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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **U.S. EMBASSY HOSTS WORKSHOP ON WATER ISSUES IN INDIA**

New Delhi -- U.S. Ambassador to India Timothy J. Roemer today inaugurated a one-day workshop entitled *Water Issues in India: Opportunities and Challenges* at the Constitution Club in New Delhi. The event highlighted practical, affordable technologies that U.S. and Indian scientists are using in collaboration to address water issues and identify targets for further action.

Ambassador Roemer noted that the varied panel discussions and the wide range of interests represented at the workshop reflected water's importance in today's world and how it affects everyone. "Water is life, and it is vividly apparent wherever I have travelled in India. From Varanasi to Jodhpur, from Bihar to Uttar Pradesh, water plays a critical role in the lives of the people I have met. It is on the minds of local government officials, and is seen as a challenge and an opportunity for businesses, entrepreneurs, and NGOs." Ambassador Roemer emphasized that, "As we boldly face this issue, we pledge the United States' commitment to working with India to address water challenges and opportunities."

Ambassador Roemer also highlighted the global importance of sound water resource management, referring to a joint project between the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Ministry of Earth Sciences to improve long-range weather forecasting. The U.S. Agency for International Development is meanwhile implementing seven multi-year water programs with a total budget of nearly U.S. \$90 million, and there are numerous other partnerships among academic institutions, NGOs and government agencies in both countries.

The workshop brought together individuals representing scientific and academic communities, government bodies, NGOs and corporations, to approach the issues of water resource management from a practical, "can-do" perspective. In a series of panel discussions, the participants noted current conditions of India's water resources, conservation techniques, practical responses to the looming water crisis, and commercial applications to improve water management and conservation. Centuries old traditional Indian rainwater harvesting and conservation methods were among the technologies discussed in the workshop, as well as some of the state of the art technologies developed by innovative U.S. companies and U.S.-Indian collaborations.

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