

ROW Foundation Announces **Postponement** WWD 2020 Program

In Collaboration with United Nations Water (UN Water)

EVENTS POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19

ROW Foundation Announces **Special Awards** for WWD2020

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Best Event; (200) | 2. Best Event Coverage/Reporting; (\$125) |
| 3. Best Children Participation;(\$125) | 4. Most Sustainable Activity (\$125) |

Come!!! Let us Take Steps to Save our Streams, Rivers and Lakes

World Water Day 2020

- Reducing water Scarcity
- Improving Water Availability
- Restoring Water Quality

THIS MEANS WE CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT

Location: Local Stream/River

For further info. Please contact: _____ ; P/email: _____

<https://rowfoundation.org>

The banner features a central text box with a list of goals and the slogan 'THIS MEANS WE CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT'. It is flanked by two water drop icons and two 'Rivers of the World' logos. The bottom of the banner shows a group of people walking along a riverbank at sunset.

This Year's UN World Water Day theme is "We Cannot Afford to Wait"

Please check the website (<http://rowfoundation.org>) for banners and Logos

SEE DETAIL STEPS TO CONDUCT WWD IN YOUR AREA – [Click below](#)

<https://rowfoundation.org/old/content/row/Steps-to-undertake-WWD-event.pdf>

Re: POSTPONED - WWD 2020 - in Harmony with UN Water - Event Banner - World Water Day 2020

Dear River Lovers,

Due to the worldwide emergencies due to COVID-19 pandemic virus in many countries, including China, Italy, Spain, USA among others, the UN Water issued the following information -

"In the light of the global spread of the virus and following instructions from national authorities and [guidance from the World Health Organization](#), the World Water Day observances that were scheduled to take place in [Geneva](#), [Rome](#), Paris and New York have been postponed or cancelled."

<https://www.unwater.org/covid-19-world-water-day-face-to-face-observances-postponed/>

The ROW Foundation is following these advisories and postponing the WWD -2020 for at least two months.
We will send further information as the situation on Coronavirus (COVID-19) develops.

For now, please **follow the approved CDC guidance** -

- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after every activities, interaction or meeting involving anyone - vendors, drivers, shopkeepers included.
- Encourage others to do the same and explain to them humbly
- Keep your home/place of stay clear of clutters
- Avoid touching your face by your hand subconsciously (hard to do - 😊)

Please check our website and stay tuned for the latest update on <https://rowfoundation.org>

The Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation (<http://rowfoundation.org>) will be conducting trash cleanup and other awareness activities tentatively planned for the following sites. For exact timing, locations, and other information please contact the cleanup coordinators below.

1. **INDIA (IN), Agra, Yamuna River**
Brij Khandelwal (agrabrij@gmail.com), Shravan Kumar (sinshravan@gmail.com), Mrinal Agrawal (mgesgroup@gmail.com)
2. **Bangalore, Karnataka, India, Lake restorations (IN)**
Mr. Sharadh Sindhia (sharadhsindhia@gmail.com), Kusuma Cunningham (kusuma.cunningham@gmail.com)
3. **Bhuvanesar, Odissa, India, Daya River (IN)**
Dr. Anup Samantray (dean.ibcs@soa.ac.in)
4. **CHINA, Wuhan City, Yangtze River**
Ms. Zhao Hong (494325542@qq.com), Yi Heng 793881579@qq.com
5. **Gokul, UP, India, Yamuna River (IN)**
Pawan Sharma, Chandresh Singh (cleanganges@gmail.com), and Mr. Ashwin Patel (ashwinjp@hotmail.com)
6. **Guwahati, Assam, India, Brahmaputra River (IN)**

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

7. **Ghansali, Uttarakhand, India** (Himalayan English School) (IN)
Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal (sudhir_nautiyal@yahoo.co.uk)
8. **Kolkata, India, Hooghly River** (IN)
Mr. Sucharit Dutta (sucharit2011@gmail.com), Rudra Saha (seeth.saha145@gmail.com)
9. **Mysore, Karnataka, India, Lake restorations** (IN)
Dr. Sadashiva Murthy (bmsada@gmail.com) Ms. Roopa Shekar (roopa.setty1@gmail.com)
10. **NEPAL, Kathmandu/Nuwakot**, Local Stream/Bagmati River restoration
Mr. Pranuj Malla (Mallapranuj@gmail.com), & Bishnu Prasad Adhikari, (Bishnuagaman@gmail.com)
11. **PHILIPPINES, ILOILO City**, Iloilo River
Mr. Noel Hechanova (noel_hechanova@yahoo.com), Dr. Evelyn Belleza (etbelleza8@yahoo.com)
12. **Rishikesh**,: Uttarkhand, India, Ganges River (IN)
Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal (sudhir_nautiyal@yahoo.co.uk)
13. **Neemrana | Rajasthan – 301705. (IN), NIIT**
Maj Gen Ashok Kumar Singh (Retd) (Ashok.Singh@niituniversity.in), Dr. Siddhartha Khare, PhD (siddhartha.khare@gmail.com)
14. **Benekhali, West Bengal, India, Vairab River** (IN)
Ashok Saha (local), Indrajeet Sen (sen.indrajeet@gmail.com)
15. **Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, India, Lake restoration/awareness** (IN)
Dr. Tata Prakasam (prakasamtata@gmail.com), and Dibyatanay Joardar (djoardar92@gmail.com)
16. **USA, Washington, DC/Maryland**, Patapsco River Cleanup, Ellicott City, Maryland
Subijoy Dutta (subijoy@gmail.com), and Bikash Sharma (bsychiatry@gmail.com)
17. Hyderabad, India, Sreenidhi Institute, Saisreejagr@gmail.com; Pareekshitreddy@gmail.com
18. Kollengode, Kerala, Sri Vidyalaya, Dr. Prabhakar Puth sriproject@sancharnet.in
19. Hazaribagh, India, Dr. Vikash Kumar, profvikash1@gmail.com, Vinoba Bhawe University
20. Pavana and Mula River, Pune, Priyo G. Banerjee (priyobanerjee@yahoo.com), Pradip Walhekar rcwalhekarwadi@gmail.com and the Rotary team
21. Nagpur, India: Mark Garvin (markgarvin95@gmail.com)
22. Doni, Uttarakhand: Avtar Singh Negi (contact@mvda.org)

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 many school children to participate as indicated above by School events.

The projects in China, India, Nepal and Philippines will be conducted by local coordinators and volunteers team members there. Subijoy Dutta, Founding Director of the ROW Foundation, 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.** 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 during the week of March 22nd, 2019. Many local students, volunteers, and communities will be actively participating in this activity.

The Yamuna River Cleanup in Gokul also takes place between March 22nd- 25th, 2019. Many local communities and senior citizens have also assured support. Chandresh Singh, our active volunteer/member from Jaipur is providing leadership support in the Gokul program. Mr. Ashwin Patel in Atlanta, Georgia and Mr. Pawan Sharma in Gokul are also actively shaping the program in Gokul.

Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal, founder of the Himalayan English School in Ghansali have been inspiring local students and communities to protect the River Ganges and its tributaries. We hope that they will continue to lead the effort to conduct awareness program for the Ganges River in Rishikesh or Ghansali, Uttarakhand for the WWD 2019.

Dr. Anup Samantray and others from Bhubaneswar, Odissa will be organizing an activity on the Daya River watershed during March 22-25, 2019.

Some of the exciting features of this year’s programs are –

- The Bhilangna River awareness activities, including water testing by the students and teachers of the Himalayan English School, Ghansali, Uttarakhand, India.
- Yangtze River Trash Cleanup Effort, Wuhan City, China – a massive awareness effort involving children, youths, adults, aged and all others in the community to turn this into a common practice.

- Iloilo River, Philippines – Youth Forum, River tour and many other activities for a **week-long celebration of World Water Day 2019**. Mr. Noel Hechanova, Director, ENRO, and Dr. Evelyn Belleza, Vice Chancellor, P&D, Univ. of Western Visayas, Iloilo, Philippines indicated their plan.
- Daya River, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India – Because of the high awareness and local support due to a successful training seminar arranged by Dr. Anup Samantray, Dean, SOA University on January 12-13th, 2019, a big event centering the WWD2019 is planned by the local NGOs and communities in coordination with the ROW team.
- Yamuna River, Agra - a special event is being arranged by Brij Khandelwal, Shravan Kumar, and others in Agra area.
- Brahmaputra River, Guwahati, India – Gautam Lahkar is arranging an event on the bank of the Brahmaputra River during March 22-25, 2019. It's worth noting that the Brahmaputra team won a cash award for “Most Sustainable Activity” last year.
- Patapsco River, Ellicott City, Maryland – Bikash Sharma, Dick Lahn, Subijoy Dutta and other ROW members are planning to cleanup this Patapsco Riverbank (picture below).



- Vairabh River, Hooghly River, Ganges River and Local Streams/Rivers in Nepal and other areas is also being planned this year.

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 listed above.

Primary Contact for All Rivers of the World Events are listed below:

Contact: Subijoy Dutta , Washington, DC area, USA (subijoy@gmail.com). For local activities please contact the local coordinators listed above.