

AKASH GANGA TRUST - RAIN CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2010-2011
(April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011)

1. VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

1. Two students from Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Management, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat visited the Centre on May 31.
2. Shri Ramesh Chauhan, Chairman Bisleri International visited the centre on September 12 and discussed about various activities of the Centre and also Rainwater Harvesting in urban and rural areas.
3. Shri G.Srikante, Special Correspondent, Prajavani (Kannada newspaper belonging to the Deccan Chronicle group) visited the centre on September 23 and interviewed Sekhar Raghavan.
4. Two students from Asian College of Journalism visited the centre on October 26 and wrote a story on the activities of the centre in their newsletter.
5. Nine XII std. students from Oxford Higher Secondary School and five VIII std. students from Vaels Billagong School, Injambakkam visited the centre on October 28 and learnt about the different aspects of RWH.
6. Mr. Charlie Simkin, U.S. Consul General's son visited the centre on October 30.

2. PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS...

1. Was invited to participate in the National Conference on **“Cost Effective Sustainable Sanitation – An Indian Experience”** organized by WASH Institute during 28th – 30th June, 2010 in New Delhi and presented a paper titled **“The Challenges of ecological sanitation in Coastal South India – A case study”**.
2. On both “RWH and Ecological Sanitation” to a group of committed individuals in Coimbatore on September 18.
3. On “Social Entrepreneurship” to a group of students belonging to the Department of Management, IIT Madras on October 19.
4. Participated as a resource person in a two-day (October 29 and 30) workshop organized by Catalyst Trust and held in Kakkannur, a small town near Villupuram. This was meant for co-ordinators of village centres in various districts of Tamil Nadu. A power point presentation was made on the need, relevance and importance of RWH and Ecological sanitation. The other resource people were,

Shri S.P.Ambrose, I.A.S. (retired), Shri R.Desigan, Fonder Trustee, Catalyst Trust, Shri Naresh Gupta, Chief Electoral Officer (retired) and Shri N.L.Rajah. Another such workshop was held in Madurai on November 27.

5. Was invited to participate in the Workshop on “Case Studies on Innovations in Wash Experiences among South NGO’S (TAMILNADU & KERALA.)” held in Chennai on November 23, 24, 2010 and made a power point presentation titled “Role of Rain Centres in promoting Rainwater Harvesting in urban areas”.
6. Was invited to participate in the Water Convention 2011 organised by the Indian Waterworks Association held at S.r.M.College, Potheri on January 11, 2011 and made a presentation on “The Need and Relevance of RWH in Urban areas”

3. MEDIA REPORTS

1. Featured in a video-film prepared by IITM Alumni Association (July 13)
2. An article **நிலத்தடி நீர் பாதுகாப்பில் கவனம் இல்லாவிட்டால் பெரும் அபாயம்** writteww
Written by Sekhar Raghavan appeared in the Tamil daily Dinamalar dated July 19, 2010.
http://www.dinamalar.com/News_Detail.asp?Id=42188
3. Featured as “Sanitation Specialist” in Harmony Magazine in the August issue.
4. Jayaplus channel telecast the Director’s interview (video-filmed at the Rain Centre) on August 31 for 30 minutes on the Importance of RWH in cities. This was re-telecast thrice on different days. Several telephonic enquiries were received by the Centre from all over Tamil Nadu.
5. Featured in an article titled “Making Every Raindrop Count” in Business Line dated November 12.
6. Podhigai TV channel telecast an interview with the Director on January 4, 2011 in a programme called “Paarijaatham”.
7. Two girl students from Women’s Christian College took a video film on February 26, 2011 at the centre with the Director’s interview on the centre’s activities.
8. The Director’s interview appeared in the rediff site on March 8, 2011.
9. Participated in a live discussion on March 22, 2011 on the importance of water on “Chennai Live 104.8” FM Channel in connection with World Water day.

4. RWH IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

1. Advised the following multi-storeyed apartment complexes on RWH implementation:
 - a) KG Samudra, a small apartment complex in Valmiki Nagar
 - b) Ceebros Bayview, an apartment complex with 48 flats in Valmiki Nagar
 - c) PA apartment complex in Luz Church road
 - d) Dev Apartment complex in Sastri Nagar, Adyar
 - e) Leo Madhuram in Giri road, T.Nagar
2. Visited the Vipaasana International Academy in Igatpuri, Nashik District of Maharashtra during August 8 to 11 for exploring the possibility of harvesting the rain falling within their large premises
3. Visited ECO Kitchen in Injambakkam on September 26 to advise them on RWH.
4. Visited a large residential complex in Madurai on October 24, to advise them on RWH.
5. Visited Sri Andal temple in Srivilliputhur and Sankara Eye Care Hospital in Krishnankoil on October 25 to advise them on RWH.
6. Visited the Bisleri mineral water factory in Senneerkuppam (near Poonamalee) on October 27 to explore the possibility of harvesting the rainwater falling within their premises.
7. Visited Lady Andal School, Harrington road, Chetput on November 18 to advise them on RWH.
8. Visited a complex in Triplicane on December 5, which was once the premises of Parthasarathy Swamy Sabha.
9. Visited a 6 acre farm in Kayarambedu village on January 25, 2011 for RWH advice.
10. Visited "Paramount Pearls" a 156 apartment complex in Velachery on March 13, 2011 for advice and implementation of RWH.
11. Visited a one acre site in Eekaathungal belonging to Sri Parthasarathy Temple on March 16, 2011 for advice and implementation of RWH.
12. Visited a Panchayath school in Anakaaputhur adopted by Cognizant Technology Solutions (CTS) on March 30, 2011 for RWH advice.

13. Visited St. Bede's School in San Thome on March 31, 2011 for advising the management on RWH as flood mitigation measure and also got it implemented with the Centre's contractors.
14. RWH was implemented in an apartment complex "Ananti" in San Thome on March 31, 2011.

10. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Was invited by Siruthuli once again to Coimbatore to participate in the two day water festival "*Siruthuli Peruvellam – Anrum Inrum*". This festival was held during July 17, 18 in VOC park and was inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Abdul Kalam, Former President of India. Made power point presentations on the Importance of RWH on both days to the general public.
2. CMWSSB jointly with our Rain Centre organized awareness meetings on "The Need to maintain the RWH structures the residents had put up in 2003" in all their twelve areas within Chennai city. These meetings spread over a period one month, was inaugurated by their Managing Director, Shivdas Meena I.A.S. on August 24. Several National and Neighbourhood newspapers (both English and Tamil) carried reports on all the twelve meetings.
3. Gave a talk on the Importance of RWH in Urban Areas for the NSS students of Institute of Printing Technology, Central Polytechnic, on January 22, 2011.
4. A small function was organized in Kovalam town on February 16, 2011 to remove the compost from one of the ecosan toilets. Mrs. Santha Sheela Nair participated.

5. HARMONY SILVER AWARD 2010

The Harmony for Silvers Foundation, founded in 2004 by Tina Anil Ambani, is a non-government organisation working to enhance the quality of life of the elderly in India. Since 2007 this Foundation has been selecting ten Silver achievers from across the country and felicitating them with a cash award and citation. Sekhar Raghavan was selected for this award for 2010 and the Harmony Silver Awards Function was held in Mumbai on October 6. Mumbai editions of Times of India and Indian Express carried photographs and reports.

6. Had a discussion with the Principal of Mct.M. Chidambaram Chettiar School on December 12 regarding managing their water sources efficiently and also avoiding flooding of the premises during monsoon.