



NECEER'S ENVIRO LECTURE SERIES

19th September (Sunday) 2010
Faculty of Engineering & Technology Auditorium
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

EXPLORE NORTHEAST INDIA

Organised by
North East Centre for Environmental Education and Research, Imphal
in association with
Department of Biotechnology, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi
Delhi Greens and World Institute of Nature, Pune



Learn more about NECEER at www.neceer.org or www.neceer-imphal.blogspot.com

Screening of **Loktak - the lake in peril**

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY
RAJKUMAR ROBINDRO

PROMOTION OF

SPANDAN

THE BIODIVERSITY INVENTORY BY PEOPLE

YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD



Young Achiever Award 2010



NECEER'S ENVIRO LECTURE SERIES

The first phase of “NECEER’s Enviro Lecture Series” was successfully conducted on 19th September (Sunday) at Faculty of Engineering Auditorium, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi. The lecture was organized by the Northeast Centre for Environmental Education and Research (NECEER, Imphal in association with Department of Biotechnology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, World Institute for Nature, Pune and Delhi Greens, New Delhi. Many young enthusiastic students and research scholars attended the lecture series which highlighted various wildlife and environmental issues in the Northeast region of India. The event brought together prominent figures who are concerned and have worked in the region to share their experiences and thoughts with the young generation. The objective of the programme was to lay stress and disseminate information on biodiversity and environmental issues today in the age of climate change and other anthropogenic consequences in one of the most important hotspot region of the country i.e. Northeast.

The programme started with keynote address by Mr. Khuraijam Jibankumar Singh, Managing Trustee, NECEER, Imphal. He talked on the need of setting a platform for creating awareness and engaging people who are into research and education to come together and work for the conservation of rich biodiversity and discuss environmental issues of Northeast India. He also elaborates the future plans of the lectures series which will play an important role in promoting the involvement of youth in environmental issues.

Young Achiever Award which is initiated by NECEER, Imphal to address the extraordinary work of young Northeast Indian for their outstanding

contribution towards conservation/promotion of biodiversity and environment of the country. Young Achiever Award for the year 2010 was presented to Ms. Girija Thingnam by Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tiwari, Head, Wildlands, Wildlife Trust of India. Ms. Girija Thingnam is a flower enthusiast from the state of Manipur and is a special educator and has a Masters degree in Psychology and a Diploma in Special Education (Autism). She got the award for her exemplary work on flowers of India in the form of a website (www.flowersofindia.net). The website is the brainchild of Dr. Tabish Qureshi, Associate Professor, Dept. of Physics, Jamia Millia Islamia and Ms. Girija. Speaking on the success of www.flowersofindia.net, Dr. Tabish Qureshi declared the website now have a collection of more than 3000 flowers.



Ms. Girija Thingnam receiving Young Achiever Award 2010 from Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tiwari, Head, Wildlands, Wildlife Trust of India

The programme also witnessed the release of BioDiverse Magazine by Dr. Rita Singh, Associate Professor, G.G.S. Indraprastha University, Delhi. BioDiverse Magazine is the third publication of NECEER, Imphal.



Release of BioDiverse Magazine by Dr. Rita Singh

The objective of the magazine is to disseminate information on the various biodiversity and environmental issues of South and Southeast Asia. The magazine will provide a strong platform to undergraduate, postgraduate as well as research scholars to communicate by sharing their thoughts in the form of articles, news, poems, cartoons, and other graphic illustrations.



Dr. Tabish Qureshi, Jamia Millia Islamia

The lecture programme started with a lecture on "Conserving issues of wildlife in Northeast India" by Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tiwari, WTI. He talked on the importance of the region in terms of its rich biodiversity and how the region supports numerous wildlife species. He opined that the greatest challenge faced by the region is lack of awareness and lack of people's participation. Many interesting facts about the kinds and numbers of wildlife species found throughout the region were highlighted.



Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tiwari, Wildlife Trust of India

Present the other side of the diversity, Dr. Rita Singh, Associate Professor at GGS Indraprastha University, shared with the delegates through many exciting facts and figures of the plant species found across the region. Dr. Singh encouraged young students and research scholars to be passionate enough and take up the challenge to go out in the region and experience the richness. She also talked about how many have failed to comprehend the region's rich diversity and neglected the real importance in pursuit of personal gains.



Dr. Rita Singh, GGS Indraprastha University

Illustrating the relation of biotechnological applications in biodiversity conservation, Dr. Mohd Irfan Qureshi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, Jamia Millia Islamia shared his knowledge and views with the audience.

After the lunch break, another known figure Dr. Kiranmay Sarma of GGS Indraprastha University enlightened the audience with his expertise in the field of remote sensing and the relevance of GIS in conservation and protection of environment. Taking

the audience through various methodical process and facts, Mr. Sarma challenged the delegates to identify pressing issues and come up with relevant solutions towards saving the environment.



Dr. Kiranmay Sarma, GGS Indraprastha University

The next hot topic of the lecture series was addressed by Govind Singh of Delhi Greens. Climate change and its impact on the Northeast region, a highly interesting topic for many participating delegates highlighted issues that the world as a whole is facing and how it is 'our common environment' which needs to be protected. Giving a brief introduction to what climate change is all about, Mr. Singh spoke on the importance of the Northeast region as the 'Green Lungs' of the country. The challenges faced by the region and how its preservation can impact and bring tremendous change in saving the environment of the country as well as the world as a whole was emphasised.



Govind Singh, Delhi Greens

Mr. M. Ojit Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Ramjas College, University of Delhi

talked on the impact of climate change on the biodiversity of Northeast India. He gave a detailed list of endangered species of Northeast India which are affected by change in the climate and environment of the region.

A documentary titled "Loktak Lake – the lake in peril" by R.K. Robindro, a renowned filmmaker was screened during the event. The film displayed issues faced by the Lake and how human activities are affecting the natural heritage of Manipur state often referred to as the "Lifeline of Manipur". The Lake's importance doesn't only limit there, it supports one of the largest vegetation called *Phumdi* which provides natural habitat to the endangered brown antler deer 'Sangai', found only in this region.

Mr. Khuraijam Jibankumar, Managing Trustee of NECEER, Imphal talked on a very sensitive topic - Hindrances of biodiversity conservation due to political instability in Northeast India. With his vast experiences of working in militancy affected areas of the region, he expressed the violations of wildlife laws are the highest in this region. Hundreds of endangered species are killed silently inside the militant affected areas without the notice of the policy makers and forest departments. He said that biodiversity exploration studies in the region and creating awareness to well armed militants are one of the riskiest thing a conservationist or researcher faced in the region. In spite of all the hindrances, he said biodiversity of the region should be conserved and protected.



Khuraijam Jibankumar Singh, NECEER, Imphal

The lecture series conclude with a vote of thanks by Khuraijam Jibankumar Singh who was the main

person behind the lecture series. He announced that lecture series next year will be of two days: "Enviro Lecture Series" and one day "National Seminar on Biodiversity and Environment of India" where students and researchers can participate and present their works. He also seeks support from youth of the country to join the ongoing Worldwide Save Loktak Lake Campaign and help in conserving Loktak Lake, the natural heritage of the Manipur.

With the participation of maximum number of youth and of course the environment lovers, the lecture series proved to be a great success.



Participants with speakers

1st Row (from Left: M. Ojit Singh, Khuraijam Jibankumar Singh, Dr. Irfan Qureshi, Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tiwari, Rajkumar Robindro and Chitra Pandita)

It is to be noted that NECEER have been organizing various successful campaigns on a row like the ones of "Nationwide Save Loktak Lake Campaign" and the famous "Worldwide Save Loktak Lake Campaign 2010(WSLLC)" which is still ongoing. It can again be mentioned that WSLLC has successfully completed its first and second phases in the cities like Imphal, Delhi, Mumbai, Guwahati and the like. And the third phase will be organized shortly in the cities like New York, London, Bangalore and Chennai among others. NECEER, Imphal publishes: *NeBIO*, an international peer reviewed journal and *Ecotone Newsletter*. NECEER, Imphal is also involved in many initiatives to conserve and protect fragile ecosystems like sacred groves and wetlands in Northeast India. NECEER is launching self-financed projects to study the socio-

economic dependence of local people on Loktak Lake.

NECEER is a non-profit organization which is expanding its wing day by day not only in the country but internationally too. This achievement could be credited due to the youth involvement across the world. NECEER now has 600 volunteers and 32 city co-ordinators besides thousands of supporters across the world to support the causes that NECEER takes up.

Mohd. Sajid Idrisi and Mehnaz Nasreen
Fellows of NECEER, Imphal

Image courtesy:

Dr. Mohd. Irfan Qureshi, Mohd. Sajid Idrisi, Mehnaz Nasreen and Dr. Tabish Qureshi

Courtesy: NECEER and Delhi Green Press release

www.neceer-imphal.blogspot.com and www.delhigreens.com

GIRIJA THINGNAM



Young Achiever Award 2010 Winner

Explore flowers of India at

www.flowersofindia.net



North East Centre for Environmental Education Research, Imphal

NECEER's Publication

BioDiverse Magazine