



Rivers of the World Foundation

1496 Harwell Avenue, Crofton, MD 21114-2108
Ph: 410-721-7706, www.rowfoundation.org

Program Planning and Implementation- Meeting- 2008

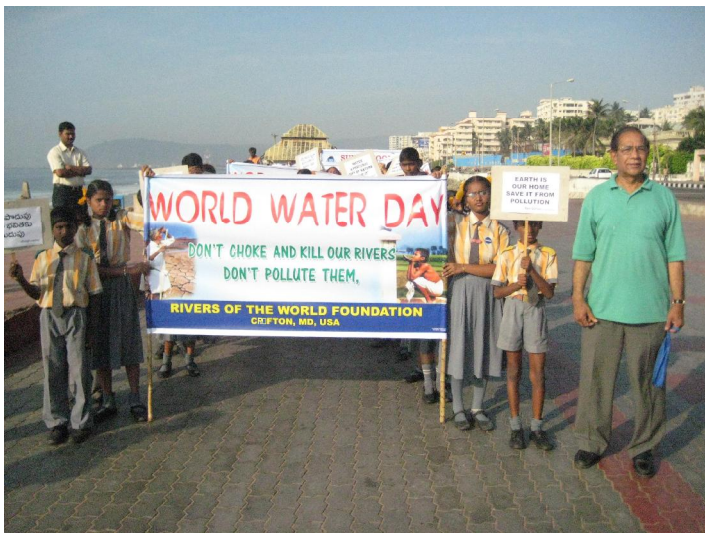
Date: September 27, 2008 (Saturday) ~ **Time:** 4:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Venue: Comfort Inn and Suite, Bowie, Maryland

Meeting Notes

Introduction: Members/Participants:

1. **Mr. Ram Koduri, P.E.** - A member of World Environmental Federation (WEF). He participated as a member of ROW foundation at a World water Day conference in Vizianagaram where a lot of School Children were actively engaged. Mr. Koduri displayed a banner for the Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation there.



Mr. Koduri also provided his views based upon experience to the Indian Parliament on linking of Rivers. He also provided a summary on the following projects:

- Spiritual center near Hyderabad for local people

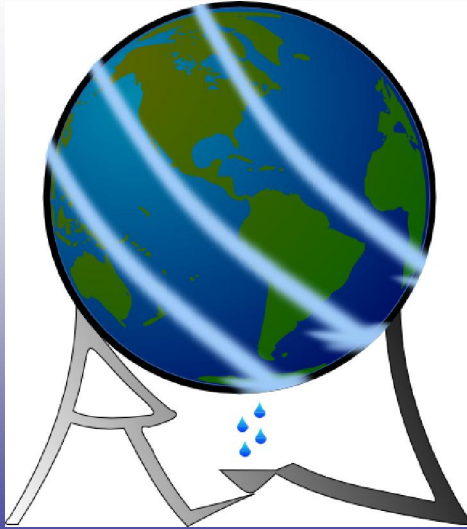
Ram is also considering use of solar power systems and other energy efficient systems.

2. **Mr. Balakrishna Nibhanapudi** : Mr. Balakrishna is currently visiting US from Hyderabad, India. He was instrumental in the successful implementation of the Deep Pond system project installation in Kukatpally, near Hyderabad, India. He has experience in working with all the major Rivers in that Region during his tenure in the Irrigation Department as an accounting professional. He still has good relationships with a number of lead project engineers managing those streams and Rivers in that Region and can provide support to the ROW foundation in pursuing the objectives of ROW in improving the water quality of local Rivers and streams there.
3. **Mr. Dilli Neupane**: Mr. Neupane provided a slide presentation on the “Rivers of Nepal” and updated the participants on the political situation in Nepal. As things get better there he plans to arrange a trash cleanup and other awareness activities in the Bagmati River and/or its tributaries.
4. **Dr. William (Bill) E. Roper** : Dr. Roper mentioned that his 2 years contract with Arlington County was completed. He is now on a retainer, they call him when input is needed. Dealt with citizen group issues while he was working there. He is going to help the ROW in Fundraising program.
5. **Mr. Dennis Haag**: Mr. Haag mentioned that there are a couple of people who would like to join ROW Foundation and provide help. They are Phil Balch and Kumud from Nepal(working with Tetra tech). Phil has great experience in restoring River systems.
6. **Mr. Subijoy Dutta, P.E.** – Mr. Dutta welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided background information on Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation.
7. **Dr. Kusuma Cunningham** – Called in – couldn’t attend due to storm/road closure.

Presentations by/Participants:

P1. Subijoy Dutta

Rivers of the World Foundation



ROW Foundation – Program Planning and Implementation

Sep 27, 2008

Slide 1

Rivers of the World Foundation

ROW Foundation – Program Planning and Implementation

BACKGROUND

Primary Objective:

Efforts to Cleanup/Protect highly polluted Rivers in

- ✓ US
- ✓ India
- ✓ Nepal
- ✓ Bangladesh
- ✓ S. America
- ✓ Africa,
- ✓ Europe, and
- ✓ Other Parts of the World

Sep 27, 2008

Slide 2

Rivers of the World Foundation

Accomplishments (in one year)

1. Land Use and Watershed – Discussion amongst Youth Group, New Delhi, India



Sep 27, 2008

Students can do a lot to clean up Yamuna river

TIMES OF INDIA
Sumit Dutta who worked with the SERC conducts workshops for cleaning of river Yamuna

Brij Khandelwal

Seeing the growth of interest in NGOs to support kids to conduct studies in the Yamuna River watershed, Sumit Dutta from the US, who was in Agra for a day said he wanted to share his experience in aquatic research in the South River and Rhode River with interested students.

Along with a close friend, he worked with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre (SERC) in its Student Training in Aquatic Research programme to study the water quality in the two rivers and compare it against the land use classifications given to the surrounding land by the US Geological Survey's National Land Cover Database. Geographic information systems software was used to find land use classification around each water quality sampling point, using the absolute location provided by a Global Positioning System receiver used during sampling.

Sumit said that he was keen to help students set up a similar programme in which students study their watershed in groups and raise awareness of the programme plaguing the Yamuna River.

Many students were interested in forming a Yamuna Youth Action Team, which would work together with NGOs to raise awareness of the need to clean up the river by studying in small groups and presenting their findings as a whole, he said.

Sumit said that TARA Water Products is offering water quality parameter testing kits to those students interested in doing studies in their watershed. He has been holding workshops to involve students in the cleaning of river Yamuna.

Students have come together with like minded NGOs to raise awareness

Slide 4

L to R:
Girish Chaudhry, S. Dutta, D.K. Mital,
Brij Khandelwaal, and Paras Nath Chaudhury



Yamuna Awareness Center - Panipath



Rivers of the World Foundation

Accomplishments

2. Yamuna Conference on January 11, 2008 in New Delhi, India



Sep 27, 2008

Slide 19

Rivers of the World Foundation

Accomplishments

3. Yamuna – Potomac Partnership – (Alice Ferguson Foundation) Ø Yamuna Trash Cleanup Agra - 400 plus volunteers including the Agra municipal commissioner (http://www.rowfoundation.org/row/Yamuna_Photo.html)



Site Selected for Cleanup

Yamuna Cleanup, March 03, 2008
Agra, India

Se

Slide 21

Rivers of the World Foundation



Rivers of the World Foundation

Accomplishments

- 3. Yamuna – Potomac Partnership – (Alice Ferguson Foundation)
- Ø New Delhi Yamuna Cleanup – March 30, 2008



Blue Yamuna Team ...after collecting the Trash...
Lion D.K. Mital with Dark Glasses, leaning against Lion Jittender Kapoor,
one of the Pillars of the Blue Yamuna Team in Delhi since its inception...

Sep 27,

Slide 24

Rivers of the World Foundation



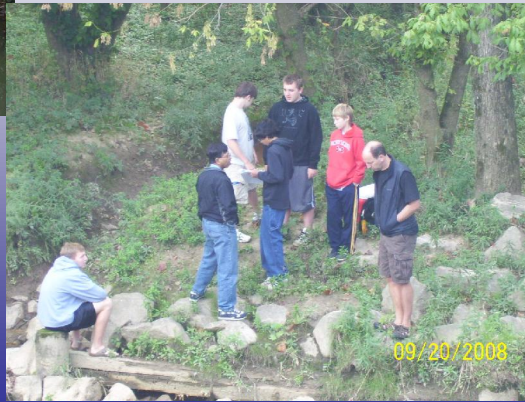
Rivers of the World Foundation

4. Two Seminars in Delhi University, Gargi College and Kamala Nehru College



Rivers of the World Foundation

5. Water monitoring by Boy Scouts in Crofton



Sep 27, 2008

Rivers of the World Foundation

5. Water monitoring by Boy Scouts in Crofton



Sep 27, 2008

Rivers of the World Foundation

A Small Difference – Gau Ghat
Identified in Dec 2000 – Better in Nov 2007



Sep 27, 2008

Slide 36

Rivers of the World Foundation

Conclusions/Focus for the Next Year

Small steps at a time –

- Ø Yamuna Conference 2009 - Agra
- Ø Trash Cleanup, Awareness - 4 or more events (India and Nepal)
- Ø Initiate Small Demonstration Projects
- Ø Compilation of Rivers for various Countries/Regions of the World

Sep 27, 2008

Slide 37

Summarized activities last year in India & US by ROW foundation:

- Delhi Workshop for students
- Met various people including Dr. Monica Das, Sunita Narain of CSE, Sunita Narain & discussed Yamuna cleanup initiative.
- Yamuna Awareness center at Panipath, Karnal and Yamuna Nagar
- Presented BOD, & DO data for Yamuna for several years and at different locations. DO is zero in Delhi area
- Yamuna conference Jan 11, 2008 in New Delhi
- Yamuna Potomac Partnership: with help from Alice Ferguson Foundation – conducted cleanup work in Delhi and Agra in March 2008.
- Trees for the future foundation: got involved and attended the Yamuna seminar at Delhi University on September 3, 2008.
- Water monitoring by boys scout in Crofton, MD
- IRS 501(C)3 has been filed for ROW
- Follow up action in Agra planned

Meeting participants Recommended to “involve Youth” for awareness.

Suggestions:

Ram: (i) IT web development for awareness (ii) employ an engineer in India for ROW Activities (iii) Grant writing (iv) use of resources: such as using satellite imagery to alert about pollution in Delhi from US (v) use computers to connect people and policymakers, technologies such as graphical touch screens can be used

P2. Dilli Neupane:

- Update on current political / policy situation of Nepal
- Optimistic with new government about positive environment for development
- Presented possible future involvements of ROW in Nepal: (i) Education campaign, (ii) awareness camp, (iii) technical assistance and (iv) teaming with a local NGO in Nepal

P3. Bill Roper:

Thoughts on Fundraising –

- State department
- Worldbank: more interest in Africa
- Private parties
- Other International Programs by Agencies
- UN: Public Health Program
- ROW should Use keyword sustainable technology for marketing and fundraising

P4. Dennis Haag:

- Teaming with other organization for education purposes such as a consulting company may have a project with a small task in education that they can sub-contract out to ROW
- Use typically 10% of project budget for admin expenses (show that in proposal)
- ROW can be a Clearinghouse for River management project.

Other suggestions:

- Bill to lead fundraising ideas
- Bill to create ideas to link education with water
- Kusuma to pursue and help in fundraising effort.
- Yellow River, China, Amazon River, SA – compile and review information

Activities and Responsibilities:

The following charitable, educational, and scientific activities are planned to be undertaken. The lead and support members are identified below:

1. Evaluate the eco-environmental status of the major rivers and tributaries of the world, primarily US, India, SE Asia, S. America, Africa, Europe, and Other Parts of the World. – **Ram Koduri**
2. Identify ten Rivers initially which could be easily undertaken in the program to meet the primary objectives of the ROW foundation. – **Subijoy Dutta**
3. Inform and involve the public in activities that foster the protection, enhancement, and establishment of clean rivers and sustainable development along the river banks and riparian areas. – **Subijoy Dutta**
4. Identify, evaluate, and address threats to the biological, cultural, and economic components of conservation of the river and riparian areas. – **Venkatesh Dutta (Lucknow, India)**
5. Acknowledge and promote the significance of the rivers, streams, and their adjacent riparian areas, including the effects on the ecosystem. – **Dennis Haag**
6. Facilitate cooperation between private landowners, state and federal agency personnel, and other interested parties through a non-political forum concerned with area-wide needs of conservation of the river and riparian areas. - **Raj Rajaram**
7. Encourage voluntary participation of all potential partners to enhance and restore the biological, economic, and cultural well being of the rivers and riparian areas through educational, technical, and financial involvement. – **Bill Roper** (supported by Kusuma Cunningham)
8. To engage in any other activities that the members and associates suggests – Stream Linking and Resource lists on website – **Subijoy Dutta and Dilli Neupane.**