



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD leaders receive “Jala Seva Bharathi” award

World Water Day was established in 1993 by the United Nations to be celebrated each year on or about March 22. The day focuses attention on the importance of freshwater while advocating for sustainable development of countries worldwide.

Dr. Prakasam Tata, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) retiree and president of Bharathi Theertha, a non-profit organization working in the fields of education, environment and health, has been organizing and participating in World Water Day celebrations locally and in India for the past several years. Bharathi Theertha celebrated World Water Day on March 25 at the Naperville Public Library.

Dr. Tata has conducted workshops in India and has been joined by MWRD representatives including Commissioner Frank Avila, Executive Director David St. Pierre, Managing Engineer Hitesh Shah, Electrical Engineer Syama Pappu, and retired Plant Manager Usman Baki. The group has shared their knowledge in India to help institute best management practices in wastewater treatment. The trips were organized and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Naperville and Government of Telangana State, India.

In recognition of time and services provided by MWRD leaders, Dr. Tata presented the “Jala Seva Bharathi” (Water Service Legend) award to Commissioner Avila, St. Pierre, Shah, Pappu and Baki during the March 25 program co-hosted by Bharathi Theertha and the Centre for Transformation of Waste Technology, another non-profit organization working in the field of environment and waste management.



In recognition of time and services rendered by MWRD leaders, Dr. Tata, presented the “Jala Seva Bharathi” (Water Service Legend) award to Commissioner Frank Avila, Exec. Director David St. Pierre, Hitesh Shah, Syama Pappu and Usman Baki along with four Naperville Rotary Club members during the March 25 program co-hosted by Bharathi Theertha and the Centre for Transformation of Waste Technology, another non-profit organization working in the field of environment and waste management.

“Water in Cook County is abundant, but in other parts of the world, like India, every day is a struggle to provide and access fresh water,” said Commissioner Avila. “I think it is important that we share our knowledge with others that are not as fortunate.”

Bharathi Theertha has implemented several projects in India for the benefit of underprivileged people. Sixteen percent of the world population lives in India yet the country has only four percent of world’s total quantity of water resources. An increasing population and demand for fresh water exacerbates the ability for the struggling country to meet demands.

Additional information about World Water Day can be found at www.worldwaterday.org/.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.