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ONLY ONE EARTH: HELP IT SURVIVE

Mohammed Naser Azeez, MD, Aquality Water Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

The global campaign, of this year, calls for collective and transformative action to celebrate, protect and restore our planet.

The World Environment Day 2022, is celebrated under the theme 'Only One Earth' set out by the United Nations, to convey the message that in this universe, there are millions of galaxies and their planets, but there is "Only One Earth".

The need to save the environment. For most nations, a healthy environment has become more important than the economy itself as devastating effects of environmental imbalances, is far and wide, and affects the livelihood of many. World Environment Day on 5th June, is celebrated since 1973, and it has grown into the largest global platform to promote environmental consciousness, awareness and protection. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is leading the initiative and pursuing governments across the globe to take real and effective steps in safeguarding the environment.

Why does the environment need solutions? Our environment requires urgent solutions. The triple planetary crisis-climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and increase in pollution and waste, require urgent attention and proper action to protect the planet. It is more important now than ever. Our water sources, which is the lifeline, of our ecological system are declining and getting polluted due to increased human activities. The fresh water sources are shrinking and the remaining ones have been contaminated leading to loss of human lives and the surrounding environment.

Half a century later, the Earth is facing multiple emergencies. Climate change is happening too fast, for humans and nature, to adapt to it. Natural disasters are happening way too frequently, leading to loss of habitat and there are many other pressures, on the earth's ecosystem. These events have either put an estimated one million species under threat of extinction. Air, soil, and water are continuously being polluted.

The effects of pollution. The world is inching towards the 8 billion population and one-in-four people do not have access to safe drinking water. Unsafe water is responsible for close to 1.2 million deaths each year. Over 6% of deaths in low-income countries, are the direct result of drinking water from sources that are contaminated. Clean and safe water has become very precious and lots of regional conflicts are happening on

having access to water.

India is grappling with the dual challenge of fast shrinking fresh water sources and increasing cases of water pollution. The stress on water, is felt across the country, and India's biggest cities are more affected, leading to water supply disruptions and compromising quality.

The much needed transformation

Time is running out and nature is in the emergency mode. If necessary actions are not taken, exposure to air and water pollution, beyond the safety level will further increase by 50%, over the decade. Plastic waste going to water bodies will almost triple by 2040 leading to a severe ecological crisis. To keep global warming below 1.5°C this century, it is necessary to halve the annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

The way out of such a situation is the transformation of the economy and the society to become more inclusive, reasonable, and more connected, with the nature. It is necessary to move from any practice that causes damage to the planet and prevents it from healing. Technology has been developed which has made it possible to now have solutions that can be implemented that would help, in bringing about the transformation, in greater magnitude towards and help create a sustainable system.

Aquality Water Solutions Pvt Ltd has been working, for over a decade, to provide sustainable water treatment solutions, that are aligned with nature. The systems and processes, these procedures, advocate and implement involves identifying the issue, developing robust solutions, building support for them. Further, these procedures in harmony with advanced technology ensure that the desired outcomes are sustainable and are according to environment mindfulness ■



Mohammed Naser Azeez is a first-generation entrepreneur. He established Aquality Water Solutions with the idea to provide technologically advanced water treatment solutions to domestic, institutional and industrial clients.