



Centre of Excellence for Change & Indian Institute of Technology Madras

Jointly Present

International Colloquium

YOUTH WES (Water, Environment & Sanitation) LEADERSHIP

March 10th & 11th, 2013

Concept Paper

WES Sector Status

Globally, 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation and almost 900 million people lack access to a safe water supply. Since 1990, more than 2 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water sources. This achievement is a testament to the commitment of Government leaders, public and private sector entities, communities and individuals who saw the target not as a dream, but as a vital step towards improving health and well-being.

Of course, much work remains to be done. There are still 780 million people without access to an improved drinking water source. And even though 1.8 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation since 1990, the world remains off track for the sanitation target.

The causes of this crisis are many and complex. However, poor public ownership – at global, national and local levels – lies at its heart and is a significant constraint. The vast majority of governments have signed up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which include targets on WES. Goal 7 is to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, using a 1990 baseline. Sustainably achieving this goal remains a challenge requiring public ownership for its resolution.

Youth Lack of Involvement

As India is going to be the youngest country in few years, youth are the obvious set of citizens who should understand the crisis, history of the problem & evolving solutions towards a better a society. While youth are energetic, agile & quick to grasp the situation, Youth are also quick to criticize due to lack of knowledge of alternatives, process and functioning dynamics of systems involved etc.,



Being critique of the existing system is very easy as long as youth do not account themselves as part of the problem. When one accepts oneself as part of the problem, then being part of the solution happens and is essential. Though there are few pioneering changes that have been created in the 'dark domain', what seems to be missing is actionable ideas for building an alternate paradigm, which will assure access and benefits of this essential need.

The 2013 Youth WES Colloquium

In this context, CEC in partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, have planned to organize an International Colloquium for youth on “**Youth WES Leadership**”. The Colloquium is designed with the intention to identify and engender tomorrow's leaders and change agents who will strive for a better and water secure future. The Colloquium is scheduled to be held at Chennai (Tamil Nadu, India) on the 10th and 11th of March 2013, at the premises of IIT Madras.

Objective

The Colloquium aims to

- To sensitize youth about WES issues and thus kindle their sense of leadership and responsibility towards the society and its future.
- To seek out innovative IDEAS from young minds and motivate, guide and fund them towards its implementation.
- To bring direct tangible benefit to the environment and society.
- To engender multinational and multi-sectoral cross learning amongst the participants.

Scope

The Colloquium has been formulated and designed to leverage the enthusiasm and remarkable capabilities of the youth. It calls for institutional participation on a national and international level, wherein participants must register in the name of their organization and not in



a standalone fashion. A team of two participants can register for the Colloquium and an institution can encourage any number of teams to participate.

The Colloquium will be conducted for a group of 100 key participants to explore and learn on the themes under the topic Youth WES Leadership. Apart from this there will be public program (Inter-collegiate Miming Competition) open to youth from all over.

Partners

The Colloquium is being organized in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. The IIT is premier educational institution and its Department of Environmental and Water Resources Engineering is a highly motivated section which works towards creating technical advancements for the betterment of water. It is evident that such a mixture of social and technical expertise in the Colloquium design and content will catalyze highly inspirational ideas leading to a league of motivated and empowered youth leaders.

WES IDEAS – Kindle young minds...

This international working Colloquium has been formulated and designed to leverage the enthusiasm and remarkable capabilities of youth. We call for innovative, feasible and effective community action plan ideas from the young minds of students and water professionals. These ideas can fall into any of the themes of the Colloquium and must be designed to create a positive change for the target society. The Colloquium provides a platform to deliberate and motivate these ideas and works with the youth to make them a reality!

The WES ideas must be designed to accommodate the following aspects in their concept and implementation plan.

Impact: Is the impact tangible? How much will it affect the target society's lives? How will it effect on the situation of the water, sanitation and hygiene in the target area?

Feasibility: Does the Idea's action plan look achievable? If this idea receives a grant, is it likely to succeed? Will it provide replicability?



Sustainability: Is it a one-time improvement or a continuous/long-term change? What commitment the team can engender from other young people?

Colloquium Design - Incubating WES Ideas

The Colloquium is proposed to be conducted for students and young practitioners from reputed institutions with the most innovative WES ideas. The confluence of such fresh, optimistic and vibrant young change makers has a definite necessity to be nurtured and incubated. We propose the following way.

Awareness creation – The Colloquium will offer inspirational sessions by eminent speakers from various fields, who will create awareness on WES and on inculcating Youth Leadership.

Mentoring – Eminent experts and CEC staff will mentor youth participants during the Colloquium. These sessions will help youth deliberate on the WES sector and their IDEAS, share and learn from international participants, and take away a renewed commitment to WES leadership in implementing change in their own context.

Investing & Implementation – At the closure of the Colloquium, the best innovative IDEAS & implementation plans will be selected for implementation. These IDEAS will be supported by the organizers through mentoring, monitoring, and part funding of the projects.

Awards

- **Angel Investing** – The implementation of the selected innovative idea will receive angel investment as part of the seed money. The total angel award maybe upto **Rs. 10 lakhs**. This grant will be provided to the institution representative/staff under whose supervision the implementation of the idea will be done.
- **Award for the Institution** – Apart from funding, the institutions from which the winning ideas come will be presented an award in recognition of the support and motivation provided by them to the winning student.



Trigger and Spread Change

Expected Outcomes

- Direct benefit to the society and environment by the implementation of the winning WES ideas
 - International Cross Learning
 - Spiked increase in optimism, vigor and responsibility levels of the youth leading to sustainability in their initiative and drive to serve the society.
- Creation of a dynamic wave of awareness on WES issues among the youth.

Expanding

- Publicize the implementation of the winning WES ideas to inspire budding change champions.
- Encourage establishment of Youth Water Clubs after the Colloquium in the institutions of the winning students and practitioners.

The Change Architects

The Colloquium will witness a plethora of intellectual expertise from change champions of Industry, NGOs and Academia. Inspiring speeches and presentations will be delivered to educate and motivate the participants. Eminent personalities like Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Mr. Sam Pitroda (Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Infrastructure), Dr. Mihir Shah (Member Union Planning Commission), Mr. David Boys (UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water), Mr. B. Ravishanker (Global Head Organisational Transformation, HCL), Mr. A. Krishnakumar (MD, State Bank of India) were some of the dignitaries of the previous conferences held by CEC. Similar guidance is likely to be available for this Colloquium as well.

Participants



Invitation

The Colloquium invites young and energetic minds below the age of 30 to bring out their ideas and participate in this Colloquium. Participants belonging to either one of the following categories may register for the Colloquium:

- Institutional – Students from any stream of academia may participate, provided they produce a recommendation/approval from their institution to submit their idea. We will strongly entertain only institutional participation for this Colloquium.
- Working Youth – Working professionals under the age of 30 are also welcome to register for this Colloquium.

Selection by IDEA

It is required that participants send in their WES ideas that contains the aim, expected outcome, feasibility, plan of action, resources required etc in the format provided. The selection team from CEC and IIT will scrutinize the proposals received and the best 50 proposals will be selected and called in for participation. We also encourage the participants who are selected for the Colloquium to form Water Clubs in their respective institutions as a mandatory requirement for participation.

Honorarium

Out station participants who successfully complete the Colloquium will be provided with an honorarium as a token of appreciation of their interest and participation.

How to Participate

1. **Register** to the Colloquium by filling in the registration form that is available in our website www.cecfest.com.
2. **Format of the Idea**
The ideas must be submitted to us by email in the IDEA proposal format that can be found on our website www.cecfest.com.
3. **Institutional Recommendation/Approval**



The idea must be submitted with the recommendation approval of the Principal/ Senior Staff of the institution. This recommendation is essential as the students represent the institution and Angel Investment will be released under institutional implementation supervision.

Dates

10th and 11th March 2013 – Colloquium

25th January, 2013 – Friday – Final Date for registration and submission of WES Ideas

30th January, 2013 – Wednesday – Announcement of final list of Participants of the Colloquium

1st February, 2013 – Friday – Confirmation of Participation

Venue

The Colloquium will be held at the premises of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras in the Main Auditorium and ICSR Hall. Colloquium Lunch and tea will be provided on the Colloquium days.

Public Program

A group miming competition for the youth is another proposed wing of this Colloquium. This event will be held in the evening on 10-03-2013 at the Open Air Theatre at IIT Madras. Students from all over India are invited to participate in this competition and the preselected five teams will perform for a large public audience to kindle social responsibility and leadership. The winning team of this competition will be awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5000 from the hands of an eminent celebrity.

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