

NEWS AND NOTES

GREEN-2012: Geologists' Role in Establishing an Efficient Nation – V.A. Ayisha

“Delineation and sustainable use of natural resources are inevitable in the socio-economic growth of any country”. It is the summary slogan emerged from various scientists participated in the National Seminar on “Geologists’ Role in Establishing an Efficient Nation” (GREEN-2012), being organized by the Department of PG Studies and Research in Geology during 16th and 17th of March 2012. Dr. K.K. Ramachandran, Member Secretary, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology, and Environment inaugurated the function and in his inaugural address emphasized the role of geoscientists in sustainable development of earth resources, waste disposal, and environmental protection.

Shri. A.C. Dinesh, Senior Geologist, Geological Survey of India (GSI), presented a paper on offshore sand deposits off Kerala coast and their effective utilization complimenting the river sands. His studies pointed out the limited chlorine content of the offshore sand deposits compared to the beach sands, thus making it a better alternative for river sands. The deposits, with the present estimated annual usage of river sands, may be extracted for another hundred years without affecting the environment.

Another interesting paper was on the creation of artificial mud banks (*Chakara*), which will facilitate enhanced fish-catch in the near shore environments. The studies show the role of mud banks in reducing the wave intensity, thus preventing erosion and hazard reduction in the event of tsunami. In



his paper, Shri. C. Jayaprakash of the GSI presented new findings on the presence of minerals like zaheerite and gibbsite and concluded that suspension of zaheerite-gibbsite colloid in the near-shore environment for artificial creation of mud banks.

Dr. Thrivikramji, former HOD of Geology, Kerala University highlighted the role of ponds in carbon sequestration. There were no major studies on this kind all over the state, which unequivocally prove the absorption of carbon by surface water bodies. He emphasized the urgent need of pond renovation to have a control on the global warming.

As waste disposal has become a major threat to the state, the paper presented by Dr. S.N. Kumar caught the attention of the authorities. Kumar presented site specific waste disposal techniques for effective

waste management. Further, he stressed the role of geologists in site selection based on lithology and groundwater conditions. Dr. A.N. Manoharan, College of Engineering Trivandrum introduced the usage of new techniques like satellite remote sensing and geographic information system in delineating earth resources. The seminar was arranged in honour of Dr. K. Gopalakrishna for his untiring service in the department of geology. Dr. V.A. Ayisha, Convener, Dr. Ajims P. Mohammed, Principal, Dr. V.K. Brijesh spoke on the occasion. Dr. N.B. Narasimha Prasad (Executive-director, CWRDM), Prof. Rama Sharma, Prof. V. Gopinathan, Dr. C. Unnikrishnan Warriar (CWRDM), Dr. K. Sajeew (IISc, Bangalore) Dr. A.P. Pradeep Kumar, and Dr. Jaikiran also presented research papers on various aspects.