

Report on the celebration of International Day for Biodiversity 2011

The International Day for Biodiversity 2011 was celebrated on 22.5.2011 at IFGTB in Coimbatore in a grand manner. The event was organized jointly by the National Biodiversity Authority Chennai and the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore. The Centenary Celebration of Fischer herbarium of IFGTB Coimbatore was also held on the same day.

As a prelude to the function many publicity and awareness program me on the subject of biodiversity were conducted in the form of competitions. The painting competition, Essay competition, Elocution competition and Quiz competition were conducted in the Institute in the 3rd week of May 2011. The response was very good, despite the fact that it is summer vocation for educational institutions. On the day of function, in the early morning a mini Marathon race was organized and there was overwhelming participation from all section of people. The event was inaugurated by Dr.C.Sylendra Babu,I.P.S. the Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore City Corporation, Coimbatore. All the participants were provided with T shirts printed with IBD 2011 logo.

The main function was inaugurated by Shri J.C.Kala, IFS (Retd) Former Director General of Forest and Secretary to Govt. of India. Dr.N.Krishna Kumar,IFS, Director, IFGTB delivered introductory address. Dr.S.Balaji,IFS., Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Director, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy ,Coimbatore and Shri. Achulantha Reddy,IFS., Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority delivered special address on Biodiversity and on the latest issues involving biodiversity conservation. Dr.J.C.Kala,IFS (Retd) delivered the inaugural address and distributed prizes for the school and college students, who won various events conducted on the eve of International Day for Biodiversity 2011. He also unveiled the commemoration stone for the 100 years Fischer Herbarium. He also released a Souvenir containing 26 articles including special lectures related to Biodiversity topics. A Herbarium catalogue for Fischer herbarium too was released. The chief guest also honoured the retired and serving taxonomists who have significantly contributed in the growth and development of Fischer herbarium. Shri.T.R.Somasundaram, 92 year old retired taxonomist known for his book "A hand book on the identification and description of trees, shrubs and some important herbs of the forest of the Southern States for the use of the Southern Forest Rangers College, Coimbatore" was also felicitated and honoured. This was the first time that the taxonomists were recognized and honoured for their service.

The function was attended by a large gathering comprising general public, school and college students, staff and trainees from Central Academy for State Forest service College, Coimbatore and Faculties and Trainees from Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Faculties and students of Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam, serving and Retired Forest Officers, retired scientists, NGO's, Officers and Staff from Tamil Nadu Forest Department, press and Media, etc.

A technical session was also arranged as part of the celebration and the following experts in their relevant fields of bio-diversity presented the lecture class.

No.	Topic	Author
1.	Biodiversity- The unfolding scenario	Dr.S.Sathis Chandran Nair
2.	Biodiversity and bio-prospecting-Important issues-	Dr.P.Pushpangadan, Dr.Vipin Mohan Dan and Dr. V.George.
3.	Human-Wildlife conflict-A review	Dr.P.S.Easa
4.	Butterfly diversity of India and its conservation:	Dr.George Mathew
5.	Importance of Herbarium and taxonomical Research in documentation, monitoring and Conservation of floristic diversity.	Dr.R.Gopalan.

The event went well and was appreciated by one and all. The coverage in the local media was exemplary and the day received needed attention awareness.

