

Report

On 19th and 20th October 2012, the two days National Level Seminar on 'Environmental Re-engineering Series 3, Sustainable energy for all' was organized by Pillai College of Education and Research, New Panvel. The Chief Guest for the day was Mr. A. L. Tripathi, Deputy CEO, MES- Khanda colony campus, a learned person, who has guided the MES institution in the obscure ways of the world. The session had an august presence of esteemed dignitaries from the various institutions of Mahatma Education Society and other eminent academicians. Mr. Tripathi stressed on the importance and relevance of the seminar topic in today's Indian context. By quoting the mantra, Ya Devi Sarva Bhutesu Shakti rupenasamsthita, he threw light on the fact that energy has always been worshipped as Goddess Maa Shakti in India, and thereby it shouldn't be exploited and be used with discretion. He concluded his speech by beautiful words by William Wordsworth TO BE PRACTISED BY ALL "LET NATURE BE YOUR TEACHER".

An overview of the seminar was presented by Principal Dr. Sally Enos, a true environmentalist to the core. She presented the theme of the programme and its usefulness with a presentation titled 'towards sustainable practices'. She very well brought out the need for all to feel consciously responsible for the environment by throwing light on the Article of Indian constitution, which marks the protection of our environment as a fundamental duty of each citizen.

The Guest Speaker for Session I on Sub-theme 'Energy depletion and environment' was Dr. Chitra Natrajan, Dean, Faculty of Science Education, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education. She brilliantly put across the concept of a system and systems vocabulary to the audience, with her thought - provoking questions and examples, and thereby showing how the systems concept could be applied to all the energy - related processes like Greenhouse effect etc. She also introduced the audience to a very informative and interesting process called systems thinking and gave the audience a chance to practice the same through her brilliant activities and simulations that left everyone mesmerized and trained the thinking faculties of one and all.

Ms Anagha Paranjpe Purohit, President VLe Environmental Consultancy, Pune and Trustee, Sustainability Initiative was the resource person for the Session II on Sub-theme II. 'Energy efficiency and audit'. She took a very informative session on energy efficiency and audit by sharing facts about how buildings cause 40% of all global carbon emissions, and how buildings consume 40% of all global economy. She rightly brought out the need for green buildings in India and illustrated different ways of not only designing homes and offices that are energy efficient, but also described ways how we could live and work in our homes to use energy

efficiently. Ms. Anagha's practical activity of auditing the electricity bill, received a very positive participation from the audience.

Session III was graced by extremely learned professional Mr. M. V. Padmanabhan, a chartered electrical engineer, working for the Grid connected photovoltaic system at V Pillai campus at New Panvel. He shed light on the use of solar panels as an alternative to using fossil fuels and wood fuels. The session was highly informative where he shared with all the working of photovoltaic systems and how it works in the industry and educational institutes. Use of solar energy is a sustainable practice that will make a big difference in future.

Session 4 with the Sub Theme III: 'Calculate your Carbon Footprint' was a joint venture by Samuchit Enviro Tech Pvt. Ltd & Green Build Products (I) Pvt. Ltd Pune. The speaker and director from Samuchit Enviro Tech Pvt. Ltd Dr Priyadarshini Karve started the session by sharing the significance of the beetle as a mascot of their organization as an insect which quietly keeps cleaning our environment. She emphasized that all people should work like the beetle for cleaning the environment quietly in their own ways. The actual activity of 'Calculate your carbon footprint' saw an enthusiastic participation of the audience with lot of inquisitive inquiries keeping the communication channel busy throughout the session. Speaker Mr. Herambh Thakur from Green Build Products (I) Pvt. Ltd. Pune, gave an overview of green designs and left us with hope for the possibility to have sustainable development. The session also surprised the audience with the possibility of having zero or even negative carbon footprint. The whole concept of becoming green earth guard army was indeed a motivating idea for all to take up actively and become the beetles in their own way.

Session 4 also saw a few more resourceful dignitaries gracing the occasion. Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Professor, Dean Environmental Planning (Academic) and Secretary Yashada (the administrative training institute of the Govt. of Maharashtra) stressed that sustainable living should not be our alternative choice, but instead our first choice along with the issue of affordability of the same. He emphasized that to manage energy resources at individual level in the best possible way one can. Mr Sandeep Bedi practicing Economist with 22 years of experience in Evolutionary Economics & Technomics, Founder Director 'Knowasys' and Chief Economist of Intellectual Asset Management spoke briefly on the correlation between environment and economics. His talk revealed that the developing countries like India are facing twin-problem of protecting the environment and promoting economic development.

The sessions were well knitted with subtheme based paper presentations of the participants. The guest speakers and the paper presentations gave precious insight into the themes.