



Supporting organisations in South Asia to achieve SDGs with rainwater harvesting

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An eye opener on rain from South Asia and beyond

We must look at our economies through a water lense. Right now, we still take water for granted, pretend as if it was endlessly available. It's seen as a resource that is there for everyone – always. Instead, we should be aware that everything links to and depends on water and thus make its equitable and sustainable use a priority in every sector” .

- Henk Ovink talks about the global water crisis in an interview with Friederike Bauer senior water expert featured on KfW Development bank

Celebrating rainwater harvesting with a song



Rainwater harvesting is not new to the monsoon-rich regions across South Asia. South Asia Rainwater Network and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (ICCR) collaborated to transform and give life to the lyrics and produce a song to promote rainwater harvesting through music and dance. The lyrics of Najifa Naja Ahona a Bangladeshi Environmentalist and Environmental Scientist selected by the team representing SARNET and ICCR to develop a melody and to be converted to a song among several other entries (lyrics) sent from South Asia and Africa on rainwater harvesting. The lyrics of Najifa in Bengali convey the need for water for peace and the responsible use of water for sustainability.



Debating competitions fun way to learn rainwater harvesting

Debates encourage research and developing opinions supported by strong facts and arguments regarding a topic, where students effectively learn to put forth their ideas. Exposing children to learn about water conservation and management through debates also contributes to improving critical thinking and problem-solving skills in students.

Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum organized debating competitions among school children in Badulla, Anuradhapura, Mannar, and Mullaitivu districts with the support of USAID. The competition's structure, marking scheme, and first, second, third, and final round topics were developed to make school children explore and learn about water conservation, climate change, and rainwater harvesting. The debating tournaments allowed an opportunity for 192 Sinhala and Tamil school children from Central and northern province of Sri Lanka a novel opportunity to express their learning and observations on the use of water and the practice of rainwater harvesting. The 3 winning schools from the 4 districts of Anuradhapura, Badulla, Mannar and Mullaithivu were Walisinghe Harishchandra Vidyalaya, from Anuradhapura, Mn/Parikarikandal GTMS, from Mannari district and Mu/Koolamurippu GTMS, Mullaithivu.



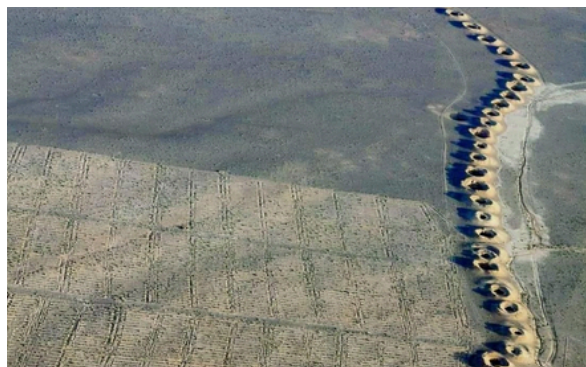
Qanats & Karez; evidence of Ancient knowledge of hydrology

➤➤➤ 3000 years ago, in Iran, a type of underground aqueduct called a Qanat was engineered to transport water over long distances to farms and villages. The holes supplied oxygen to workers who dug the aqueduct by hand over many miles. These holes known as shafts not only supply oxygen to the workers that are digging the tunnel but also remove the soil that they dug out by buckets and ropes. For air, they used goat skins to form a pipe and then blow air with hand blowers deep under ground. It is also used in Baluchistan in Pakistan. The name used for this structure in Pakistan is KAREZ . In these structures water flows from high to lowlands as per gravity. Karez is also found in central Asia and Turkey. However, in most places these Qanats/Karez are dried and fallen into disuse.

- Adopted from Linked In

Rain break records in south asia

- Kathmandu in Nepal recieved record break rainfall in the past week resulting in severe floods. Lalitpur in Kathmandu during 24 hours received a rainfall of 336mm.
- While few months back in Bangladesh Cox bazar received 450mm rain in just 24 hours. This is a record over 121 years.



»»» **OCREEDS Bangladesh to organize a training on rainwater harvesting**

O CREEDS Bangladesh works on several rainwater harvesting projects in coastal areas of Bangladesh. A one-day training on rainwater harvesting for designing and planning rainwater systems targeting engineers and architects organized in Dhaka on the 05th of October 2024. This training program will include covering principles of rainwater harvesting, design, installation, and maintenance along with case studies that illustrate the successful adaptation of the technology.

The first session includes an understanding basics of rainwater harvesting, second session will explore various rainwater harvesting systems. The first session will include an introduction to the practice, global and country situation related to rainwater harvesting, and relevance of rainwater harvesting for achieving SDG 6 on clean water. The 2nd session will explore the various rainwater harvesting systems in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal and suitability for the context. The third session will explore how rainwater harvesting can be adopted for flushing, gardening, and car washing. This session will also include guidance on step-by-step installation Designing rainwater harvesting systems will be the focus of session three while session four will include operation and maintenance aspects. Session 5 includes strategic management of rainwater harvesting systems and real world applications with case studies of success stories of rainwater harvesting will be the focus of session six.



»»» **Hybrid-event: Rainwater management, biodiversity restoration and adaptation to climate change**

Date: October 22, 2024, from 8:00 to 10:00 AM (GMT-5) at Casa Humboldt, Cali, Colombia.

This event, is organized by IRHA (Geneva) and the Cinara Institute of the University of Valle (Cali, Colombia) will explore how effective rainwater management can mitigate the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. Featuring experts from around the world, the session will address critical questions about advancing sustainable water practices that align with biodiversity conservation efforts.

»»» **A lesson from the clouds**

Saudi Arabia started cloud seeding in Mecca and Medina regions of where large number of pilgroms gather.. The result was lightening and thunder storms. The cities were not ready to receive the unprecedented rainfall with necessary storm water drainage system.



details:

<https://saiard.co.in/international-river-congress/>

