

AKASH GANGA TRUST - RAIN CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006-2007
(April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007)

1. VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

1. A student belonging to the People for Rainwater group in Tokyo, Japan visited the Centre during October 1 – 5 to learn about RWH and its success in Chennai.
2. Mrs. Nomito Kamdar from Ashoka Innovators for the Public and two others visited the Centre on May 19.
3. Ms. Debbie Gross from the U.S., doing an internship with Arghyam Bangalore visited the Centre.
4. Ten teachers from two different schools visited the center on October 4 to learn about RWH in both rural and urban areas. It may be recalled that Environmental Studies has been made a part of the curriculum, thanks to the Supreme Court, for both school and college students. RWH is one of the topics dealt with and both short and long answer questions are asked in general about Water Management and RWH in particular.
5. UNICEF, India had organized the visit of eight engineers and specialists in Water and Sanitation sector to the Rain Centre on November 20, 2006. Four of them were from Sudan, two from Iraq and one from India. A power point presentation was made for them at the center on the Importance of RWH in urban areas and they were later taken on a field trip to a multi-storeyed apartment complex to demonstrate the actual implementation.
6. Mr.Durganand Balsavar, Director, ARTES, Human Settlements Development Centre, visited the center on November 21 along with two of his colleagues and had a detailed discussion about Ecological Sanitation. Mr. Nandish from City Manager's Association, Karnataka visited on the same day.
7. Students of Visual Communication Degree course from A.M.Jain College took a video film at the center on December 20 along with a brief interview, as part of their project work.
8. Three Architecture students from Spain visited the center on February 26, 2007 and learnt about RWH.
9. Two hundred second year undergraduate students from Thomas Elizabeth College for women, Chennai visited the center in batches of forty during February 26 to March 2, 2007. A presentation on the Need, Relevance and Importance of RWH in both rural and urban areas was made. They were then taken to a multi-storeyed apartment complex to show the actual implementation of RWH.

2. PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

10. Gave a talk on “RWH” in a workshop organized by the Rotary Club on “Water Management” at Asan Memorial School on April 16. This was reported in an article that appeared in Deccan Chronicle dated April 17.
11. Spoke to a group of students of class VIII of Bhavan Senior Secondary School about “RWH” on June 20.
12. As Director of the Rain Centre, I was invited by the Ministry of Urban Development and Water Supply, Government of Srilanka to participate in the International Workshop on Rainwater Harvesting for SAARC countries, held at Kandy during September 27-29, 2006 and present a paper on “The Need, Relevance and Importance of Groundwater Recharge in Urban areas”.
13. Made a power point presentation on Rainwater Harvesting in the short-term course on “Water Management” organized by the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (HRD Ministry, Govt. of India), for 25 Civil Engineering teachers of Polytechnic colleges in Southern states on October 11, 2006.
14. On the invitation of the Rotary club of Jaipur, the Director participated in the “International Seminar on Water Management” held in Jaipur on November 15, 2006 and made a power point presentation on “RWH – The Chennai Experience”. Mr. William Boyd, President Rotary International, Mr. Rod Denham, co-ordinator Water Resources Management, RI, Mr. Saifuddin Soz, Hon’ble Minister for Water Resources, Govt. of India and Mr. Rajinder Singh of TBS attended the seminar.

3. MEDIA REPORTS

15. Clean India Journal dated May 15 carried an article written by Sashi Nair describing the activities of the Rain Centre.
16. Dina Malar a leading tamil daily in its issue dated May 28 carried the review of “The Ery system of South India - Traditional Water Harvesting” published by our trust.
17. DNA a leading English newspaper published from Mumbai in its Sunday Today supplement dated June 25 carried a brief write up about the Centre’s activities.
18. An article titled “Maintenance of RWH structures” that appeared in the Indian Express dated August 3 carried the views of the Director on it.
19. NDTV telecast a short interview with the Director on August 22.

20. The comments of the Director on RWH were mentioned in the article “The Last Drop” written by Michael Specter, which appeared in the New Yorker magazine dated October 23, 2006.
21. Harmony (October 2006) a monthly magazine published by the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani group carried an article on the activities of the Rain Centre.
22. The Center published a note on “The benefits of RWH in Bayview Apartments” in Adyar Times, a neighbourhood newspaper dated December 10, 2006.
23. The same note was translated in Kannada and written by Shree Padre in Vijaya Karnataka dated December 27, 2006.

4. RWH IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

24. The Public Health Centre in Mambalam was visited on May 27 to advise the management on RWH.
25. Visited the office premises of K.Krishnamurthy a leading Book Publisher in T.Nagar on July 18 to advise them on RWH.
26. M.ct.M Chidambaram Chettiar Higher Secondary School in Mylapore, Chennai approached the Rain Centre for advice on implementing RWH within their school premises to avoid flooding during monsoon. Eight recharge wells (4 nos. of 3 ft. dia and 4 nos. of 4 ft. dia.; all of them up to a depth 14 ft.) were dug within the premises during October, which seems to have solved their problem of flooding during 2006 monsoon.
27. Kailash Beach Resorts, Pondicherry approached the center to visit their premises and submit a feasibility report on RWH implementation within their premises. A visit was made on October 14 and a report was submitted.
28. RWH was implemented in a couple of multi-storeyed apartment complexes. In one of them the stagnant water on the road just outside the premises was also harvested with the help of a collection chamber on the road and a recharge well located within the premises.
29. The School-K.F.I. has approached the center (March 2007) to suggest RWH in their 100 acre plot in a village about 60 kms. from Chennai. This is being developed as an Eco-friendly site for a residential school. Eco-sanitation is also being thought of and Paul Calvert is helping them on this.
30. Uluru Children’s Home at Kadapakkam village (on the East Coast Road near Kalpakkam) run by the East-West Foundation of Australia was visited on December 22 to advise them on RWH implementation.

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES

31. Pablo Bartholomepz, a famous and internationally known photographer visited the Centre on August 17 to take photographs.
32. Chaired a session in the one-day seminar on “Water for Future” organized by the Rotary Dist. 3230 on October 28.
33. Invited to participate in a round table meeting “Water for Chennai” organized by Observer Research Foundation on October 31.
34. Invited to contribute an article on “RWH and its Management” in the book “Food and Water Security” to be Edited by Prof. U.Aswathnarayana and to be published by Taylor and Francis (U.K.).
35. Evaluated a project proposal on RWH submitted by a lecturer in the Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Delhi to the Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and gave a report to the Ministry on December 7.
36. The Director was included as a member of the Expert Committee formed by the Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu to produce a video film on the state of the environment in Tamil Nadu and the first meeting was held on December 14.
37. Addressed a group of School children and Polytechnic students on “RWH and its Benefits” as part of the NSS activity on January 5.
38. Attended a seminar on “Historical Perspectives on Tanks and their relevance in Modern Era” organized by DHAN foundation, Madurai in Anna University on December 28.
39. Attended a National Conference: “Eco-environmental Impact on Water Resources Potential towards relinking and Integrating its Hydrological cycle” organized by the Centre for Water Resources, Anna University on January 3 and 4, 2007.
40. Letters were sent to 10 CBSE and another 10 State Board schools informing them about the facilities available at the Rain Centre to learn about RWH.