



VOL. 1, NO. 2, Oct-Dec, 2011

ECO-CLUB

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

Newsletter

For Members only

PATRON

Prof. M. Anis

Chairman

Department of Botany

PRESIDENT

Dr. Fareed Ahmad Khan

*Associate Professor in
Botany(Ecology)*

SECRETARY

Arif Md Yeasin Jwadder

B.A.,LL.B 3rd year

TREASURER

Shahab Ahmad

EXECUTIVE

MEMBERS

Shalini Sharma

Faridul Amin

Ajeet Kumar Yadav

Fawaz Shaheen

Jatin Saraswat

Anam Rais Khan

ADVISERS

Dr. M. Zafar M. Nomani

*Associate Professor,
Department of Law*

Mr. Mazhar Hussain

Teacher, S. S. School (Boys)

Mr. Ayub Shabab

Teacher, S. S. School (Boys)

INSIDE

Recent Activities.....2

Recent Developments

Around the World.....2-4

Published by

Eco-Club

Aligarh Muslim University

Aligarh-202002

Ph.: 9759925719, 7417391307

Email : ecoclub@amu.ac.in

Website: <http://ecoclub.amu.ac.in>

Editorial

It is widely accepted that '**Environment can sustain in equilibrium without man but man cannot survive without environment**'. In every ecosystem, species modify the environment around them. It is a natural phenomenon. During past 450 million years, the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of atmosphere have changed in favor of man. The huge amounts of carbon dioxide was fixed as plant biomass fossilized into coal. This unique natural process had reduced the concentration of carbon dioxide to about 290 parts per million (0.029%) in the atmosphere and in-turn, reduced the average global temperature to around 22°C by 17th century. This environmental evolution made the earth more habitable. What A man require? Three most essential factors respectively; air (oxygen) for breathing (without which survival beyond 1-2 minutes is not possible), water to drink (without which survival beyond few hours is not possible) and food to eat. Humans have exploited the resources more indiscriminately. Our quest for a fashionable life and to meet the increasing demand of the population led to rapid industrialization. After the revolution in industrialization from early 18th century, the atmospheric carbon dioxide increased as a result of burning of coal and fossil fuel in huge amounts. At present the concentration of carbon dioxide is estimated to be around 350 ppm (0.035%) with corresponding increase the atmospheric temperature by nearly 1°C. This steady increase in temperature is leading to *global warming*. Many other gases, released from a number of sources are also adding to global warming. All global warming gases are being produced and dumped into the environment through a number of anthropogenic activities.

About 15-20 years back, Delhi was one among the most polluted cities of India. The efforts of environment loving social workers and binding directives of the Supreme Court of India to government and polluting industrial units significantly reduced the air pollution load of Delhi and many other cities of India. **The Environment Awareness Courses** have been included in school curricula and UGC has also directed the Indian Universities to include one compulsory paper on Environment awareness based on 6 month course at under-graduate level. It is a nice programme. The non school goers still constitute a considerable proportion of Indian population. They also needs to be targeted and sensitized. The responsibility of UGC and school boards does not ends with the introduction of curricula on environmental awareness but needs consistent monitoring to ensure effective teaching. The environment awareness curriculum introduced at undergraduate level must be taken care- of by Universities and UGC both. The major part of the curriculum includes some general topics easy to be taught by faculties in arts and social science streams. This part, may be comfortably grasped by the students. But, some topics need to be taken care by more specialized faculty. The curriculum must not be limited merely to completion of course teaching by teachers and passing the examination by the students. It shall be implemented in true spirit. The class room teaching must be aimed to sensitize and create interest in the hearts and minds of the students and encourage them to play more active role in protecting and maintaining a sustainable environment.

Dr. Fareed Ahmad Khan

Recent Activities/Recent Developments



GO GREEN CAMPAIGN

Eco-Club, Aligarh Muslim University held a successful Go-Green campaign in collaboration with Helping Hands Society on 9th Oct 2011 at the Sir Syed House. The program initiated by introductory address of Dr. Fareed A. Khan, President of the Club. The programme was graced by eminent personalities like Mr. A. R. Khan, Station Superintendent, Aligarh Railway station; Dr. Samina Khan, Associate Prof. Dept. of English; Dr. Asim Siddique, Asst. Prof. Dept. of English; Mr. Johnny Foster; and from Women's College- Dr. Jameela Khatoon, Counsellor in career planning Centre; Dr. Azra Moosvi, section of Economics and Dr. Fauzia Naushin, section of Botany. The campaign began with the Recitation of verses

from the Holy QURAN followed by welcome address by Anam Rais Khan, Executive Member of the Club. The Special inaugural issue of the newsletter of Eco-Club was released by Dr. Fareed A. Khan, President of the Club along with other guests. Mr. Johnny Foster, a renowned poet and music instructor of AMU, presented few pieces of poetry reiterating the need to keep our environment clean and green. Pamphlets were distributed among the guests and the students creating awareness about the Go-Green campaign. Green ribbons were tied on hands as a mark of support for the green cause. Cloth bags were distributed among the dignitaries and the students symbolizing and stressing the need to replace the

polyethene bags with the bio degradable cloth bags. Green colored Hand impressions were made by the guests and members on a white banner marking their support. Twelve *Ficus benjamina* plants were planted in the lawns of Sir Syed House by the guests and the members of Eco-Club each of which were later adopted by the members of Eco-Club. A conclusive acknowledgment address was given by Shahab Ahmad, treasurer of the Club thanking all the learned teachers, guests, students and members of both Eco-Club and Helping Hands Society for a successful completion of the endeavor.

YETI BRINGS TOGETHER OVER 300 YOUNG ECOLOGISTS

Young Ecologists Talk and Interact (YETI), the largest student organized academic conference on ecology and conservation, brought together over 300 students and researchers of ecology on a single platform at IIT Guwahati for a three day long deliberations on latest biodiversity and conservation issues.

This year's YETI is being organized in northeast for the first time to focus upon the under studied

rich biodiversity of the region. The conference has provided the students from northeastern states, who have been traditionally marginalized, an opportunity to come together with other students and for the students who have come from rest of India.

Programmes included four workshops and many oral and poster presentations by the research scholars on varied topics like forest ecosystems dynamics ideas of open accesses, animal behavior apart from sessions.

WOOD STOVE WITH CHIMNEYS CAN REDUCE CHILDHOOD PNEUMONIA

The findings of National Institute of Environmental Health funded research project on children below 18 months revealed about 30% reduction in childhood Pneumonia in households provided with wood stoves connected to a chimney, compared with homes where open, indoor wood cooking fires were used. Pneumonia kills more children worldwide than any other disease, and open fires used for heating and cooking are thought to be a major cause.

“Exposure to smoke from

cooking stoves is a major global public health problem that affects nearly half of the world's population and contributes to approximately 2 million deaths per year,” said Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., director of NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program. “This is one of the first studies that show how an intervention can reduce indoor air pollution from wood smoke, so people can live healthier lives.”

MOHAN PARASAN TO HEAD US BODY

Additional solicitor general Mohan Parasan has been appointed the leader of a task force of experts on clean energy investment project at Columbia law school's centre for climate change law, Columbia University in New York.

The task force aims to identify key areas of concern in India for inflow of US investments in clean energy projects. It will give advice on creation of freely downloadable contract templates to be provided by the University for the Use of US investment.

The task force which is expected to come out with its recommendations before the end of March 2012 will play a major role in addressing the critical gap in the Indian clean sector needs and may lead to world's largest emission cut of carbon dioxide.

VIZAG TO GO GREEN TO CHECK POLLUTION

Rajya Sabha Member and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Science And Technology T. Subbarami Reddy announced that in order to check pollution in the city, which is on the list of most polluted places in India, an ambitious plan 'Green Visakha' has been launched. Local industries came up with positive response and shall plant about 40 Lakh plants and saplings over five years in and around the port city and look after the plants. A subcommittee would look after the programme.

CONSTRUCTION OF A PROJECT THAT REQUIRES ENVIRONMENTAL, COASTAL ZONE AND FOREST PERMISSIONS CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL ALL OF THESE ARE SECURED.

Trouble seems to be brewing along the Bhadrashwar coast. OPG Power Gujarat Limited has initiated construction of its 300 MW thermal power plant, in its third attempt to break through the logjam of opposition and regulation that has so far prevented the project from going ahead. The fenced-off area is receiving drilling and building equipment, and company employees face the ire of fishing communities living in the inter-tidal mudflats. The fisher folk, salt pan workers and grazing communities living on the.....

Bhadreshwar coast are livid and tense, acutely aware of the impacts and changes this construction activity will bring in the near future. The inter tidal mudflats and the coastline of the Randh Bander is the source of their thriving livelihoods, and if the thermal power plant comes up this will be gone forever. So, they have gone to court, taken to the streets and even have told the company clearly that they don't have much faith that that there will be minimal or no impacts in the area.

ECOLOGY vs. ECONOMY FOR OBAMA

American President Barack Obama may find himself in a big crisis as he faces his biggest environmental policy challenge before the 2012 Presidential elections to transport vast amounts of tar sands crude from Canada to Texas through the now-infamous Keystone Pipeline.

Some 10000 protestors mobbed the white house and expressed apprehension against the plan, which if approved would carry about 35 million gallons a day of "heavy, high- sulphur, toxic bitumen crude right through the Great Plains, the breadbasket of America" over 2720km through six states, until it reached Texas refiners.

DEMOLISH CWG VILLAGE BULDINGS

A public interest writ petition has been filed in the Supreme Court of India for a direction to the center and the Delhi Government to demolish the buildings in the common wealth games village

here on the ground that they were constructed on the Yamuna bed impeding the flow of water.

PIL filed by Foundation for Indian Wetlands through its President M. K. Balakrishnan, stressed that buildings constructed in CWG village fell in the flood plains of Yamuna and the petitioner cited on SC judgment of 2011 whereby it was held that ' buildings constructed on wetlands should be demolished and the wetland should be resorted to its original.'

INDIAN CONSUMERS MOST ECO-FRIENDLY, FINDS GLOBAL SURVEY

The rest of the world may well turn green with envy. India has the most sustainable consumption pattern, says a 17-nation survey on consumer behavior and environmental impact. Over the past two years, Indians have shown increasing environmentally friendly behavior, the study in June showed. India scored 62.6 points in the overall green index to retain top rank. Brazil (58) came second, followed by China (57.3). The US, among the most energy-guzzling countries in the world, finished last with a score of 45.

The survey, Greendex 2010: Consumer Choice and the Environment- a World Tracking Survey, was carried out by National Geographic Society and international polling firm Globescan. First conducted in 2008, it is a comprehensive measure of consumer behavior in 65 areas relating to housing, transportation, food and

consumer goods. Greendex 2010 ranked average consumers according to environmental impacts of their consumption patterns. It measured transportation patterns, household energy and resource use, consumption of food and everyday consumer goods.

THE EXTENT OF ARCTIC SEA ICE IN 2011 WAS THE SECOND LOWEST ON RECORD, AND ITS VOLUME WAS THE LOWEST.

Global temperatures in 2011 are currently the tenth highest on record and are higher than any previous year with a La Niña event, which has a relative cooling influence. The 13 warmest years have all occurred in the 15 years since 1997. The extent of Arctic sea ice in 2011 was the second lowest on record, and its volume was the lowest.

These are some of the highlights of the provisional annual World Meteorological Organization Statement on the Status of the Global Climate, which gives a global temperature assessment and a snapshot of weather and climate events around the world in 2011. It was released on 29 Nov 2011 at the international climate conference in Durban, South Africa.

"Our role is to provide the scientific knowledge to inform action by decision makers," said WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud. "Our science is solid and it proves unequivocally that the world is warming and that this warming is due to human activities," he said.

Editor-In-chief

Dr. Fareed A. Khan

Student Editor

Anam Rais Khan

Published by the Secretary for Eco-Club, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202002