

National Workshop on “Pollution Prevention Paradigm”

Highlights and Recommendations

Amity Institute of Environmental Toxicology, Safety and Management Director, Prof. Tanu Jindal organized a National Workshop on “Pollution Prevention Paradigm” on May 11, 2012 at Amity University campus, Noida in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The eminent guests of honour, Dr. G.V. Subrahmanyam, Prof. S.P. Gautam, Dr. Rajesh Kapur, Dr. S.K. Raza, Dr. Timothy Neely along with Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Saran, Prof. S.S. Agrawal and M. Gen. Dhawan were grace the occasion. Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan presided over the function and gave his valuable time and thoughts.

General Dhawan commence the programme with a wonderful presentation about Amity Group and after that Prof. Tanu Jindal explained about the themes of the workshop and highlights, achievements and future plans of AIETSM.

Dr. Subrahmanyam, Advisor, Ministry of Environment & Forest, acquainted the masses and the research scholars about the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF’s) initiative in promoting R & D activities in the area of environmental sciences. He also intimated about the recently introduced 30 post doctoral fellowship and encouraged the young scholars and doctorates to pursue them for cutting edge research in environmental improvement and prevention.

Dr. S.P. Gautam, M.P. Public Service Commission & Former Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), defined the concept of pollution prevention and paradigm. He stressed the need of right polices and their proper implementation to ensure prevention of pollution. He also emphasized on the need to curb carbon emissions and reduce carbon and energy footprints to ensure sustainable development.

Dr. Rajesh Kapur, Scientist ‘G’ and Head, Department of Food and Nutrition, DBT, deliberated on the current problem of pollution being faced globally and the potential initiatives to prevent the pollution graph. He also raised the call on the concept of public private partnership (PPP) and highlighted the importance of how this partnership can be translated to bring a change in the current developmental process.

Dr. S.K. Raza, Director, Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, discussed about environmental-friendly control release formulations for better efficacy of pesticides to reduce the load of toxicants from the environment.

Dr Timothy Neely, Chief- Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, explained the essence of the clean air to breathe being the basic need of every life on the earth.

Founder President, showed his concern towards the importance of pollution prevention policies and implementations. He discussed the idea of Public Private Partnership (PPP) to achieve Pollution Prevention Paradigm (PPP) in true and practical sense. During his address he also mentioned the consideration for establishment of “Amity School of Research and Studies” and about starting new courses in “Environmental Sciences”. He appreciated the speakers and for many more events to come in future for environmental conservation. Then he also wished fruitful research collaboration, projects and patents to the participants in the workshop.

The abstract book was released at the workshop inaugural function. This booklet had a compilation of 45 abstracts from all over the country, with 21 oral papers and 24 poster presentations in various themes of the workshop. The scientific sessions were categorized in three key areas.

Session-1, “Urbanization and air pollution”, was chaired by Dr. D.S. Rathore, former Vice-Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur and Dr. Kuldeep Singh, Emeritus Scientist. Four research papers were presented. Presentation by Abhinav Garg, DU paper entitled “Comparative analysis of benzene measurement in ambient air and human breath at refueling station in urban Delhi” and Jamir Chubamenla from University of York, UK on “Ground level ozone impacts on food crop production in India” were specially appreciated.

Session 2, Sewage waste and water contamination was chaired by Dr. Pradeep Singh, IAS officer and Prof. S.S. Agrawal, Director General, Academic, Innovation & Research Coordination and Director, Amity Institute of Pharmacy with appreciable contributions from Dr. Shakeel A. Khan, IARI, N. Delhi on “Phycoremediation of sewage waste water by microalgae *Chlorella minutissima* for the agricultural use”, and Govind Singh Bajwa,

from Department of Environmental Studies, DU on “Spatio-temporal analysis of ground water quality in two contrasting districts of NCT of Delhi” .

Session 3, Current environmental issues and health impacts” was chaired by Dr. Shakeel A. Khan, and Dr. A.K. Dixit from IARI, New Delhi. In this session Piyush Mohapatra, from Toxics Link discussed on “Emerging chemicals safety and waste Management issues in India and the impacts on human health”. An enlightening lecture on “Heavy metals in cosmetics, their toxicity and health impacts” was given by Prof. S.S. Agrawal, Director General, Amity Institute of Pharmacy. Similar Paper of Sujata Saxena, from Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai on “Environment friendly options for textile processing’ was also deliberated.

The best oral and poster presentations were conferred with ‘Certificates of Appreciation’. For the oral presentation first prize were given jointly to Mr. Abhinav Garg and Mr. G.S. Bajwa, second prize to Dr. Shakeel A. Khan and third to Ms. Jamir. The first prize in poster presentation was won by Mr. Nirpen, paper entitled “An impact on groundwater quality due to discharge of sewage waste in unlined drains”, second prize to Mr. Anuj, Paper entitled “Estimation of lead concentration in milk and milk products” and the third prize went to Mr. Joseph, paper entitled “Removal of water soluble toxic dye by grapheme oxide nano sheets”.

Concluding remarks from Prof Tanu Jindal were delivered post sessions with warm thanks to owed to Founder President and Ministry of Earth Sciences. She also emphasized on key to achieving a sustainable society and tackling the complex environmental challenges of the twenty-first century is Pollution Prevention Paradigm (PPP), reducing or eliminating pollution before it is emanated. The idea has been discussed since 1976, but has only lately gained widespread support from both the private and public sectors. Pollution prevention is apt and environmentally safe and our efforts should be oriented in this direction as stitch in time saves nine.