

ROW Foundation Announces World Water Day 2017 Program

In Collaboration with United Nations Environment programme (UNEP)

Events take place during March 22-27, 2017 as mentioned below. March 11, 2017

ROW Foundation Announces **Special Awards** for WWD2017

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| 1. Best Event; | 2. Best Event Coverage/Reporting; |
| 3. Best Children Participation; | 4. Most Sustainable Activity |



This Year's UN World Water Day theme is "Why Waste Water"

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

The Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation (<http://rowfoundation.org>) is 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. **Bhuvaneswar, Odissa, India, Daya River (IN)**
Mr. Prafulla Dhal (Prafulla.dhal@gmail.com),
4. **CHINA, Wuhan City, Yangtze River**
Ms. Zhao Hong (494325542@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), & Mr. Sudip Homechoudhury (sudiphom@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. 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**, Uttarakhand, India, Ganges River (IN)
Swami Amritarupananda (amritarupananda78@yahoo.com), and Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal (sudhir_nautiyal@yahoo.co.uk)
13. **Roorkee**, Uttarakhand, India, Solani River (IN)
Dr. OmPrakash Dube (opdubey11@gmail.com), Mr. Siddhartha Khare, PhD Scholar, IIT Roorkee, (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
Dr. Bikash Sharma, Subijoy Dutta (Subijoy@verizon.net), and Dick Lahn (dicklahn@gmail.com)

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, 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.** 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, 2017. 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, 2017. 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.

Ms. Amritarupananda, and Jittender Kumar, who have been pursuing local trash removal in Rishikesh under the Clean Himalaya organization. We hope that they will continue to lead the effort to conduct the trash cleanup for the Ganges River in Rishikesh for the WWD 2017.

Mr. Prafulla Dhal and others from Bhubaneswar, Odissa will be organizing an activity on the Daya River watershed during March 22-26, 2017.

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 2017**. 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 Mr. Prafulla Dhal and Anup Samantray, Dean, SOA University

on February 7-8, 2017, a big event centering the WWD2017 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 22-26, 2017. 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.

To check on detail steps to conduct the World Water Day awareness program please visit the link below:

<http://rowfoundation.org/old/content/row/WWD-2017-Program-Announcement.pdf>

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 at Verizon dot net) or Sucharit Dutta, Kolkata, India (sucharit2011 at gmail dot com)