

PRESS RELEASE: India-UK Water Center Workshop on “Developing Hydro-Climate Services for Water Security”

HIGHLIGHTS:

- IITM together with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), UK has established a virtual “India UK Water Centre” (IUKWC) on behalf of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India and the UK’s Natural Environment Research Centre (NERC) on **27th September 2016**. This virtual centre will be operated between IITM and CEH. This centre is an outcome of collaborative efforts and funding by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), India and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).
- The overall goal of the IUKWC is to promote the co-operation and collaboration between the complimentary priorities of NERC- MoES water security research in order to establish a platform for, and legacy of, long term partnerships and dialogue between Indian and UK water researchers, water policy makers and water business.
- This Water Centre is established with the aim of promoting cooperation and collaboration between NERC-MoES water security research between Indian and UK water researchers, water policy makers and water businesses. India-UK Water Centre (IUKWC) for an anticipated 3 years, builds on recent and ongoing collaborative water research programmes such as ‘Changing Water Cycle’, ‘Drivers of Variability in the South Asian Monsoon’ and the ‘Newton Bhabha-funded Sustaining Water Resources for Food, Energy & Ecosystem Services in India’.
- The Centre is planning to host number of activities to strengthen the water research initiative and enhance the water security collaboration and create a suitable platform for networking activities.
- **The first IUKWC Workshop of three days long (29 Nov-1st Dec 2016) began today with a focus on development of hydro-climate services for water security.**

IITM Pune, 29.11.2016: Funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), India and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), UK, recently launched **India-UK Joint Centre on Water Security, inaugurated today its first Workshop entitled, “Developing Hydro-Climate Services for Water Security” at IITM Pune.**

Prof. V. K. Gaur, (Distinguished Scientist, CSIR Fourth Paradigm Institute, Bangalore), **Chief Guest**, Prof. Alan Jenkins (Deputy Director, Center for Ecology and Hydrology, NERC), **Guest of Honour** and Dr Harry Dixon (IUKWC Coordinator, Center for Ecology and Hydrology, UK) **and Dr A.K. Sahai** (IUKWC Coordinator, IITM, India) inaugurated the Workshop.

Dr A.K. Sahai welcomed and introduced the IUKWC to all the delegates, stakeholders and fellow scientists participating in this 3-days workshop arranged under India-UK Water Centre. Dr Harry Dixon presented the objectives and functions of IUKWC, the ongoing MoES-NERC collaborative programs on water security, the ways to get involved in these programs. Prof. Alan Jenkins talked about the research needs and opportunities for India-UK Water Science. Prof. V K Gaur stressed on building of resilience to water stress. He presented few examples of projects undertaken by various Institutions in the direction and their success. He suggested few steps in building the resilience to water adversity by establishing Modern data centre, introducing training programs, outreach activities, and also to find a solution to deal with next stage research challenges after the completion of 3 years of tenure of IUKWC .

Policy makers, stakeholders and researchers working in the area of Climate and water from India and UK are the participants of the Workshop. During the three day workshop (29 Nov – 1st Dec 2016), the following topics will be covered by climate and water experts : hydro-climate science and services – the global agenda; using climate information to inform water management – recent experiences from the UK and India; improving understanding of spatial and temporal variability in Indian hydrology; improving understanding of climate process for hydrology; future water resource availability and management; climate services for disaster risk reduction.

This workshop explores the opportunities for future collaboration in hydro-climatic services amongst UK and Indian scientists with the objective of promoting future research ideas and partnerships. The major outcome of this workshop is to identify & address the requirement of key stakeholder with a view to identify ways of enhancing links between India-UK science and current/potential end users of hydro-climatic services.

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For more information, visit [India-UK Water Centre website](http://www.iukwc.org/) : <http://www.iukwc.org/>

Agenda of workshop: <http://www.tropmet.res.in/~lip/other-pdfs/Agenda-Final-28Nov16.pdf>

PHOTOGRAPHS

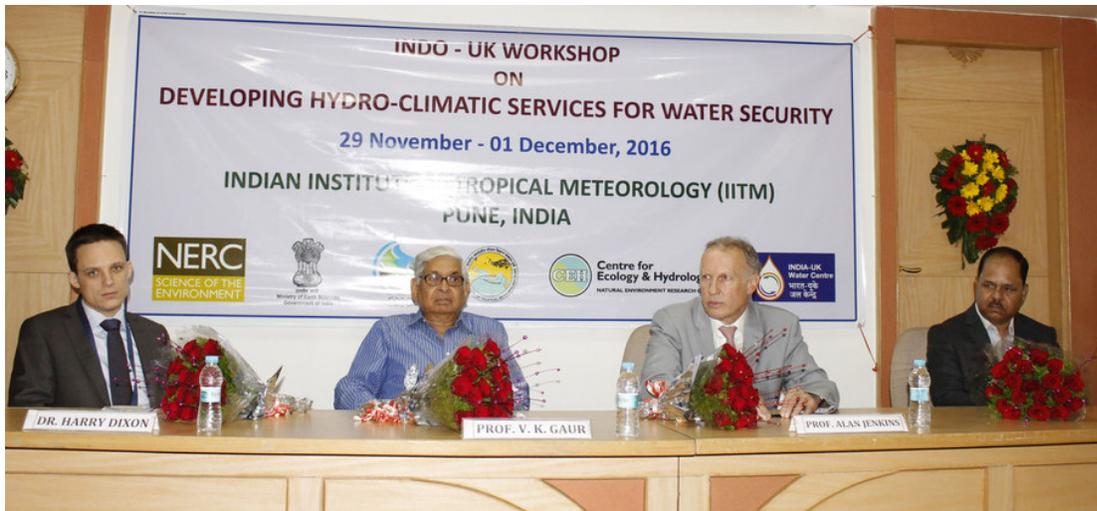


Photo1: Dignitaries on dice during inauguration of workshop



Photo2: Dignitaries inaugurating the Workshop lighting the traditional lamp on 29th November 2016



Group photograph: around 60 participants from India and UK attended the Workshop