

## Environmental Toxicity---The Highest Threat For Human Life: SAIRI's Report on United Nations IDB-WED Observance 2014.

Due to the obsessed petro-chemical advancement, the multiplex of environmental toxicities is going to leave the earth a tougher place for the next generations.

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Research shows that by the next 65 to 85 years, global warming could lead to a rise of up to 2 meters at sea-levels worldwide, making many of the land mass and island areas uninhabitable. especially in the Pacific region. Adjacently, on a contiguous perspectivemilieu, the hydro-toxication levels of subsurface water reserves could reach and touch such an extent that by 2080, a greater bulk of the reservoirs would be left undrinkable in the contexts of human consumption, on account of their higher toxic levels due to the ecologically non compatible sewage-drainage systems especially in the Asian and African regions, indicatingly warn the SIDS and SAIRI categorical reports at the IBD-WED,2014 Barbados carousal fortnight celebrations, leading the United Nationswide efforts to draw attention to the plight of the world's environment's sustainability and protection from multiple forms of environmental toxicities, at the cutting edge of the fight against climate change.

The island territories that are home to nearly 62.3 million people, play a crucial role in protecting oceans while



contributing little to climate change- emitting less than 1% of global greenhouse gases. But they suffer disproportionately from the effects of climate change owing to their small size, remote locations, and limited economic resilience.

and socio-economic development; with annual losses at trillions of dollars due to increased vulnerability.

The "SIDS Foresight Report" identifies climate change impacts and related sea-level rise as the chief concern among 20 emerging issues impacting the environmental resilience and sustainable development prospects of SIDS – including coastal squeeze, land capacity, invasive alien species and threats from chemicals and waste.

SAIRI's thematic report on environmental toxicology mentions cautioningly that the sewage outlets of the urban areas necessarily do impose a disproportionate and unfair burden on the lands where mostly the poor populations are inhabited. As a result, the soil along with subsoil water reservoirs, essentially become inept to shield against the burdens of both, the inorganic and organic wastes' toxicities imposed thereupon, due to being incapable of bearing and processing this 'disproportionate and unfair toxic burden'. In turn... "eventually the sources of water allocations for human consumption are left on high stakes of multiple toxicities..."

The report furthers to entail the diverse realms of the environment's interlinkaging to humankind by pointing that "...the obsessed overemphasis on petro-chemical advancements in every walk of life, has threatened the air we breathe in, the water we survive upon, the ozone layers we stay under, the agricultural crops and plant-kingdom we sustain with, the animals we depend on and finally whole of the environment in its totality we live in,— with a multiplex of environmental toxicities, thus leaving the earth a tougher place for the next generations, as it could and must not be otherwise.

On World Environment Day, the UN Secretary General <u>Ban Ki Moon</u> cherishingly referred to activities and events taking place worldwide – ranging from a 45,000-strong clean-up campaign and the convening of a youth conference on "Eco-civilization and Green Development" in Shanghai.

"This year, I urge everyone to think about the plight of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and to take inspiration from their efforts to address climate change, strengthen resilience and work for a sustainable future," said the UN chief. Ban Ki Moon, "Raise your voice, not the sea level."

Prime Minister of Barbados, <u>Freundel Stuart</u>, Q.C., M.P. said in a special host-note of the UN's IBD-WED 2014 celebrations that, "On World Environment Day, we raise the collective voices of SIDS, once again, in calling for stronger and more concrete political action and solutions to enable us to realize a future, not only of resilience, but also of prosperity for our island nations. For, given the interconnectedness of the planet, our prosperity is also that of our neighbours in the developed and developing world".

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), warned that the very existence of low-lying nations, such as Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu is threatened by climate change-induced sea level rise.

SAIRI's principal investigator Prof Qadhi Aurangzeb Al Hafi noted that "Places where people do not have adequate access to water largely coincide with those where toxicity-centered diseases endemics in general, and embryonic-teratogenesis pandemic out-breaks in particular, are threateningly high."

"Academically, on the face of the subject under focus, we must acknowledge that it is impossible to address these complexities, if we treat them in isolation. We need to recognize the multifarious interactions between them that are closely interlinked". established further the multi-disciplinary arch-researcher <u>Prof. Dr. Aurangzeb Hafi</u> in SAIRI report of IBD-WED observance 2014.

UN General Assembly President John Ashe appealed for a global call to action for people across the world to support SIDS and low-lying coastal States endangered by rising sea levels, and disproportionately impacted by climate change, the loss of biodiversity and forests and overfishing.

In her message, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said that while small islands faced many challenges, they are also leaders under that treaty "both morally and practically" in terms of reminding nations of the risks and collective responsibilities to act while driving ambitious national and international action.

Figueres, went on to say "Our pathway is clear. Clean energy economies produce profits without pollution, better livelihoods in stable industries, restore health and wider wealth and preserve water and essential resources," she said, calling on all raise their voices and their ambition now.

In support of the UN designations, the International Biodiversity Day (IBD) and the World Environment Day (WED) fortnight observances were focused on the broader context of climate change as its theme. Many of the events under way also spotlighted the upcoming Third International SIDS Conference, set to be held in Apia, Samoa from 9/1 to 9/4 this year.

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