

Inter-University Competition on Water Resources Management

Educating Youth for Sustainable Development Division of TERI and TERI University have recently concluded a series of regional competitions in the cities- Kolkata, Jalandhar, Delhi, Cochin and Goa (12 August to 30 September 2015). These events were a part of USAID Urban WASH Alliance India Partnership, which also includes the Inter-University Water Resources Competition, a program being funded by USAID, Coca Cola, Robert Bosch Stiftung, and WAPCOS.

Graced by senior dignitaries in all the cities, the events included presentations from shortlisted teams from 56 higher educational institutions of repute. The interdisciplinary nature of the competition seeks to solve the water and sanitation problems with a holistic approach.

Kolkata:

Mr Andrew Posner, Acting Consul General of the U.S., Kolkata, and Mr Joydev Mukherjee, General Manager, Bengal Beverages were present in the Kolkata event. The programme witnessed participation of 70 students and faculty members. 11 teams comprising of 5 students 1 faculty mentor in each from West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Assam defended their proposal ideas before the regional jury. The jury members included: : Prof. (Dr.) Pradip K. Sikdar, Head, Public Systems Management Program & Professor, Department of Environment Management Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management, Dr. D K Singh, Director, Ground Water Directorate, Water Resource Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi and Dr. Arun Kansal, Professor and Head, Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University, New Delhi

Jalandhar:

Shri Kamal Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar, Dr Rajesh Grover, Director, P Gujaral Science City Kapurthala, and Mr Baljinder Singh District Science Supervisor were present at the event in Jalandhar. The programme had a total of 80 participants including school students and teachers, college students and faculty members. 11 teams comprising of 5 students and 1 faculty mentor in each team from Punjab and J & K presented their proposal ideas before the jury. The jury comprised of Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Professor, Department of Zoology, Khalsa College, Amritsar, Punjab and Dr. Arun Kansal, Professor and Head, Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University, New Delhi

Delhi:

Mr Rohit Kakkar, Dy Advisor (PHE), Ministry of Urban Development and Mr Anand Rudra, Senior Project Management Specialist (Water & Sanitation) USAID India office participated in the inaugural session of the competition in Delhi. There was participation from 80 students and faculty members. 12 teams (comprising of 5 students and 1 faculty member in each team) from Delhi, Haryana, U.P and Uttrakhand defended their proposal ideas before the jury members. The jury comprised of Ms Ranjana Ray Chaudhuri, Lecturer, Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University and Ms Fauzia Tarannum, Lecturer, TERI University, Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University

Kochi

Dr S K Joshi, Principal Secretary, Irrigation & CAD Department, Govt. of Telangana, and Smt. Soumini Jain, Chairperson, Standing Committee for Works, Cochin Municipal Corporation jointly inaugurated the program in Cochin which was also attended by Mr Ajai Kumar, National Head – External Affairs, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Private Limited, and Prof. (Dr.) B Madhusoodana Kurup, Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS). The competition witnessed participation of 75 students and faculty members. 11 teams from Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu presented their proposal ideas before the regional jury. The regional jury members included- Prof (Dr.) Gigi K Joseph, Postgraduate Department of Zoology, Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha Mr. Janakiraman Saravanan, The Rain Centre, Chennai and Prof (Dr.) Arun Kansal, Head, Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University, New Delhi

Goa

In Goa, Mr. Jagdish Hosamani (Additional Chief Engineer), Department of Water Resources, Government of Goa attended the inaugural session and also shared some valuable feedback and insights on the

student proposals. The regional competition in Goa had a total of 70 participants. 11 teams from Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat defended their proposal ideas before the jury members. The jury comprised of Dr. Manoj Ibrampurkar, Professor Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar, Goa Dr. Chachadi Adivappa G, Professor, Department of Earth Science, Goa University and Prof (Dr.) Arun Kansal, Head, Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University, New Delhi

The relevance of water in growth of human civilization and the need of resource mapping wherein technical experts can be mobilized in the municipal areas to link resource sustainability with behavioral change was stressed upon uniformly. What came out of the deliberations was the relevance of science communication and how youth can do wonders by their 'out of the box' thinking and a multidisciplinary approach for effective management of resources.

All the 5 regional competitions have been widely covered by the media- both print and electronic.

10 teams from across the country have been selected for the National Competition, and these students will also be attending an edu-excursion camp (26 – 31 October, Gurgaon) to receive further guidance from experts from India and Germany.