

Address By
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Member Water WAPDA
On
World Water Day 24th March, 2012
At
“Mashhadi Hall” of Pakistan Engineering Congress

President Pakistan Engineering Congress,

Learned Delegates

Members Pakistan Engineering Congress

Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is commendable to know that Pakistan Engineering Congress is commemorating World Water Day regularly since 2006. During the last six seminars papers highlighting the importance of water for life and development have been presented at the congress forum. This year's theme **“Water and Food Security”** is the most important. According to Quran, “And we made every living thing of Water”. Life is not possible without water. The population of Pakistan is increasing and the availability of water per capita is reducing. Pakistan is almost on the limit of water stressed country.

WAPDA's charter is development of water and power resources of Pakistan. Since its creation in 1958, WAPDA built Indus Basin replacement projects : Mangla, Tarbela Dam, five barrages and eight inter river link canals to ensure water supply to the bread basket of Pakistan. WAPDA completed more than seventy SCARPs for reclaiming the productivity of agriculture lands. WAPDA has recently completed Mirani, Sabakzai, Satpara, Mangla Dam Raising and Gomal Zam dams. WAPDA has started land acquisition and construction of infrastructure for Diamer Basha Dam Project. Work on the construction of dam would be started soon. Construction of Kurram Tangi dam has started. Design of Munda dam is being done. Work on construction of six small to medium dams is also being started in the four provinces for local agriculture use.

In addition to storage of water, WAPDA is trying to line the canals to reduce seepage losses, treat saline water to make it useable for agriculture and manage the sediments to enhance the life of storage reservoirs.

In order to make optimal use of water, WAPDA has set up model farms at Mirani and Sabakzai dams for efficient use of water through drip and sprinkler methods.

WAPDA is fully cognizant of the water escapages below Kotri and storages are being planned for bringing the additional land under agriculture. This would not only ensure our food security but also produce agriculture surplus for the development of the economy. The storages of water would not only help during the drought and water shortages but also mitigate the floods.

As WAPDA plays a pivotal role in development of water resources of Pakistan, it is privileged to commemorate the World Water Day on “Water and Food Security” with Pakistan Engineering Congress. The standard of the papers presented at Pakistan

engineering congress seminar on World Water Day is of international level. I must eulogise the effort of Pakistan Engineering Congress in this regard.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Chairman WAPDA had the opportunity to participate and address the 6th World Water Forum at Marseille, France during the last week. The parliamentarians and water experts around the globe discussed in depth “The Water, Food and Energy Nexus” the solutions and commitments. It is universally recognized that providing water means ensuring life, health and food, economic and social vitality, development and harmony. The full week was consecrated to increase global mobilization on questions concerning water.

In the context of Global warming Pakistan faces the greatest challenge as regard water for sustainable development.

Pakistan is a member of the regional organizations and ICIMOD for sharing the transboundry information regarding water. We must benefit from the international experience and global water partnership. We have to make sustainable use of our ground water. We must conserve water, grow more crops for every drop of water, only then we can survive.

There are conferences on Water, Power and Food Nexus every other day. It is good to highlight and create the awareness on water. We must act, conserve and use this precious source judiciously and ensure sustainability.

In the end I thank Pakistan Engineering Congress for its commitment to the goal of World Water Day. I would be looking forward to see the recommendations of the seminar.

Thank you all.

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