

**Earth Day 2020**  
Webinar on  
**"Climate Action for Sustainable Planet"**  
**April 22, 2020**

A webinar on "Climate Action for Sustainable Planet" was organized to celebrate "Earth Day 2020" under the aegis of Amity Institute of Environmental Toxicology, Safety and Management (AIETSM) and Amity Institute of Environmental Science (AIES) on April 22, 2020.

The webinar started with the address of **Prof. Tanu Jindal**, Grp Add. Pro. VC (R&D) and Director AIES & AIETSM, on the impacts of COVID 19 lockdown on the environment, especially on the air quality. She highlighted the reduction in the levels of SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> etc as observed at Amity University Air Quality monitoring station. She also focussed on the impacts of current scenario on climate change.

**Prof. R. Baskar, Chairperson**, Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology then gave a very informative presentation on 'Microbes and Climate Change'. In his presentation he firstly discussed about the impacts of COVID 19 on the environmental, economic, and social consequences. He then focused on the effects of the changing climate and how this will affect the microbial community. He pointed out on how this moment of crisis can be utilised to re-build the society and economy to move towards achieving sustainability. Further he explained the links between microbes and earth process which has let to shape the present environment. He also pointed out how the microbial world constitute the life support system of the biosphere through playing an important role in the biogeochemical cycle. He also discussed the evolution and wide range of microbes present in extreme environments. Later he discussed on the role of microbes in modifying atmospheric chemistry and how they are linked to be playing role in climate change. The discussion was later focussed on the impacts of climate change on life forms on earth and ocean. He concluded his session addressing how the microbial processes have a proven role in global flux of the key biogenic greenhouse gasses and are likely to respond to climate change.

**Dr. Rasik Ravindra**, Secretary General, 36th International Geological Congress, Former Deputy Director General, Geological Survey of India, Former Director National Centre for Polar and Oceanic Research gave his presentation on 'The Climate Challenge: Are we ready?'. In his talk he firstly focused on the challenges that are being faced due to the changing climate like warming up of earth, stress on ecosystem, acidification of oceans, melting of glaciers and ice caps etc. He showed his concerns on the consequences of pollution, land degradation, etc. on earth, the only planet which can support life. His talk stressed on the lungs of earth: the polar regions (Arctic, Antarctic and Himalayan range). The changing climate and its effects on the Antarctic in terms of recent warming and ice mass balance, how the glaciers are retreating, and ice shelves are collapsing. He then briefly discussed the impacts of such on ocean nutrient cycling and monsoon pattern. He then explained the impacts on Arctic and Himalayan range in terms of loss of ice mass, biodiversity etc. due to harmful anthropogenic activities.

**Prof. Umesh Kulshrestha**, Dean, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU presented his views on the topic “COVID-19 Lock down Scenario: A confirmation of Industry Driven Climate Change in Present Era”. He focused that CO<sub>2</sub> warming in Atmosphere was predicted only 124 years back. He highlighted the fact that COVID 19 lockdown would help in finding the real time aerosol effect. According to him due to Lockdown there will be reduction in the uncertainties in radiative forcing caused due to aerosols. He stressed on the fact that it is about 95 percent of the human activities that are responsible for global warming. According to him major CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are stopped due to lockdown that comes from Industrial and Transportation sector. He highlighted the fact that due to COVID 19 Lockdown, it resulted in the rejuvenation of the earth and visible changes are: a) Blue sky b) no haze c) High Visibility d) More Birds e) Ozone layer Healing f) Cleaner river streams.

Prof. Tanu Jindal Gp. Add. Pro. VC (R&D) and Director AIES & AIETSM expressed her interest in collaboration with JNU for project on Delhi NCR region to find the effect of lockdown on Air Pollution with funding from Delhi Government. Prof. Kulshrestha concluded his talks with remarks that Industry should start under controlled conditions, there is need for cleaner fuel and need to work out for percentage equitable ratios for resource consumption.

**Dr. Markandey Rai**, Chancellor IGTAMS University, Ziro Arunachal Pradesh delivered a talk on the topic “Save planet Earth to Save life”. He stressed on the point that one cannot imagine future without the existence of others. He emphasized on the fact that Corona virus has attributed due to human interferences such as deforestation, encroachments on animal habitation and biodiversity loss which has led its beginning in Wuhan China. He focused on the fact that at present COVID 19 has paralyzed the world and whole humanity is in crisis. He has highlighted the fact COVID 19 has no boundaries and it is worst crisis after World War II. He said that COVID 19 is a common enemy for all, and prevention is better than cure in the form of lock down and social distancing. He stressed upon the importance of Life over Livelihood and appreciated the extension of lockdown period until 3rd May. He concluded his speech by special thanks to Prof. Tanu Jindal Gp. Add. Pro. VC (R&D) and Director AIES & AIETSM for providing him an opportunity to express his views on celebration of Earth Day.