

FROM INDORE, 3R WAY TO GREENER WORLD

Mayors From 41 Countries Ink Indore Declaration To Achieve Clean Land, Clean Water And Clean Air In Cities, On Wednesday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Indore: Mayors and local authorities of over 41 countries of Asia Pacific held marathon meetings to thrash out minute details of 'Indore 3R Declaration of Asian Mayors on Achieving Clean Land, Clean Water and Clean Air in Cities' which they inked on second day of 8th Regional 3R Forum on Wednesday.

The declaration that aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and New Urban Agenda (NUA), focused on sound management of 3R, circular economic development, sustainable waste management and resource efficiency.

As the mayors and other country delegates gathered to ink the declaration, Indore mayor Malini Gaur said clean land, water and air are fundamental rights of citizens.

Political power, administrative capability, public cooperation, public participation and behavioral change are the key elements to develop a cities on various parameters to combat environmental challenges to pursue SGD, she told the mayors, during the brainstorming session. She said that her administration has decided to make Indore - bin free, litter free and dust free in coming months. Declaration signing session also saw Osaka City Government of Japan and Quezon City from Republic of Philippines sing city to city co-operation agreements on environment conservation, climate change and technology sharing for effective waste management.

STRIVING TO MAKE WORLD FREE OF WASTE

► Accelerate movement of holistic waste management in cities through prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling of all waste streams with an objective to achieve clean land, clean water and clean air, including greenhouse gas reduction

► Implement local-level actions to make cities clean, safe, smart, resilient, resource efficient, inclusive and sustainable through effective implementation of 3R policies

► Foster sustainable urban development planning and practices focusing on eco-products, green energy, rainwater harvesting, conservation of water bodies, urban farming with composting, safe disposal of agricultural waste, green city development, green construction materials, etc. for maintaining bio-diversity;



Mayor signing the declaration

► Inspire citizens to take proactive ownership for managing their own waste, including segregation at source, on-site processing of bio-degradable waste, safe handling of other waste forms and safe disposal by concerned agencies

► Partner and collaborate with civil society organizations, including integration of informal sector with formal waste management chain in order to provide decentralized approaches to 3R

► Strive towards complete ban of illegal disposal of plastics in eco-sensitive or eco-fragile areas, including in tourist areas close to oceans, rivers, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies and mountains

► Undertake work towards sound and sustainable wastewater management and treatment and reuse with an objective to achieve water security and water quality for sustaining livelihood

► Focus on sound and effective management of new emerging waste streams such as micro-plastics, chemicals and hazardous waste, e-waste and medical waste; and construction and demolition waste

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORUM

► Regional 3R Forum's contributions to participation countries for facilitating 3R policy dialogues and consolidating 3R policies and strategies need to be sustained

► Continued focus on resource productivity and waste reduction measures

► New and emerging waste streams need to be addressed

► Closing gaps between institutional and investment needs and opportunities

► Emphasis on stakeholder engagement and consensus-building-based policy making

► Special attention to address specific challenges faced by small island countries and remote rural areas

► 3Rs need to be highlighted as a part of the global sustainability agenda

► Regional 3R Forum should be continued to lead global debate on resource efficiency, waste management & 3Rs

► Capacities for data management and evidence-based policy making need to be enhanced



Mayors and officials of 41 countries before signing the declaration at 8th Regional 3R Forum on Wednesday

Change approach towards cleaning Ganga

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The approach to clean river Ganga needs to be changed and rethink for desired results, said Stockholm Water Prize Laureate Professor Asit K Biswas, during the keynote address on Wednesday.

"I can assure as a scientist that river Ganga will be even more polluted by 2030 and money allocated to clean it, will be wasted," said Biswas.

Another speaker D P Mathuria, executive director of National Mission for Clean

Ganga, highlighting various measures taken in cleaning the river said, focus is on to reduce sewage coming from 10 large cities of the region. It contributes 64 per cent of sewage that is 2,953 MLD to Ganga. Speaking about water problems in India, he said there's no water shortage here but poor supply management and excessive wastage have led to artificial scarcity.

"In India, supply system is faulty and management of water is extremely poor as water is a tool for politics and emotions," IIT Kharag-

pur alumnus Biswas said.

Professor Biswas also stressed on the need to manage water by public sector. He said water consumption in India is huge and measures like awareness and proper technology such as water treatment and recharging should be used to bring it down.

The per capita per day consumption of water in Indian urban society is about 180-220 litre as against 90 to 120 litre in countries like Czech Republic, Singapore and others which is more than sufficient for leading a

healthy and proper life, the expert said.

Professor Biswas said that instead of supplying water for free or at highly subsidized rate, water should be priced economically so that its value can be understood by everyone.

He said rather than spending thousands of rupees every month on purifying, pumping, cleaning tanks and in other processes to make the tap water drinkable, priced water from a centrally managed source will have much better quality.

Pics: Pravin Barnal