traumatic consequences. Green economy is entirely dependent upon water availability which is bestowed by the Benevolent Nature in two ways. One through precipitation which is fast depleting due to deforestation and resultant erosion of whatever earth was available on high altitude hills for vegetation. Second through water channels, supply of which is being arbitrarily exploited by India on Pakistani Rivers of Chenab, Jhelum & Indus apportioned to Pakistan by Indus Basin Water Treaty through the aegis of World Bank. The papers entitled i) Water Shortage and Vegetation and ii) Construction of Large and Medium Dams for Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Protection, matter a lot for the efforts to be enunciated in the second case.

President Pakistan Engineering Congress in his address of Welcome and the Chief Guest in his reply too have discussed the issue of the topic at length.

All the proceedings of the World Environment Day 2012 from address of Welcome by the President Pakistan Engineering Congress, the Chief Guest and the texts of 13 technical papers presented on the Environment Day form part of this volume.