

Subject: Week 61 Learnings- Water  
Date: 04.03.2019 03:01:48 (+0000)

### Dear All

This week I visited a few plants in Thailand and Indonesia. One of my big takeaways was water and its use. I have been involved with water as a raw material for a number of years and I am giving you my learnings from this topic.

1. Water accounts for more than two thirds of the human body as also the planet. However, the water available on earth is not available for regular use as nearly 97 % is sea water and another 1.5 odd % is frozen water in the form of ice. So, what we have is only 0.75 % of the water that's available on the planet.
2. Two cities nearly ran dry of water a few years ago – Sao Paulo and Cape Town. It is expected that Bangalore and Delhi might face a similar situation very soon.
3. People do not see the biggest uses of water in front of them – in their food and in their clothes. The food industry like rice, sugarcane etc sucks up a lot of water. Equally cotton etc and the whole processing of apparel takes up water. A kg of chocolate takes 17,000 litres of water, a kg of beef takes 15,000 litres of water, a kg of cotton takes 9000 litres of water!
4. Water is a local subject, in the sense that the local community or hamlet will worry about water depletion and not another hamlet a few kms away, so each company has to do its best for the water replenishment in that community. Most cities and towns are marked as red, yellow or green. If you are in a red zone, then you will have to replenish two times the water you consume at a minimum.
5. A lot of water problems have to do with climate change. The levels of the seas and the oceans are increasing due to global warming and hence we see many more floods and storms. 8 of the top ten cities in the world are net to water – London, Hong Kong, Mumbai, Kolkata, Barcelona, New York, etc. These cities were originally built around water because water was the easiest place to move things till the romans taught the world how to build gravelled roads.
6. 1.9 billion people out of a total of 7.7 billion people on the planet live in water stressed areas today, this is nearly 25 % of the world's population – most of them in Asia.
7. 9 countries out of 200 in the world account for 60 % of the worlds fresh water. India and China who account for 36 % of the world's population have only 11 % of the world's water.
8. Water disputes will rise , both intra state and inter -state and inter country.
9. Desalinated water is an option but an expensive option as it consumes a lot of energy. Israel gets nearly 20 % of its water through a desalination plant. Most of the desalination plants are in the middle east. Followed by Asia pacific.
10. The real way to use water is to save less if it, to recycle it more. Each if us as citizens need to be aware and we also have to do the same in the plants we run. A Good water conservation strategy benefits the society for life. We have an excellent sustainability policy, lets follow it and ensure that we do our bit to save water.

Thanks and all the best

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