

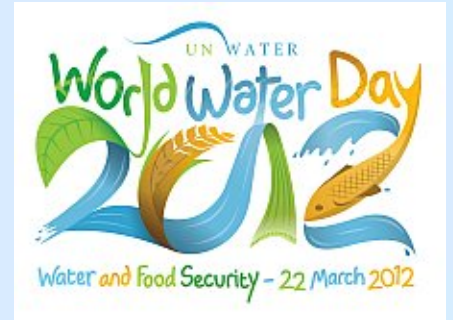
Announcement for the World Water Day 2012 Program

Events take place during March 17 - 25, 2012 as mentioned below.

The Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation

(<http://rowfoundation.org>) is conducting trash cleanup and other awareness activities for –

1. Yangtze Kiang River in Wuhan City, China
2. Yamuna River in Agra, India
3. Yamuna River in Gokul, India,
4. Yamuna River upstream near Dehradun, India
5. Ganges River in Rishikesh, India,
6. Hooghly River in Kolkata, India
7. Daya River near Bhuvaneswar, India (Confirmed)
8. Barak River, Silchar (Assam), India
9. River/Lake Restoration Awareness, Vizianagaram, South India
10. Iloilo River, Iloilo City, Philippines,
11. Bagmati River in Kathmandu area, Nepal



This will be the first time Trash Cleanup/Awareness activities to be undertaken by Rivers of the World in Nepal. Thanks to Hope Shakya, who is already in Nepal, and Pranuj Malla, a local volunteer extending help in conducting the trash cleanup activity. This will also be the first time in Kolkata, India, where Trash cleanup activity in the Hooghly River watershed is being pursued by Mr. Sucharit Dutta, Mr. Hirak Bhattacharya, Dr. Pralay Basu and others.

These projects in China, India, Nepal and Philippines are in partnership with and motivated by a similar project in Washington, DC, USA to Clean-up the Potomac River by the Alice Ferguson Foundation (www.fergusonfoundation.org).

Subijoy Dutta, Environmental Engineer from Washington DC area, who began working on the Yamuna River Cleanup effort 19 years ago, said recently in a “Mother of Tears” Dance program in Rockville, Maryland “...**whenever you look at a stream or River, think of it as your own River, treat it like your own glass of water. As you would not throw trash or waste oil in your glass of water, please treat the River or the stream the same way.** It would be of high value if you pass this message to your friends and family.” He added “..Your thoughts, wishes, and acts towards cleaning up the Rivers will go a long way in supporting the goal of the River cleanup effort...I'd like each of you to take one simple step towards preventing pollution from going into the River. We should stop throwing one piece of trash in open area today, two pieces tomorrow, and three pieces the next day.....at the end of the year we will find ourselves throwing trash only in the trash bins. We must start that now, and teach one person at a time. Your determined actions will one day turn your River clean and blue. !”

The United States partner in the Trash Cleanup Project is The Alice Ferguson Foundation, Accokeek, MD, USA (www.fergusonfoundation.org • www.potomaccleanup.org). On Saturday, April 14, 2012 the Foundation will lead its 24th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Thousands of volunteers will

participate at hundreds of Cleanup sites throughout the region to remove enormous amounts of trash. In the past twenty years, over 40,000 volunteers have removed more than 3 million pounds of trash from fields, forests, parking lots, shorelines, school yards, and all areas of the region that drain into the Potomac River.

“Our trash problem is one of the few major long-term issues we can address and solve right now,” said Tracy Bowen, ex-Executive Director of the Alice Ferguson Foundation. “It is through addressing this trash issue that we can get to greater awareness of many other environmental issues, clean, healthy water, and strong civic pride... The goal of the project is to create a trash free Potomac by 2013!”

Our volunteers from Agra, Mr. Shravan Kumar, Brij Khandelwal and others with great help and support from Mr. Surendra Sharma, owner of Goverdhan Hotel, Agra, will be working with a number of communities to conduct the Yamuna River Cleanup in Agra area on March 18th, 2012. Many local students, volunteers, and communities will be actively participating in this activity.

The Yamuna River Cleanup in Gokul also takes place on March 18th, 2012. Many local communities and senior citizens have also assured support. Gokul Trust is actively participating in this activity.

Mr. Ramchander Thapliyal will lead the Yamuna trash cleanup effort in Dehradun area, Yamuna upstream.

Ms. Amrita Rupananda, Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal, and Jittender Kumar, who have been pursuing local trash removal in Rishikesh under the Clean Himalaya organization will be leading the effort to conduct the trash cleanup for the Ganges River in Rishikesh during March 18 through 25, 2012.

Mr. Prafulla Dhal and others from BISWA, a local non-profit organization trash cleanup activity will also take place in Bhuvaneswar, Odissa between March 18 and 25th on the Daya River watershed.

The Barak River Trash Cleanup effort is coordinated by Mr. Haridas Dutta, Mr. Pijush Das and Dr. Kumar Kanti Das in active partnership with their local organization "Nagarik Swartha Raksha Sangram Parishad". They will be observing the WWD-2012 between March 18th and 25th, 2012. On that day they plan to collect various trash of all kinds thrown on the river bank from a stretch of 100 meters in Silchar area.

Ms. Hong Zhao, our coordinator for central China plans to have the trash cleanup done on March 25th, 2012. She is planning to have a bigger group and possibly conduct it at a few different locations along the bank of the Yangtze-Kiang river in Wuhan City, China.

Mr. Noel Hechanova, Director ENRO, City of Philippines will lead the Iloilo River trash cleanup between March 22nd to 24th, 2012. This year's activity will be conducted in a more concerted fashion with participation from various local organizations. This is also being planned to set the stage for the International River Summit (May 30 – June 1, 2012) to be held there.

Plastic Bags will be used by the Volunteers to collect recyclable items, and trash to be disposed. The recyclables will be transported to the municipal recycling centers when available; arrangements are being made for the trash to be picked up by the city garbage collection system.

After the Trash Cleanups, information, along with pictures, will be released publicly about how much volume/weight and types (paper, plastics, soda cans, bulk items, such as tires etc.) of trash collected. Both ROW Foundation and Alice Ferguson Foundation will have listing of volunteers and pictures from the Cleanups, as submitted by the coordinators, on the websites, which should be easily accessible to everyone. For exact timing, locations, and other information please contact the cleanup coordinators below.

Wuhan City, China, Yangtze-Kiang River
Ms. Hong Zhao (ruoshuisq@yahoo.com.cn)

Agra, India, Yamuna River
Shravan Kumar (sinshravan@gmail.com), Brij Khandelwal (agrabrij@gmail.com)

Dehradun/Dak Patthar , Yamuna River (upstream)
Ramchander Thapliyal (ramchanderthapliyal@gmail.com)

Gokul, UP, India, Yamuna River
Pawan Sharma, Mr. Ashwin Patel (ashwinjp@hotmail.com)

Rishikesh,: Uttarkhand, India, Ganges River
Ms. Amrita Rupananda (amritarupananda78@yahoo.com)

Kolkata, India, Hooghly River
Mr. Sucharit Dutta (sucharit2011@gmail.com), Mr. Hirak Bhattacharya (hirakbirati@gmail.com),
Dr. Pralay Basu (proloybasu2006@yahoo.co.in)

Bhuvaneswar, Odissa, India, Daya River
Mr. Prafulla Dhal (Prafulla.dhal@gmail.com), Dr. Monica Das (dasmonica@gmail.com)

Silchar, Assam, India, Barak River
Haridas Dutta, Pijush Das (savebarak@gmail.com), and Dr. Kumar K. Das (kumarkdas@hotmail.com)

Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, India, River /Lake restoration/awareness
Dr. Tata Prakasam (prakasamtata@gmail.com)

Kathmandu, Nepal, Bagmati River near Pashupati Temple
Pranuj Malla (himshikharmineral@gmail.com) and Hope Shakya(hope@hopesimages.com)

ILOILO City, Philippines, Iloilo River
Mr. Noel Hechanova (noel_hechanova@yahoo.com)

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