

Department of Hydrology: A Unique School for Hydrological Education in India

Dhyan Singh Arya

Department of Hydrology, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, India

The period from 1965 to 1974 witnessed establishment of a number of international postgraduate courses in hydrology, around the world, under the UNESCO's International Hydrology Decade. In 1972, with the inception of the international postgraduate course, the Department of Hydrology marked its beginning at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India - the oldest engineering institute in Asia and among all the commonwealth countries. The department is also a unique department in India and among neighbouring countries to dedicatedly offer core and interdisciplinary courses in the field of hydrology. The department offers postgraduate and PhD programmes to Indian and international students. The courses are dovetailed to meet emerging challenges in water resources through adoption of technical and research innovation and advances. This approach is result oriented to deliver quality training to engineers/ scientists not only from India but also from countries of Asia, Africa, South America etc. Our project & publication record and our alumni spread over India & abroad are a testimony to our continued pursuit of excellence in imparting education the area of water resources.

Acknowledging the central role of hydrology, and the unique role, which the Department is playing, international agencies like UNESCO and WMO have established long-term collaboration with the Department and are sponsoring international students. Since 2015, the Department has also been recognised as one of the regional training centres of WMO. Government of India is also offering fellowships to international students from developing countries under various schemes like ITEC/ SCAAP etc. Till date, a total of 905 participants from 40 countries have participated in these courses and more than 75 PhDs have been awarded. The Department features a core group of internationally renowned faculty for research on topics related to hydrology. With newer developments in the area of information and communication technologies, the department is now widening its array of courses by including i-learning courses; sandwich and joint programmes with leading national and international universities and research organisation. In nutshell, the Department of Hydrology has helped many countries in capacity building and in managing their water resources in a better way and eagerly looks forward to do so in the near and distant future.

Keywords: Education, Developing Countries, Hydrology, Water resources