

**Record note of proceedings of the “Conference on Climate Change: Issues & Opportunities” held at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati, 11 September 2002**

1. Conference was chaired by Dr. Subodh Sharma, Adviser, MOEF
2. Welcome address was given by Mr. D.K. Sarma, Secretary, NECCI. At the outset, Mr. Sarma welcomed all participants from the Ministry, Associations, NGOs, Academia, Technologists and students who took part in this regional conference of utmost importance. He also pointed out why North East is a significant part of the country and what are opportunities available along with drawbacks.
3. The Chairperson, Dr. Subodh Sharma in his introduction very vividly analyzed the various issues and opportunities available in this most important regional conference. He also welcomed all the participants and hoped that this conference would definitely unfold many untold facts of the climate change.
4. Mr. D.N. Bezburah, Editor, the Sentinel expressed his thanks to ASSOCHAM and MOEF for giving him an opportunity to express concern about climate change with respect to the North East region. In his keynote address he rightly pin-pointed most urgent local as well as global issues related with the climate change and thereby organizer's choice of selecting an important voice from this region for this conference get fulfilled.
5. In his inaugural address, Prof. P.R. Shukla, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad vividly showed the participants the back ground stories of climate change negotiations, and policies and politics associated with them.
6. Vote of thanks was given by Mr. Avik Mitra, Sr. Consultant, ASSOCHAM. He thanked the Assam Administrative Staff College officials, Ministry, co-organizers, media, co-hosts, industry participants and all others associated with this conference.
7. Technical Session-I was chaired by Mr. A.K. Mehta, Director (Climate Change). MOEF.
  - 7.1 Dr. K.G. Prasad, Director, Rainforest Research Institute, described beautifully "the impact of climate change on the bio diversity of the North East". He mentioned that the north east was a hot spot of bio diversity and the impact of climate change could have disastrous effects. He also suggested some alternate means and ASSOCHAM's role to disseminate the knowledge of climate change.
  - 7.2 Dr. S. Bhattacharya, Expert Consultant, NATCOM, gave her presentation on "the NATCOM process in climate change". After her presentation some local people expressed their willingness to be a part of NATCOM, which was eagerly approved by both Dr. S. Sharma and Dr. S. Bhattacharya.
  - 7.3 Prof. N.H. Ravindranath beautifully expressed his views on "Scope and Relevance of Climate Change". He expressed his concerns on Co<sub>2</sub> generation, carbon sink and CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation with related to bio mass.

- 7.4 The panel discussion, "Climate Change: Scope, Relevant and Impact" was quite interactive. All local panelists, Dr. A.K. Barua, Director, Assam Science Technology and Environment Council, Dr. K.K. Barua, Prof. Assam Agricultural University, Dr. C. Mahanta, Asst. Professor, IIT Guwahati and Dr. S.B. Medhi, Chairman, Assam Financial Corporation welcomed organizers for taking an excellent initiative for getting all stake holders views. Dr. A.K. Barua emphasized on ASTEC's role- competence and weakness. Dr. K.K. Barua projected some excellent, research work conducted by Assam Agriculture University on methane- emissions. Dr. C. Mahanta described the state of environment at the North East and Dr. S.B. Medhi lucidly expressed his concerns and experiences related with the north eastern states: sustainability and areas of importance
- 8 Technical Session - II was chaired by Prof. N.H. Ravindranath, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- 8.1 Dr. Amit Garg, Expert Consultant, NATCOM in his address showed the ways and means for financial opportunities in climate change initiatives.
- 8.2 Industry presentation was started by Mr. P.K. Borbora, General Manager, Oil India Ltd., Mr. Borbora showed the ways through which OIL was facing the challenges in the environment sector.
- 8.3 Mr. D. Chakravorty of the Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. expressed his organizations concerns about environment and showed how faithfully they have implemented ISO 14001.
- 8.4 Mr. A Chakravarty of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Assam Oil Division) was quite expressive about IOCL (AOD)'s achievement in the environment sector. Though he showed through various steps how had they combated environmental challenges, still he cautioned some areas of concern.
- 8.5 Mr. A.K. Mehta, Director (Climate Change), MOEF then presented his "Presentation on issues before COP-8: Industry Context". He clearly laid down the path through which industry should proceed.
- 8.6 Immediately after that there was a panel discussion followed by an open house discussion. Panelists were Dr. S. Sharma, Prof. P.R. Shukla, Prof. N.H. Ravindranath and Mr. A. Mitra. Panelists showed concerns about issues raised in this important regional conference. They alerted participants about the policies and politics of the Climate Change.

Panelists also answered questions raised by the audience.

Lastly Mr Mitra, Sr. Consultant, ASSOCHAM thanked all participants and invited them to join for dinner.