

ROW Foundation Announces World Water Day 2015 Program

In Collaboration with United Nations Environment programme (UNEP)

Events take place during March 21-22, 2015 as mentioned below.

ROW Foundation Announces **Cash Awards** for WWD2015–

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| 1. Best Event (US \$150.00); | 2. Best Coverage/Communication (\$100.00); |
| 3. Best Children/School Participation (\$100.00) | 4. Most Sustainable Activity (\$100.00) |



The Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation (<http://rowfoundation.org>) is conducting trash cleanup and other awareness activities for –

1. Yangtze River in Wuhan City, China
2. Yamuna River near Agra, India
3. Yamuna River near Gokul, India
4. Ganges River in Rishikesh, India,
5. Hooghly River in Kolkata, India
6. Daya River near Bhuvaneswar, India
7. Bhairav River, Benekhali, West Bengal, India
8. Lake/River restoration/awareness Bangalore, India.
9. Lake restoration/awareness Mysore, India.
10. Lake restoration/cleanup awareness Vizianagaram, India
11. Iloilo River, Iloilo City, Philippines,
12. Brahmaputra River, Guwahati, Assam, India
13. Bagmati River, Kathmandu Nepal (Awareness)
14. Potomac River, Washington, DC USA

The UNEP officials in Washington, DC have met with us and have officially communicated a collaborative effort with the Rivers of the World Foundation for the World Water Day campaign. This year we expect some school children to participate in Guwahati (Brahmaputra River), and Benekhali (Vairabh River). A special awareness activity lead by Soptosetu Dutta (12) along with other Schoolchildren with support from the Annie Besant Day School, Birati, Kolkata is also planned for this year. This activity is primarily coordinated by Mr. Sucharit Dutta, Mr. Sudip Homechoudhury, and Mrs. Moushumi Dutta. This year's event in Washington, DC area is lead by Dr. Bikash Sharma and Dilli Neupane to create awareness in the Potomac and Patuxent River watershed.

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

Subijoy Dutta, Founding Director of the ROW Foundation, and an Environmental Engineer from the Washington DC area, recently provided some inspiring thoughts to local youths and communities in Maryland and said “...**whenever you look at a stream or a 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 any open area today, instead throw that in a trash bin.. 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. !”

Our volunteers from Agra, Mr. Shravan Kumar, Brij Khandelwal, Mr. Raman Balla, Mrinal Agarwal and others will be working with a number of communities to conduct the Yamuna River Cleanup in Agra area on March 22nd, 2015. Many local students, volunteers, and communities will be actively participating in this activity.

The Yamuna River Cleanup in Gokul also takes place on March 22nd, 2015. Many local communities and senior citizens have also assured support. Gokul Trust is actively participating in this activity through active assistance of Mr. Ashwin Patel in Atlanta, Georgia and Mr. Pawan Sharma in Gokul.

Ms. Amritarupananda, 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 the WWD 2015 around March 22nd.

Mr. Prafulla Dhal and others from BISWA, a local non-profit organization trash cleanup activity will also take place in Bhuvaneswar, Odissa on the Daya River watershed during March 20-23, 2015.

The Vairabh River Trash Cleanup effort is coordinated by Mr. Ashok Saha (local) and Indrajeet Sen in active partnership with other local organizations.

Mr. Gautam Lahkar and Dr. Paramita Chakravarty will be arranging a trash cleanup activity for the Brahmaputra River in the Guwahati area for the second time during the WWD2015..

Ms. Zhao Hong, our coordinator for central China plans to conduct the trash cleanup done through a number of groups united for saving the Yangtze River there in Wuhan City, China on March 22nd.

Mr. Noel Hechanova, Director ENRO, City of Philippines will lead the Iloilo River trash cleanup during that time. This year's activity will be conducted in a more concerted fashion with participation from various local organizations..

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, where feasible.

After the Trash Cleanups, reports on the amount of trash (or number of trash bags and their sizes), the pictures from the activities, and a short list of volunteers are expected from the coordinators from each of these events. This information will be released publicly about how much volume/weight and types (paper, plastics, soda cans, bulk items, such as tires etc.) of trash collected. The Rivers of the World 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 River

Ms. Zhao Hong (494325542@qq.com)

ILOILO City, Philippines, Iloilo River

Mr. Noel Hechanova (noel_hechanova@yahoo.com)

Agra, India, Yamuna River

Shravan Kumar (sinshravan@gmail.com), Brij Khandelwal (agrabrij@gmail.com)

Bangalore, Karnataka, India, Lake restorations

Mr. Sharadh Sindhia (sharadhsindhia@gmail.com)

Bhuvaneswar, Odissa, India, Daya River

Mr. Prafulla Dhal (Prafulla.dhal@gmail.com),

Gokul, UP, India, Yamuna River

Pawan Sharma, Mr. Ashwin Patel (ashwinjp@hotmail.com)

Guwahati, Assam, India, Brahmaputra River

Mr. Gautam Lahkar (gautamlahkar@gmail.com), and Paramita Chakravarty (paramitachakravarty@gmail.com)

Kolkata, India, Hooghly River

Mr. Sucharit Dutta (sucharit2011@gmail.com), and Mr. Sudip Homechoudhury (sudiphom@gmail.com)

Mysore, Karnataka, India, Lake restorations
Ms. Roopa Shekar (roopa.setty1@gmail.com)

Rishikesh,: Uttarkhand, India, Ganges River
Swami Amritarupananda (amritarupananda78@yahoo.com), and Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal
(sudhir_nautiyal@yahoo.co.uk)

Benekhali, West Bengal, India, Vairab River
Ashok Saha (local), Indrajeet Sen (sen.indrajeet@gmail.com)

Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, India, Lake restoration/awareness
Dr. Tata Prakasam (prakasamtata@gmail.com), and Dibyanay Joardar (djoardar92@gmail.com)

Primary Contact for All Rivers of the World Events: Subijoy Dutta
Contact: Subijoy Dutta (subijoy at Verizon dot net) or Dilli Neupane (drneupane@gmail.com)