

Welcome aboard AWWAIndia!

It is such an auspicious occasion that even our late maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan would have given an impromptu melodious recital on his beloved Shehnai on the banks of the Ganges. In witness, not only would have been the rising Sun God, but the demi-gods and high priests of our holy waters! And yes our folks, getting drenched and absorbed in the blessings from the potent combination of the almighties.

Cheers! and give a big welcome to the messengers of *Safe Drinking Water*... the essence of our wellbeing, happiness and pure joy of quintessential existence on the blue planet. We have no option but to paint our minds with azure blue. Need to create a new rainbow with shades of sky blue.

It all began way back in 1881, when a few determined gentlemen and ladies decided to form the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to create a dialogue platform to eradicate waterborne diseases. Soon the 'Wholesome Water' was converted to 'Safe Water'. In the hundred years since its inception, all tap waters in America have become potable for direct human consumption. The child mortality rate due to waterborne diseases has dropped to almost negligible. This indirect effect on nation's health economy sowed the seeds of progress in America.

That is the dream we are pursuing too. Our great democratic nation of 1.25 billion has taken mighty strides to become a superpower in the near future. However, it defies, the reason for the continuing negligence of our drinking water and sanitation sectors. According to recent WHO reports, India is at the lowest rungs in terms of these public health parameters.

It is difficult and it will take time. But it is achievable. People to people contact is important to share the universal experiences and practices. What we require is a vision and education. Why not learn it from a proven American case study? And in pursuing that dream we also get a bonus - The Total Water Solution!

Of many individuals in the recent past, three stand out. Past Presidents – Terry Rolan, Nilaksh Kothari and Chief Executive Officer- David LaFrance. Believe me, it has not been easy but the passionate trio has delivered it efficiently and without much ado. The world knows that we too are committed and concerned professionals. What we need to learn from them is to deliver it with a smile, a warm handshake and to enjoy while doing it. When AWWA adopted the tagline 'Better World through Better Water', I am sure they were not aware that their first tryst outside North America would be with India.

A win-win for both.

The all out war against our troubled waters is on. Please paint your walls (this time in bright red color) - Passionate Water Professionals never Sin!

Shirish Kardile

Chair- AWWAIndia