

World Environment Day Celebrated by Karnataka Regional Chapter of ITPI

Karnataka Regional Chapter of ITPI celebrated the World Environment Day on 28 June 2012 at KRC Building, Bangalore in which Hon'ble Justice N.K. Patil, High Court of Karnataka and Chairman, High Court Legal Services Committee was the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address Hon'ble Justice N.K. Patil stated that World Environment Day is the resultant effort of the United Nations General Assembly which took place in Stockholm conference in the year 1972. World Environment Day is the main instrument of the United Nations to make people aware of the worldwide environmental demolition and to drag the attention and action of various political sources and human resources.

This year's theme of World Environment Day is "Green Economy: Does it include you?" Green Economy means the overall effort of the nation to reduce carbon emissions and pollution, to enhance risks and improve human well being and social equity. We can also understand that our environment is the future of our world, if it is not healthy, then we cannot think of taking a breath of peace in future. Thus, it is the duty and responsibility of every human being living on this globe to protect environment and thereby reduce further degradation.

Every citizen of this country should be aware of the legal aspects of environmental pollution and the risks that it would invite. He also brought into

focus that there are different types of environmental pollutions namely, air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, and soil pollution. Prior to 42nd amendment to the Constitution of India, there was no special provision in our constitution about the environment. In pursuance of 42nd amendment to the constitution, Article 48 A came into existence which has imposed a duty on the state for protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding forests and wildlife. At the same time Article 51 (A) (g) of the constitution states that every citizen has duty towards protection and improvement of the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures. Although, these two articles are not justifiable, still in case of a failure of duties under Article 48 A and 51 A, the aggrieved person may file petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court or High Court as a Public Interest Litigation.

He further elaborated that unplanned industrialization in the country after independence resulted in water pollution besides air and soil pollution. With the object of protecting domestic and industrial effluents we are not allowed to be discharged in water courses without adequate treatment. To ensure that drinking water should not be polluted, the Parliament of India passed Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. With reference



World Environmental Day in Progress, Present on the dias are Shri D.S. Meshram, President ITPI; Hon'ble Justice N.K. Patil, High Court of Karnataka, Shri Mahendra, Council Member, ITPI and Prof. (Dr.) Krishnegowda, Chairman Karnataka Regional Chapter

to air pollution, he mentioned that it is our common experience that presence in air, beyond certain limits of various pollutants discharged through industrial emissions and from certain human activities connected with traffic, heating, use of domestic fuel, etc., has a detrimental effect on the health of people as also on animal life, vegetation and property. To address these environmental problems relating to pollution the Indian Parliament has enacted "The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981". In addition to these enactments, the Indian Parliament has also passed the other statutes with the sole object of protecting the environment namely – (i) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; (ii) The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000; and (iii) The Wild Life (Protection Act, 1972. Although good number of statutes are brought into force with the sole object of protecting environment, awareness among the citizens about the existence of such laws is not up to the mark. He further highlighted that great responsibility is to be placed on the shoulders of the active NGOs and the state governments to create awareness among the citizens about the risk that the mankind would face in future if environment is not protected today.

However, deforestation under the guise of unplanned development has contributed to environmental pollution. Unless governments take appropriate stringent steps to prevent further deforestation we cannot expect any progress towards protection of environment. We are aware that cutting a tree under the guise of development would contribute more towards environmental pollution. If a tree needs to be cut under inevitable circumstances then 10 trees of similar type shall be planted and protected in

the same locality to prevent further environmental pollution. Governments must take steps to plant trees in the premises of schools, colleges, hospitals and all public offices wherever sufficient space is available to plant the saplings. Mere planting saplings would not give us the expected result unless such saplings are reared properly. At the same time the head of concerned office or institution shall take personal interest in protecting the saplings planted within the premises.

Children are the future citizens and hopes of any nation. They are the greatest gift to the humanity. They are the supreme asset of the nation. It is our responsibility to create awareness among the children about the evil effects of environmental pollution and at the same time a duty is casted upon all of us to educate our children about the ways and means that we can protect our environment. We should encourage our children to actively participate in all the programmes connected with protection of environment and prevention of environmental pollution. That apart, we being the responsible citizens of this great nation we must play active role in protecting the environment.

We all have seen during our childhood, the timely monsoon rain, rivers flowing with full of water, tanks filled with water to the brim, etc. Now, water sources of almost all the rivers have been closed for the reasons best known to the greedy people. Almost all the river beds have been dug under the guise of lifting sand. Many of the water tanks and lakes have been encroached either for construction of multi-storied buildings or for any other illegal activities. Unless rivers tanks and lakes are restored



Hon'ble Justice N.K. Patil, High Court of Karnataka, addressing the gathering.

to their original form, any programme launched to prevent environmental pollution definitely would not give us any fruits.

While, concluding his address Hon'ble Justice N.K. Patil stated that greater responsibility should be placed on the society to create awareness about the existing laws regarding the protection of environment. Unless these tasks are taken in true spirit, any number of laws that are in force would not protect the environment. He further quoted Mahatma Gandhi "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed".

Shri D.S. Meshram, President, ITPI was the Guest of Honor on this occasion who in his address stated that in the Conference on Human Environment held at Stockholm held on 16 June 1972, delegates decided to celebrate World Environment Day and accordingly the first environment day was celebrated in 1973 which dwelt on political, social, economic and global environment. This year's host of the World Environment Day is Brazil on the theme

"Green Economy, Does it include you?" to celebrate 40 anniversary of event that led to the establishment of World Environment Day. This year is also the 20 Anniversary of Earth Summit – Rio. The green economy as per UN Environment Programme means the one which results in improved human well being, social equity, significantly reducing environment and ecological scarcity which are risk efficient in resources and socially inclusive, low carbon economy driven by – public private investments, enhance energy and resource efficiency, prevent loss of bio-diversity and eco-scarcity and reforms. However, some expert argue that the "situation is actually getting worse rather than better", swelling population, mass migration to cities, increased energy use, soaring carbon-dioxide emission, hard hit animals and plants, are side effects. By 2030 it will take the equivalent of two planets to meet the present resource demand. Carbon emission increased by 40 percent since 1992 but two third of this increase occurred since 2002 in the past 20 years population of world cities increased by 45 percent with much larger carbon footprint while population requirement for food calls for agriculture, fresh water, and eco-system. He has also stated that some expert observed "world leaders at important international Conferences use strong words in favour of environment, is fine but what is required is action to change human life style". He concluded by saying that everyone has duty to push for green economy.

On this occasion Prof. (Dr.) Krishnegowda, Chairman, Karnataka Regional Chapter gave a detailed presentation on sustainability and brought into focus that aspect of sustainability is not new to India because it was practiced since Vedic period. Shri B. Mahendra also made the presentation on the role of green building and green planning.

A vote of thanks was given by Shri Rajanna, Secretary, KRC.

World Environment Day Celebrated by Haryana Regional Chapter of ITPI

The fortieth Environment Day was celebrated by Haryana Regional Chapter on 17 June 2012 by organizing one day workshop on the theme "Environmental Concerns and Remedies" at Savera Group of Architecture, Farukhnagar, Gurgaon. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri D.S. Meshram, President, ITPI. In his inaugural address Shri D.S. Meshram stated that 2012 theme for World Environment Day is "Green Economy: Does it

results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, the green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. But what does all this mean for you? Well, this essentially means what the second part of the theme is all about. If the Green Economy is about social equity and inclusiveness then technically it is all about you! The therefore asks you to find out more about the Green Economy and assess whether, in your country, you are being included in it.

In the workshop the keynote address was delivered by Shri Raj Vir Singh, Ex-Chief Town Planner, Government of Haryana, in which he flagged various issues relevant to water, air, land and noise pollution. Specifically he called for searching alternative to fossil fuels to reduce vehicular pollution like electric driven vehicles in addition to CNG. He also emphasized that even if electricity driven vehicles are not fully used and even if used by 15 percent users, even then it will not only result in saving of fossil fuels but also it will save on foreign exchange.

Shri R.K. Sharma, IFS, Registrar, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, the Guest of Honor, in his address highlighted that the carrying capacity needs to be taken into consideration while planning towns and cities. He also underlined that there is a need to save our forest cover and to make the optimal use of land available for urban development so that land could be saved for agriculture produce which is also essential not only for survival of human beings but also for wildlife.

The first Technical Session was chaired by Shri V.K. Goyal, Senior Town Planning, Chandigarh Administration, in which presentations were made by Dr. S.P. Bansal, Commissioner (Planning), Delhi Development Authority and by Prof. M. Alam, Haryana Institute of Public Administration, Gurgaon. The Second Technical Session was chaired by Shri R.K. Singh, Senior Town Planner, Gurgaon, in which presentations were made by Shri J.K. Gupta, Ex-Director, College of Architecture, Bhaddal, Punjab and by Ms. Shabnam and Shri Sushil Kumar Kaushik, Assistant Professor, Savera College of Architecture, Farukhnagar, Haryana. Welcome address was delivered by Shri S.D. Saini, Chairman, Haryana Regional Chapter, and a vote of thanks was extended by Shri P.P. Singh, Secretary, HRC, after technical sessions, the following recommendations emerged:

include you?" Evidently, there are two parts to this theme and the first tackles the subject of the Green Economy. This is where some people shut off their minds because they find the concept of the Green Economy a little too complex to understand. On the contrary, as per UN, the Green Economy is really something that is applicable all around and it is easy to imagine how you fit in it. The UN Environment Programme defines the Green Economy as one that

- Government should undertake affordable planned urban development which should be commensurate with the demand so as to discourage springing up of unplanned colonies lacking physical infrastructure.
- Plan compact townships with higher residential density near places of employment and along major transport arteries so as to minimize commuting needs.
- Minimize dependence on resources like minerals and also water by recycling and reuse. All new urban development must aim at zero discharge of water and plan for utilization of treated sewage for irrigation purposes.
- Encourage non-automated transportation such as cycles by providing safe cycle tracks and encourage electricity or CNG operated vehicles.
- Roads open for continuous flow of heavy vehicular traffic should be provided with adequate green buffers to act as noise barriers.
- Natural fauna and flora, water channels or bodies and slopes should be preserved. At least 50 percent of the land should not be used for construction activities and should be under plantations as this would ensure that urban heat islands are not created.
- Since burning coal is a major source of energy, we must minimize consumption of energy by encouraging energy efficient buildings and also by adopting solar and wind energy.
- With a view to checking the percolation of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in soil and water, organic farming should be encouraged by systematic reduction of subsidy on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The dependence on bio mass as fuel which is polluting air needs to be reduced and use of organic fertilizer should be encouraged.
- Degradation and erosion of fertile top soil should be stopped by providing adequate green cover which is only possible through proper plantation and water management through series of check dams. Abandoned mines, if restored and converted into vegetative land, would solve two major problems of global warming and generation of degraded wasteland.



Inauguration of Auditorium Building of GRC

Inauguration of Gujarat Regional Chapter Auditorium Building

On the occasion of inauguration of Auditorium Building on 26 May 2012, the Gujarat Regional Chapter organized a Technical Session on "Development through TPS". The technical session was chaired by Shri K.M. Shah in which presentations were made by Shri Rajesh Rawal, Deputy Town Planner, Town Planning Department, Government of Gujarat on the topic "Basics of Town Planning Schemes". Shri Hansal Shukla, Retd. Senior Town Planner, Town Planning Department, Government of Gujarat, made presentation on the topic "Implementations of Mega Projects through TPS". In this session presentations were also made by Shri K.J. Shah, Assistant Town Planner, AUDA on the projects being implemented by AUDA. A detailed presentation was also made by Dr. Bimal Patel, Managing Director, Environmental Planning Collaborative on the topic of "Disaster Mitigation through TPS".

Earlier, Shri D.S. Meshram, President, ITPI while inaugurating the Auditorium Building of GRC stated that it is heartening to note that the land was given for GRC Building by AUDA on a nominal price due to the efforts of senior members of GRC like Dr. D.G. Pandya, Shri B.M. Brahmabhatt, etc.; and the Building is being constructed due to the efforts of GRC Members in which the lions share is of Shri N.K. Patel and off course his dedicated team.