

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2015
Thematic Track on
Waste Water Management and River Cleaning

Concept Note

A thematic track on “Waste Water Management and River Cleaning” in the form of a seminar is being organized by Innovation Norway. The conference is expected to attract participants from different water regulatory bodies, government officials, pollution control boards and water boards in conjunction with Companies and research institution from Norway.

The Seminar is intended to stress upon the need for waste water management in India and how India’s aim of cleaning rivers by 2018 can be achieved with help from Norwegian technology. The discussion will link to the larger topic of Climate Change through the general challenge of changes in water supplies due to unreliable monsoon patterns, and deterioration of ground water quality due to waste water discharge into water bodies. The seminar will also include a panel discussion where industry leaders would be invited to share their thoughts on the policy initiatives and strategic changes within Indian waste water management and to find commonalities between waste water and river cleaning drive. It will also touch upon how the industry and the government can work together to achieve progress in these areas, for example through Private Public Partnerships (PPP). Some of the Norwegian companies are expected to make presentation on how they can help in improving water quality and water management in India. The seminar is intended to provide a platform to address both waste water and river cleaning.

The thematic track will be organized on 4th February right after the high level corporate dialogue. The track is sponsored by Innovation Norway in collaboration with DNV GL and Cambi AS.

Background

Today, 1.2 billion people call India home, 377.1 million of whom live in cities. In the next 40 years, India’s population is expected to grow by nearly half a billion. In the next two decades alone, 225 million more people will be living in Indian cities. The water required to serve this population today is 740bn cubic metres per year (compared to 102bn cubic metres per year for the UK). By 2030, this number is expected to grow by approximately 200%, to nearly 1.5tn cubic metres per year.

According to India’s Central Pollution Control Board, the country has an installed capacity to treat only about 30% of the household waste it generates – the rest is

released into open drains or straight into the ground. And just two cities, Delhi and Mumbai, which generate around 17% of the country's sewage, have nearly 40% of its installed capacity.

An important factor that hinders wastewater treatment is unavailability of land for building new plants. Land is in short supply in urban India and also a very expensive commodity. As a result, cities and towns are finding it difficult to manage and treat the huge quantities of waste generated on a daily basis.

The opportunities presented by this market are enormous, and they provide every incentive for the private sector to invest in India, and to develop new and better technology, design systems that work for local, specific needs, find efficiencies and of course, be wise stewards of the water we ourselves use.

This underscores the need for the development of waste water management and cleaning of rivers in India. Present government has stated the need to clean River Ganga within next 3-4 years and has also put this on high priority agenda. Norway has known and established expertise in Waste water treatment. This creates opportunity for Norwegian Industry to participate in this sector in India.

The track is organized with an objective to explore answers to some of the questions like

1. What are the needs and the visions of cleaning of rivers and management of waste water in India?
2. How international technology can meaningfully bridge the need of the Water Management industry and how to address the concerns in achieving this objective.
3. How to promote and improve dialogue between the government and private sector/companies to develop a business friendly ecosystem?
4. How the Strategic Policy framework can aligned to address the critical issues in Waste Water Management and River Cleaning?