

Brief Report of the Conference

The International Conference on Climate Change, Forest Resource and Environment (ICCFRE 2011) was organized by the Department of Environmental Sciences, **University of Kerala** during 9-11, December, 2011 in association with the **National Environmentalists Association**, Ranchi. The venue was Maria Rani Centre, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram. 493 delegates (both Indian and foreign) registered for the conference.

The inaugural session was held on 9th December, 2011 at 9.30 a.m. **Prof.V.R.Prakasam**, Former HOD, Department of Environmental Sciences and convenor of the conference welcomed the gathering. The presidential address was delivered by **Prof.M.C.Dash**, Former Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University, Orissa. **Prof.M.P.Sinha**, General Secretary of NEA and **Prof. M.Mohanachandran Nair**, Member, Syndicate of University of Kerala, offered felicitations. The Proceedings of the conference and special issue of “**The Ecoscan**” journal was released during the inaugural function. **Prof. Ravi Gooneratne**, Lincoln University of New Zealand delivered the keynote address. **Dr.Salom Gnana Thanga** - Organizing Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.

143 oral and 119 poster papers were presented in the three day conference in various sub themes viz., climate change, forest resource and environment. In addition, 23 young scientists presented their papers in the Young Scientist Contest session. A total of 31 oral sessions and 7 poster sessions were held during the conference. Experts and eminent scientists from India and countries like New Zealand, Australia, Russia delivered special lectures during the plenary sessions.

Invited lectures were delivered by **Dr.Olga Shevchenko**, Russia, Prof. **M.C.Dash**, India, **Dr.Debashish Raha**, Australia, **Dr.Suri Mora**, Australia, **Dr.Yalavarthy Prameela Devi**, India.

The valedictory function was held on 11th December, 2011 at 3.45 p.m. The president of the function was **Prof.V.R.Prakasam**, former HOD, Department of Environmental Sciences and convenor of the conference. **Prof.K.Ramasamy**, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Karpagam University, Coimbatore was the Guest of Honour. The young scientists awards, best oral and poster presentation awards were distributed by **Prof.K.Ramasamy**. The National Environmentalists Association felicitated scientists with FNEA for their contribution in the field of Environmental Sciences. **Dr.Salom Gnana Thanga**, Organizing Secretary summarized the events of the conference and also gave

the recommendations of the conference. Concluding remarks was by **Prof.M.P.Sinha**, Secretary General of NEA. **Dr.Sabu Joseph**, Co convenor of the conference proposed the vote of thanks.

Recommendations of the conference

The sink factor of the world is not adequate to absorb the additional CO₂ released by human activities. To prevent climate change or slow down the process, it has become essential to switch over to the renewable source of energy. Improved energy efficiency guidelines aer energy efficiency aritificial lighting designs, air-conditioning designs, use of BoEE (Bureau of Energy Efficiency) labeled equipment and appliances to achieve energy efficiency in new and existing buildings, solar water heating systems for residential and commercial buildings, energy efficiency electric systems and mandatory energy audit for existing commercial buildings.

The effect of climate change on various aspects like productivity, diversity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems is much pronounced and has also elevated the natural hazard profile. Hence, response to climate change needs to be improved through legislation and strict implementation of conservation laws, integration of climate issues into economic planning and management, appropriate funding, reduced dependence on timber products for construction through promotion of alternate building and construction materials and upholstery, public awareness campaign, reduced forest disturbance, reduction in rainfed farming system though introduction of improved irrigation system, exploitation of sustainable energy sources such as solar energy and establishment of more forest plantations.

The year 2011 has been declared as the International Year of forests. The papers of the conference mainly dealt with the existing forest resources, techniques to identify the forest resources and management of forest resources. Need for management of forests are conservation, education and eco-development. Regular meeting with public living near protected areas to get their views and participation, establishment of buffer and multiple use resources in protected areas, protection rights and culture of indigenous people in protected areas, heavier penalties for violators, provision of compensation and other benefit to local population and encouragement of local peoples participation for protected area management.

In the sub-theme Environment, the topics discussed were from biodiversity to waste water treatment. Hotspots of diversity and new species recorded were presented. Traditional and non-conventional food stuffs of plant origin occurring is grown through environmentally sustainable means are likely to be the stuff of nutrition

research and dietary choice in the near future. Endophytes are proposed as future agents of biocontrol, which result in better plant colonization, better adapted to environmental changes, protect against a broader range of pathogens. In the era of globalization, there are issues of biopiracy. To overcome this, preparation of electronic database of indigenous traditional knowledge is an immediate need. Databases may be an effective solution for documentation of traditional knowledge in digital form and will help to solve bio-piracy.