

## **The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference(POST ISCBC-2012)**

The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference(POST ISCBC-2012) was held in the campus of Institute of Advanced Study in Science & Technology (IASST), Guwahati, Assam, an autonomous Institute under Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India under the aegis of Indian Society of Chemists and Biologists, Lucknow on the theme "Perspectives and Challenges in Chemical & Biological Sciences: Innovation Cross Roads" from 28 -30<sup>th</sup> January 2012. This conference was organized by IASST for the first time in the North Eastern Region. In the three-day conference more than 450 participants from all parts of India and North East and countries like USA, UK, Italy, Greece, Egypt and Australia took part in this mega event. Majority of the participants were young people who presented more than 350 posters highlighting their research work.

The conference was inaugurated by His Excellency the **Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Sri Janaki Ballav Patnaik**. In his inaugural speech he told, "Every year we have problems of various diseases like Filaria, Malaria, Leishmaniasis, Tuberculosis ,swine flu, chickegunia, dengue fever are posing a big challenge for the common man to survive, which also affects the productivity of any nation and resulting into the direct impact on economy of a nation". He emphasised on the eradication permanently these diseases, which are affecting the common men of the country and the world. He appealed to the Scientists gathered from all over the world to address these problems, and work hand to hand to make a disease free world.

**Sri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Assam, holding the Science & Technology Portfolio also graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour** in the inaugural ceremony, released the Souvenir of the Conference and addressed the more than seven hundred people gathered in the pandel. Sri Gogoi expressed his happiness for inviting this prestigious conference to Guwahati by IASST for the first time as this will give an opportunity to the scientists, researchers, teachers to interact with the eminent scientists coming from different parts of the world. The Chief Minister in his address told that Healthy Nation means healthy people and appeal to the scientists for working for developing affordable drugs to the poor and common man. He also stressed on working on the traditional system of remedies and herbal medicines, which are cheap and having less side effects. He even told that he himself also use the herbal medicines.

Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, who is also the Chairman of the Governing Council of IASST and also the Chief Petron of the Organizing committee of the Conference also addressed the gathering of scientists students etc on this occasion. He opined that India is no longer under developed in respect of Scientific developments and there is no dearth of young talents in India, he said. He released the Scientific Abstract book of the Conference.

Prof. Joyanti Chutia, Director of IASST delivered the welcome address and informed briefly about the activities of the Institute. Dr. Jibon Kotoky, Convener of the conference offered the vote of thanks in the inaugural ceremony of the Conference.

One special session on Oil on the theme ,”Perspectives and Challenges in the Oil Sector” was also organised on 29<sup>th</sup> morning, which was sponsored by Oil India Ltd.. This session was inaugurated by Mr N.M.Bora, Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Ltd. The CMD in his inaugural address invited the Scientists and academia to address the various challenges of the Oil sector. Sri S. Rath, Director (Operation), address the gathering and elaborated about the activities of Oil India Ltd and also prospects and challenges in the oil sector.

Cultural programmes depicting the cultural aspects including Bihu of Assam were also arranged in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> evenings.

Prizes for the best posters in the Chemical and Biological sciences were awarded to Chemical Sciences: 1<sup>st</sup> prize to Anjan Das, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize to Manoj Mandal. Inthe biological Sciences 1<sup>st</sup> prize awarded to Nilakshi Borah and the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize goes to Rachana Goswami.

The conference was sponsored by DST, Govt. of India. DBT, Govt of India, Oil India ltd., State Bank of India, NRL, ThermoFisher Scientific, CSIR, New Delhi, etc.

In total 8 plenary lectures were delivered by the eminent experts of the conference. In all 28 invited lectures and 42 oral presentations were held. Around 350 young researchers presented their posters depicting various R& D word on different fields. Prof. Anamik Shah, President, Indian Society of Chemists and Biologists (ISCB) highlighted the programme and vision of ISCB in details. Also declared the next venue of the Conference of ISCB. Dr. PMS Chauhan, General Secretary of ISCB stated about the history of ISCB, various conferences organized by ISCB in various parts of India. A valedictory function was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012 where , Prof Devid Beal, USA was the chief guest, where Dr. Jibon Kotoky, convener of the Conference, Prof. Anamik Shah, Prof PMS Chauhan and Prof. Joyanti Chutia highlighted various aspects of the last three days activities. Dr. Diganta Goswami, Register, IASST offered the vote of thanks to all the participants, sponsors, press and media and others.

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