

NEIST celebrated 49th Foundation Day

In a function organized at its premise the North-East Institute of Science & Technology (NEIST), Jorhat celebrated its 49th Foundation day and stepped into its golden jubilee year. Dr Mridul Hazarika, Director of Tocklai Tea Research Association graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Prof BK Das, of Department of Chemistry, Gauhati University attended the function as the Guest of Honour. Welcoming the gathering Dr PG Rao, Director, NEIST-Jorhat said that in addition to continuing high level of R&D, the institute is also involved in improving socio-economic condition of the people through S&T inputs. He said we should rededicate ourselves to achieve more in S&T to benefit the society. Addressing the gathering the Chief Guest Dr Hazarika in his brief illuminating speech said that with the change in the millennium, subjects like biotechnology and environment have become very significant. He added that biotechnology has the potential to feed the hungry, reduce environmental damages and make productive items from waste etc. Regarding environment he said that demands created by increased population have made negative impact which may be responsible for climate change. He further added that we should think about how much pressure the environment can take and concluded by saying we can make a change only if each one of us is concerned about these issues.



Invited guests on dais



Release of Highlights

In his presentation Prof BK Das talked on the topic 'Chemical & fuels from renewables' in which he highlighted the fact that the country produces huge amount of biomass most of which is wasted. These wastes can be important source for making chemicals and fuels. He talked about production of chemicals like lactic acid, succinic acid and terephthalic acid from renewable. In the end he remarked that 'efforts need to be made locally to develop processes to convert locally available

renewable biomass to chemicals & fuels' and in this regard the NEIST can play a major role, he opined. Like every year, the Chief Guest released two of the institute's publications viz. *Annual Report 2008-09* and *Highlights 2009-10*. In the celebration the NEIST staff who showed exemplary research performances during this financial year were awarded with certificate of appreciation. Also on the occasion people who retired from the council's service during the last financial year were felicitated and presented with mementoes by the Director in recognition to their services for the growth and development of the institute. The function concluded with vote of thanks by Ms Ilika Zhimo, Scientist. Earlier the day was also observed as 'Open Day' and the laboratory was kept open for the visit of students, teachers and others in the morning hours who came in large numbers and interacted with the scientists on their own.

Seminar/Workshop/Meeting Attended

Dr SP Saikia, Scientist attended and presented a paper entitled "*Biodiesel: an alternate fuel*" at the National conference on renewable energy for development of underdeveloped areas with particular reference to Northeast India held at Dept of Energy, Tezpur University, Tezpur during 23-25 March, 2010 and organized jointly by Tezpur University, NECRD, IGNOU.

Dr AK Bordoloi, TO attended and presented two papers entitled "*Cultivation of P. djamora on certain alternative cellulosic agro wastes*" and "*Morphological and micro structural (X-ray) properties of H. esculentus bark fibre*" at the 55th Annual Technical session of Assam Science Society held at Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam on 15 February, 2010

Honours/Recognition

Dr SP Saikia, Scientist was nominated to evaluate a project proposal submitted to Technopreneur Promotion Programme (TePP), DST, New Delhi

Talk Delivered

Dr AK Bordoloi, TO delivered a talk "Mushroom cultivation technology" in the International Women's day organized by NEIST, Jorhat on 8 March, 2010