

World Environment Day
5th June, 2014
“Raise your voice, not the sea level”

World Environment Day (WED):

WED on 5th June is the principal vehicle of the United Nations for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. WED's 2014 theme “Raise Your Voice-not the sea level” is a unique opportunity to raise a call for solidarity with the coastal regions and islands and to highlight their unique developmental challenges and successes.

Climate Change:

Climate change is one of the major challenges of our time and adds considerable stress to the planet earth. The evidence is clear that the rising global temperatures have been accompanied by changes in weather and climate due to increase in Green House Gases (GHG). Many places have seen changes in rainfall, resulting in more floods, droughts, or intense rain, as well as more frequent and severe heat waves. The planet's oceans and glaciers have also experienced some big changes - oceans are warming and becoming more acidic, ice caps are melting, and sea levels are rising. All these changes have serious impacts on agriculture, water, forest, health, coasts and other sectors. As these and other changes become more pronounced in the coming decades, they will likely present challenges to our society and our environment not only today but also for tomorrow.

Sea Level Rise (SLR):

SLR due to climate change is one of the greatest threats that humanity will face in the 21st century. Low-lying coastal plain regions are more vulnerable to the impact of SLR. It is a problem of particular concern in the world because a majority of the world's population lives in coastal areas and many of the world's natural and built assets are located in the coastal zone. The growing trends of human development along coasts exacerbate their vulnerability due to increased risk to life and property. This implies that a significant adverse effect of climate change induced SLR is likely to have a huge impact on the world population and the world economy.

Combating climate change:

Combating climate change, without drastic action to the impacts of climate change like sea level rise in the future will be more difficult. Action on mitigation and adaptation is needed at all levels from local to global and requires the involvement of public authorities, the private sectors and individuals. Incremental changes are important, but fundamental, transformative changes to how we live and work are also required if we are to leave our children a planet like the one we have now. Therefore, anyone can make a difference in respect to combat climate change, albeit one of many drops in the ocean, by cutting their own carbon emissions. To know what you can do, please turn over to find a few simple tips to combat climate change. Join us; together we will make the difference.

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