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‘Reflections on Managing WATER: Earth’s Greatest Natural Resource’ the most comprehensive and timely book on water launched during Global Conference on ‘Securing Food For All’ organised by The Club of Rome

‘More Crop per Drop is the basic necessity to ensure sustainable agriculture’ says Shri Ajit K Seth, Cabinet Secretary

- **‘Celebrate Water’ appeal the panelists while launching the book on Water**

New Delhi, October 30, 2014: As aspirations rise, so will the demand for water. In a situation where the gap between demand and availability is rapidly widening the question is: Where will the water come from? This was a major issue discussed in the inaugural session of the Global Conference on ‘Securing Food for All – Critical Need for Coherence in Policies and Actions’ organised by the Club of Rome – Indian National Association.

“The Government of India is committed to ensure ‘More Crop per Drop’ and make India hunger free.” said, Shri Ajit K. Seth, Cabinet Secretary during the conference. “To deliver true inclusive growth and economic access to food, it will be important for government and private sector to work cohesively,” he added.

Addressing the criticality of water the book **“Reflections on Managing Water - Earth’s Greatest Natural Resources”** was released by a host of global leaders: Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Former Chairman, National Commission on Farmers; Mr. Ajit Seth, Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, Mr. Ramadorai, Chairman, Indian National Association for the Club of Rome and NSDC & NSDA, Prof. Norman Thomas Uphoff, Professor from Cornell University, Mr. T Nanda Kumar, Chairman NDDDB, Dr. Ashok Khosla, President Emeritus, Club of Rome and Chairman, Development Alternatives and Mr. Ranjit Barthakur, Chairman, Balipara Foundation, Assam.

Congratulating the effort, Mr. Ramadorai emphasised the relevance and the necessity for a focus on water resources. “Civilizations have evolved around water bodies and it is important for communities to take interest in water conservation,” he said.

Lauding the effort behind the book, Dr. Swaminathan said, “This book could not have come at a more opportune time, when we are discussing options and mechanisms of achieving equitable and sustainable food security.”

“India known for its water resources, traditional systems of water conservation, supply management, reverence and celebration of water is unfortunately suffering from misuse of water. In India, agriculture accounts for **80 per cent of water use and the country** is the largest groundwater extractor in the world, with 70 percent of irrigation coming from groundwater sources.” said Mr. Barthakur.

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“This situation is **largely avoidable if water management improves, which begins with an understanding of its facets and a commitment of total involvement,**” he added.

Hunger and malnutrition are global challenges common to all developing nations. Globally, food output must increase by 60 per cent in order to feed a population of nine billion or more by 2050. Food demand is projected to be 578 and 713 metric tonnes by 2025 and 2050 respectively, as compared to the demand of 357 metric tonnes in 2000. Agriculture already accounts for around 70 per cent of global freshwater withdrawals, and is expected to grow by 6 per cent in 2050.

Edited by Ranjit Barthakur and Indira Khurana, the book begins with a look at global water resources, and then focuses on India, deep-diving into India’s water resources, its celebration, use and abuse of water, legal aspects and the linkage of water with nature. The book also talks about the steps needed for assuring water abundance and calls for action on various fronts: From rekindling relationship with water through concerted and continued campaigns, and to involve people bringing in efficiencies in use to facilitate innovation. It also calls for a large scale recharge of aquifers through natural and artificial means, serving also as sponges to soak up water during excessive rain.

What makes the book special is the inclusion of perspectives by global and national leaders, the focus on evidence and data and perspectives from the ground. The abundant pictures have their own story to tell. High on optimism the book is a must read who are concerned and want to act and those who need to be converted.

For those involved, the book is just the beginning of a journey towards creating water abundance.

Reflections on Managing WATER: Earth’s Greatest Natural Resource

Concept and thought leadership: Balipara Foundation

Editors: Ranjit Barthakur and Indira Khurana

Writers: Indira Khurana, Romit Sen and Shilpi Jain

The book is supported by Balipara foundation, an Assam-based NGO, facilitating and driving community level involvement and employment through social entrepreneurship, with Naturenomics initiatives that are economically self-sustaining. Naturenomics relates to capital formation through the creation of ecologically 'compliant' assets in a sustainable manner.

About The Club of Rome

Founded in 1968 at Rome, Italy, the organization is a gathering of eminent thought leaders including current and former heads of state, UN bureaucrats, high-level politicians and government officials, diplomats, scientists, economists and business leaders from around the globe. The Club’s mission is "to act as a global catalyst for change through the identification and analysis of the crucial problems facing humanity and the communication of such problems to the most important public and private decision makers as well as to the general public”.