

## **International Conference on Water – Harvesting, Storage and Conservation (WHSC-2009)**

23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009

International Conference on Water – Harvesting, Storage and Conservation (WHSC-2009) was the first of the series of conferences organized as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of IIT Kanpur. WHSC-2009 was organized under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vinod Tare, Professor, Environmental Engineering and Management Program, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur.

The world and especially India is facing an acute problem of water security. There are several gaps in the available technologies and policies related to water management which include both quantity and quality issues. For minimizing these gaps, issues related to water management must be addressed together by scientists, technologists, policy makers, implementers, and the society at large. The conference was an effort to foster coordination amongst the various stakeholders and to bring together experts of national and international repute in the field to share their knowledge and experience on the technological options, policy guidelines and implementing mechanisms for water harvesting, storage and conservation.

The main objectives of this conference were to: (i) assess the significance of water harvesting, storage and conservation to meet the international water stipulate, (ii) assess challenges related to water harvesting, storage and conservation technologies, and (iii) engage stakeholders in issue-oriented discussion, to share experience and agree on a common plan of action.

The unique features of this conference were: technical sessions with only invited papers from eminent persons in the field; working group meetings in three parallel sessions each day of the conference to deliberate on policy, technology and planning and implementation issues; plenary session on each day to identify gaps, suggest measures and come up with recommendations on policy, technology and planning and implementation for rainwater harvesting, storage and conservation; posters on all contributed papers; two special events on (i) Pollution Abatement in Ganga Basin: Bioremediation Potential and Challenges and (ii) Sanitation Technologies; Exhibition and Model Competition for school children.

More than 250 participants and over 25 eminent people as invited speakers from all over the world attended the conference. The 3-day conference successfully provided a platform for discussion and interaction on various issues of water harvesting, storage and conservation and paved the way for possible future collaborations amongst the participants from all over the world. The overwhelming response received for organization and participation in the conference is a revelation of the concern for water security.

The conference was supported by The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); The State Water Resources Agency (SWaRA), Govt. of U.P.; Project Activity Core Team (PACT), Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project (UPWSRP), Department of Irrigation, Govt. of U.P.; World Wide Fund for Nature, India (WWF-India) and its Living Ganga Program; Water Aid-India; Arghyam; Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Govt. of India; Department of Drinking Water and Supply (DDWS), Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India; Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB). The conference was covered by India Water Portal and Asian Water as media partners along with local print and electronic media.