



Confederation of Indian Industry

CII KARNATAKA WATER TASKFORCE INITIATIVES AND THE CONFERENCE ON URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT

[\(Background Note\)](#)

The CII Karnataka Water Task force is a Forum of CII members who have come together to offer their voluntary efforts to improve the water sector in Karnataka. In the first meeting of the task force, all members of the task force agreed that whatever activities are taken up during the year, be it a study or a conference or policy support activities, the emphasis should be on producing on the ground impact. Accordingly, the following initiatives have been identified for the year –

1. ***Aiding the Creation of Water sustainable zones (WSZ) in and around Bangalore***

- The idea here is to pick a zone in the peri-urban areas of the city that are currently not well serviced by the BWSSB network and demonstrate how partial or complete self-sufficiency in fresh water needs can be achieved in a community scale. This would involve identifying such a zone in the vicinity of one of the task force champions, which comprises of a good mix of industry, residences & offices. Among the many zones that were considered, viz., BIAL, Electronics City, Bidadi, Hebbal, Sarjapur, etc., two zones have been identified based on willingness of industry champions to take on the initiative. These two zones are Electronics City championed by ELCITA and Bidadi Industrial zone championed by Toyota Motors and Bosch. This initiative will be led by the industry champions and supported by CII-WTF in terms of ideation, interfacing with Government, mobilising support for the initiative, etc.

2. ***Creation of the Karnataka State Water Network (KSWN):*** The compelling purpose of the KSWN is to integrate & synergise the various parallel efforts / initiatives / studies / research going on in the field of water. Besides, water being a local subject justifies a local network. It is also one of the most complicated issues to address due to its nature as a public good and consequent political sensitivity, multi-institutional jurisdictions, etc. – a network might be a good way to overcome some traditional barriers. The charter of the KSWN could read as follows: –

- i) ***Synergise efforts*** – across different institutions working in this space by largely providing a platform to dialogue, share knowledge and in the process synergise. Synergies need to be visualised across.

- (1) The water value chain (water cycle) – resource management, water production - treatment & supply, waste water collection, treatment, reuse and disposal, storm water management, etc.
 - (2) Stakeholders & Actors – Consumers (residential, industrial, commercial, institutional consumers), producers (like utilities, contractors, operators, other service providers), Financiers (Public, Private, Development Banks), policy makers, technology providers, NGOs, etc.
 - (3) Interfaces with other sectors – Agriculture, Energy / power production, solid waste management, urban planning & urban design, etc.
- ii) **Knowledge sharing** – as already described above through physical interactions, online communities, events / conferences / workshops, sponsored studies & research, space to physically meet & collaborate, etc.
 - iii) **Inform policy** – through deliberations amongst a neutral group representing neutral views from a diverse set of stake-holders
 - iv) **Action sub-groups** – Sub-groups within the network that are constituted with a specific agenda – could be for an initiative / project / study

3. **Conduct of the Karnataka Urban Water Conference:**

The theme of the Conference is **Urban Water Management**. The central idea of the conference is to orient our thinking process towards Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) Approaches – an approach that is characterised by an attempt to close Ecological loops within a city scale or even smaller than city scales such as within an industrial zone (e.g., the WSZ concept). It attempts to visualise the interfaces between water supply management, waste water management and storm water management (or more broadly water resources management) and attempts to take a systems approach to managing water. The session themes and topics have been chosen accordingly where each of these apparently independent aspects of water management are covered in depth and rounded off with an integrative panel discussion that explores the interface issues and the integration challenges. This conference is also supported by an independent and high-level study on **Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM)**; this study would aim to set the context for the conference.