

# CII 5<sup>th</sup> Water Innovation Summit 2019

## 19 September 2019, The LaLiT, New Delhi

### Press Release

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**Headline: Water certificates akin to carbon credits to encourage industry to adopt water conservation initiatives: Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti**

**Shri U. P. Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation**, while urging the industry to reduce its water footprint, said that one way to encourage industry to adopt water conservation measures could be to introduce water certificates akin to carbon credits. He was addressing the Inaugural Session of CII's 5<sup>th</sup> Water Innovation Summit. He further explained the proposed changes in water governance structures such as the establishment of River Basin Authorities throughout the country. Emphasizing the need of moving from large dams to decentralised water storage systems, he said utilizing traditional water harvesting knowledge would be key to effective water management at local level. Mr. Singh stressed upon the significance of data and technology in managing and planning the limited water resources available in the country as had been demonstrated by CII's WATSCAN.

Forging critical holistic partnerships among various stakeholders as well as linking and expanding their knowledge on water management remain critical to ensuring a water secure future. **Hon. Karlene Maywald, Former Minister & Chair, National Water Commission, and International Adviser, South Australian Government**, emphasized the need to identify mutual benefits when stakeholders' needs are at cross purposes. She also stressed on the need for industry to change models by focusing on farmers as businesses to increase profitability thereby allowing farmers to focus on improving sustainability. Ms. Maywald called upon the industry to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to create a regulatory framework that could fast track adoption of new technologies and improve collaboration between stakeholders.

Highlighting the tremendous results emerging from the strong partnership between CII and the Australian government in water initiatives, **Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII** emphasized the need to develop Public Private Partnership models to tackle issues concerning water and wastewater management. He deliberated upon CII's activities in water management under the stewardship of the CII-Triveni Water Institute. CII's WATSCAN tool, the water audits and the Blue rating initiative across geographies in India have led to improved water management and promoted water conservation activities in the industry.

Creating maximum impact with minimal resources utilization should be the mantra to achieve effective management of watershed was the message from **Mr Dhruv M Sawhney, Past President, CII & Chairman CII – Triveni Water Institute**. This can be achieved through scientific tools and techniques like WATSCAN and water audits that offer return on investment period of less than 12 months. Developing pathways for new technologies in water management need to be easily accessible to various stakeholders, said Mr. Sawhney.

Congratulating Mr. U.P Singh and the government for the crucial steps towards establishing the River Basin authority **Mr N K Ranganath Member, Advisory Board, CII – Triveni Water Institute** stressed upon the need to develop strong policy frameworks for water pricing to ensure judicious water usage among the various stakeholders. Mr. Ranganath, **also a Jury Member of The CII National Awards for Excellence in Water Management** emphasized the need to create appropriate measures to facilitate maintenance of various water assets.

Photo 1 : From L to R, **Mr N K Ranganath Member of Jury**, CII National Awards for Excellence in Water Management, **Ms Karlene Maywald**, Former Minister & Chair, National Water Commission, and International Adviser, South Australian Government, **Shri U. P. Singh**, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, **Mr Dhruv M Sawhney** Chairman, CII–Triveni Water Institute, Past President, CII & Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd and , **Mr Chandrajit Banerjee**, Director General, CII