

NEWS AND NOTES

Report on International Conference on Environment, Health and Policy Nexus – Deepak, P.R. and K.S. Jayappa, Dept. of Marine Geology, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri – 574 199

A two-day International Conference on Environment, Health and Policy Nexus was organized by the Division of Environmental Science, Departments of Water & Health and Health System & Management Studies on 27-28 July, 2017 at JSS University, Mysuru. Dr. David Jenkins, Plymouth University, UK inaugurated the Conference. Dr. Dattatri K. Nagesha, Head, DW&H, JSSU welcomed the gathering. Prof. S.P. Manjunatha, Secretary, JSS Mahavidyapeeta, Mysuru spoke about environment and health issues across the globe as well as ill effects of pollution and its impact on the quality of life. Later Dr. David Jenkins spoke about the impending water crisis and havoc caused on the population of India.

In all about 300 delegates, including invitees and experts of India and abroad (U.K., Namibia, Malaysia, Africa, Nepal and Iran) representing many institutions: Anna and Crescent Universities, Chennai; Central University, Kasargod; Bangalore University; IISc, Bengaluru; Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu; CSIR-CGRI, Kolkata, IGBC Green Healthcare Rating etc. participated in the Conference. Totally 16 invited talks and 38 oral presentations were there in two parallel sessions in addition to 162 poster presentations. The keynote address on Unplanned Urbanization with Fragmented Governance and Poor Environment Health Nexus was given by Dr. T.V. Ramachandra, IISc, Bengaluru. He shed light on how the environment is under constant threat by over exploitation of natural resources and impending water crisis in cities like Bengaluru and Mysuru.

In the first session, Dr. Jenkins spoke about water contamination and filtering saline water to obtain fresh drinking water. It was followed by four oral presentations: (i) Impact of Non-Degradable Debris on Environment, Health and Tourism Potential of Coastal Karnataka, (ii) Study of Groundwater Quality Parameters in and around Ramanagaram town, (iii) Role of Plants in Combating Pollution and Reducing Human Stress, and (iv) Eco-Friendly Performance with Strength Development in Fibre Reinforced Concrete Using Jute Fiber and Fly-Ash. In the second parallel sessions, six oral presentations - (i) Role of Bio-carbon on the Removal of Selected Heavy Metal Pollutants in Synthetic Wastewater; (ii) Novel Technologies to Combat Food Borne Pathogens; (iii) Rotary Drum Composting of the Organic Fraction of Municipal Solid Waste; (iv) Impact of Environmental Factors in the Genesis of Free Radicals and their Clinical Implication W.S.R Hypercholesteremic Atherosclerosis; (v) Hexavalent Chromium Removal from Tube and Tubeless Valves Manufacturing Industrial Wastewater by Electro-Fenton Technique, and (vi) Tuberculosis: Indian Scenario were made.

Day two had two sessions, which began, with Prof. R Chandrashekar, Chairman, IGBC Green Healthcare Rating, Haryana talking about Essentials of Green Healthcare. It was followed by the following four presentations: (i) Ecological Perspective of Chilika Lagoon, Odisha; (ii) Assessment of Nutritional Status, Toxicity and Statistical Study of the Compost from Municipal Solid Waste; (iii) Diversity of Chlorophyceae in Four Lakes of Tumkur District, Karnataka, and (iv) Water Footprint for Integrated Steel Plant.

Post lunch sessions began with invited talks on: (i) Global Warming - Causes & Possible Consequences by Dr. D. V. Gopinath,



and (ii) Role of Legal Regime for the Sustenance of Sustainable Development in India by Dr. S.G.V. Subramanian. Then five oral presentations were made: (i) Evaluation of Quality of Water through Bacteriological Studies in Down Stream of Tunga Reservoir near Gajanur, Shimoga, (ii) Removal of As (V) from Aqueous Solution using Bark of Psidium Guajava; (iii) Evaluation of Municipal Solid Waste Leachate Contamination Potential by using Leachate Pollution Index; (iv) Treatment of Sugar Industry Wastewater by Electrocoagulation Process, and (v) Life Cycle Assessment Study for Crude Steel and Finished Products at JSW Steel Limited, Bellari.

Dr. Yellappa Reddy in his special talk on Karnataka's Segment of Western Ghat stressed on importance of forests for the people and to stop industries and multinational companies from destroying nature by harvesting indigenous medicinal plants in large scales and contain harm. He insisted on helping the farmers and common man so that they stop selling lands for multinational companies who construct buildings and destroy the nature.

The conference came to an end with Panel Discussion about Challenges and Opportunities in Environmental Policy: focus on the developing countries, chaired by Dr. Jenkins. The panel consisted of Dr. Yallappa Reddy A.N., Ex-secretary, Department of Ecology & Environment, Govt. of Karnataka; Dr. Gopinath D.V., Chief Executive, Energy & Environment consultancy, Mysuru; Mr. Yatheesh M.G., Environmental Officer, KSPCB, Mysuru; Prof. Manoj Kumar B.M., JSS Science & Technology University, Mysuru; Prof. R.K. Somashekar, Bangalore University, and Prof. S.G.V. Subramaniam, Anna University. The panelists discussed about: (i) the problems faced by middle class people and farmers due to water crisis and continuous drought, and (ii) the way in which government is functioning to meet the needs of the common people. Finally, decided to make efforts in planting trees and conserving water to save the planet.

Dr. B. Suresh, Vice Chancellor, JSS University, in his presidential remarks of the concluding session, stressed on necessity of new courses to address the problems of the society and the youth coming forward with new ideas to deal with the water crisis. Finally Dr. Yellappa Reddy gave prizes to Dr. Komala H.P. and Ms. Shruthi Govindaraju for winning first and second prizes respectively in poster presentation.