

## Water footprints Seminar at the Department of Geography



The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies organized a seminar on the topic of “Water footprints” on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. This seminar was presented by Dr. Mohammed Raouf from the Gulf Research Centre. Dr. Mohammed is an Environmental Economist with specialization in Water issues and was in the country to attend the high level United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). Through Dr. Parita Shah who also attended the UNEA, this seminar brought in the new idea of water footprints. In the recent past carbon footprints have gained momentum and now it is the water footprints as the world’s fresh water resources are getting scarcer day by day. The current scenario shows that over three million people are currently living in areas of water scarcity and the world’s river basins are also drying up. In order to sustain the over 7 billion population on the Earth, water resources need to be managed efficiently.

Dr. Mohammed explained that the water footprints was a fairly new area where of a product is calculated by knowing the amount of water that is consumed and polluted in all processing stages of its production. He stated that a product’s water footprint shows us how much pressure that product has put on freshwater resources. The audience was explained on the three water footprints which included green, blue and grey and green water footprints was the best way to go

so as to reduce pressure on the current available fresh water. The best way to save our fresh water is by storing the rain water well so as to have more of green water footprints as this was the way to the green economy. Blue footprints meant the consumption of water stored in the water body like the rivers and lakes while grey footprint is the waste water generated from manufacturing the product which then degrades the water quality.

Overall water footprints help companies, individuals and governments understand their water consumption patterns and the waste water generated. The footprints would help companies and governments work towards efficient management of the fresh water and achieve the sustainable development goals.