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International World Water Day

Sonam Goparma, SIA(East)

Gangtok, March 22: International World Water Day is held annually on 22nd March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of fresh drinking water for sustainable management of freshwater. It was recommended to celebrate this day in the year 1992 for the first time at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

This year's theme for the day was "Clean Water for a healthy

world."

Central Water Commission, Gangtok Unit, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, organized a programme to celebrate the World Water day in the conference hall of the Forest Secretariat in the capital where Minister for Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management, Mr. Bhim Dhungel graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Mr. Dhungel in his address

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Mr. Dhungel in his address highlighted on the importance of drinking fresh water and also informed how only two percent of the total water in the planet was fit for drinking. It is of utmost importance to conserve and preserve fresh water, and informed of Sikkim being recognized by the nation for being the first state in India to have achieved complete sanitation or Nirmal Rajya.

Earlier, Mr. Saibal Ghosh welcomed the gathering with his welcome note, while Mr. A.K. Jain Chief Engineer, TBO Siliguri, West Bengal highlighted on the works that has been taken up by Central Water Commission which was established in the state of Sikkim way back in the year 1974.

The function also saw Mr. P.S. Basnet, Secretary, PHE, Secretary, Science and

Technology, Mr. M.L. Arrawatia, Inspector General of Police, Fire Service, Mr. A Sachdev address the gathering and express their views on the importance of fresh water and in the near future the world will face serious crisis of fresh waters if it is not preserved.

While, Mr. Sandip Tambe, Addl. Secretary, Rural Management & Development Department gave a power point presentation on Dhara Vikash or spring shed development programmes undertaken in the state under the central scheme of M.G. NREGA.

The function also saw magic show and cultural extravaganza presented by the local artists along with the audio visual show for mass awareness on water.

The day long function ended with the vote of thanks which was proposed by Mr. Sharad Chandra, Executive Engineer, SID.