

آبِ بیتی

Virtual Seminar Series

Centre for Water Informatics and Technology

Wetlands: Understanding the wealth of humankind

Wednesday, June 02, 2021 | 5 – 6 pm

Abstract: Wetlands occupy 6% of the world’s land surface and are one of the most productive ecosystems suitable for human utilization. Yet our understanding of this vital ecosystem is poor and insufficient, and is often driven by negative rather than positive thoughts. Wetlands are abundant producers of food and nurture biodiversity, they treat pollution such as by wastewater treatment, they regulate floods, stabilize climate and are a steady provider of livelihood.

Wetlands are found all over the world but western civilizations especially set the trend in draining and converting wetlands – the idea was to control nature. In Asian civilizations the practice was to work with nature rather than against it, though there was a strong element of managing the wetlands. Sadly, controlling nature has become dominant today and in developing countries, wetland conversion projects are even being carried out with foreign aid. In the present discussion we will take a look at wetlands not only in India but also in Pakistan, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (one of the earliest international environmental agreement in the post World War times) and will also subsequently focus on the East Kolkata Wetlands. We shall understand and explore the uniqueness of these wetlands and speak a little about the work the speaker does through the institutions she is connected with.



Speaker Biography: Dhruba Das Gupta comes from an educational background of rural development (Indira Gandhi National Open University), community management (Jadavpur University), public communication and is currently engaged as a research fellow at the Department of Civil Engineering in the Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology, Shibpur, district Howrah, near the city of Kolkata. Her research focuses on revisiting the efficiency of the waste stabilization pond system as a low-cost wastewater treatment option and its role in improving the lives of the community. Dhruba is also a wetland manager and community and livelihoods expert. She carries out community welfare work through an institution called Society for Creative Opportunities and Participatory Ecosystems (SCOPE). She has been associated with the East Kolkata Wetlands for more than two decades.

Moderated by Talha Manzoor, Assistant Professor, Centre for Water Informatics & Technology (LUMS)

You can watch this session live on WIT’s Facebook Page <https://web.facebook.com/wit.lums/> and the LUMS Facebook page <https://web.facebook.com/lahoreuniversityofmanagementsciences/> as well.

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