



Educate & Lead

AWARENESS IN ACTION

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Climate change is human made

Speakers at AiA symposium stress on the need for civil society engagement



Climate change can be delayed if technological, social and political class works together to achieve a synergy with some adaptive mechanisms, says Prof. N.H. Ravindranath. Professor at Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Ravindranath was the chief guest at the first session of the symposium titled "Rethinking Globalisation: Climate Change, Environment and Public Health, organized by Awareness in Action at Gandhi Bhavana, Bengaluru on February 24, 2019. It was third in the series of symposia on 'rethinking globalisation'. The first session deliberated upon the nature of crisis that has emerged due to climate change and the state of policy measures. Ravindranath said that the government's initiatives are very limited to address these concerns and called upon the civil society to be conscious in responding to the crisis. Speaking at the inaugural session, K. A. Badrinath, Editor of Financial Chronicle, said there was no doubt about

the degradation of environment and also its impact on the life of people. He emphasised that there was a need for national commitment to take critical steps without succumbing to global political pressures. Speaking at the Second session, Dr K. A. Subramanian, Scientist, ICMR, Chennai gave an overview of the environment and biodiversity, the issues of biodiversity hotspots and the conservation issues around them. He stressed on the need for conscious consumption. Mallikarjunlytha, President of the fair-trade forum, said fair trade is the only way to develop the idea of conscious consumption and the civil society initiatives on consumption are the need of the hour. The third session dealt with Epidemiology, Tropical Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Raman R. Gangakhedkar, Senior Scientist, ZSI gave an overview of the communicable diseases, their outbreaks and the available framework to deal with the crisis of public health including the epidemics around bioterrorism. He contended that these initiatives are meaningful when the civil society

is sensitised.

Dr C. G. Raut, Scientist, MCI, Bengaluru and member NIMHANS, Goa, coordinated the session. Dr B. N. Gangadhar, Director, NIIT, Jabalpur made a presentation around the outbreak of 40 plus Viruses in India in the past three decades. Dr. Prashant, Associate Professor, NIRTH – ICMR gave the valedictory address, while M.S. Chaitra, Director of Aarohi Research Foundation spoke about the future

symposia of AiA. While Sanjeev Kumar Ningombam introduced the theme of the symposium, Prof. Dinesh Kumar, Senior Scientist, National Institute of Nutrition introduced the objective of the Conference and AiA secretary M. Madhavi spoke about the activities of the organization.

Transform Ideas into Action

Speakers appeal to participants at AiA's Ideas Conclave for Better Hyderabad-2019



Transforming ideas into action is the need of the hour, said the speakers at the Ideas Conclave for Better Hyderabad 2019 – the flagship programme of Awareness in Action. The two-day conclave held at IAS Auditorium in Begumpet on February 16 and 17, stressed the need for implementation of ideas for a better Hyderabad. Speaking at the inaugural session of the conclave, former Director General of Police, AK Mohanty said that Awareness in Action is anxious to ensure a better Hyderabad through the conclave. A better Hyderabad for most people means a H

Hyderabad where people can breathe fresh air, get safe water to drink, good footpath to walk, parks to spend some time and playgrounds where children can play and so on, he said. However, there are lot of inadequacies, Mohanty said and called upon the organization to flag the commonly observed issues and find solutions for them through discussions, seminars, invitation of papers and research. Speaking at the valedictory, senior CESS officer Dr. B. Janardhana Reddy said there are billions of ideas on any subject. Mere ideation without execution leads to

delusion. Elaborating more, he said there were 2000 slums in Hyderabad and there are very good ideas to upgrade the slums. However, only 39 are upgraded so far.

This shows that there is no dearth of ideas, but what is lacking is execution of ideas. He appealed to the AiA to transform ideas into reality. The two-day event was a success with many young participants presenting ideas and research papers on the topics Urban Infrastructure and Pollution, Environment & Biodiversity, Green and Clean Hyderabad.

AiA presented awards to best of the ideas and announced sponsorship for four research topics. The dignitaries and guests who shared their knowledge and guided the two-day conclave include Dr. Hemalatha R, Director, YVST Hyderabad, BITS), Dr.

Suchismitha Satpathy, Asst. Professor, NIN - National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR Sai, IRS, Commissioner of Income Tax, G. Chandramouli, Activist, Dr. R. Hampaiah, Former Chairman, Biodiversity Board, V. Krishna, Additional Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Dr. P.R. Meghanathan, Scientist Hyderabad Zone, N E E R I

Dr. G. Ramesh Rao, Chairman, The Institution of Engineers, and OU Hyderabad, Dr. Syeda Azeem Unnisa, Asst. Professor Dept of Environmental Science, BITS, Dr. V. Vinayaka Ram, Associate Professor, Dept. of Civil Engg. TS Dr. P. Lakshmi, Principal, AMS College of Law for Women.



AiA to tread its path

The general body of Awareness in Action unanimously agreed to continue the path it had already taken. The decision was taken at the general body meeting held on 20th April, 2019. The members present at the meeting reviewed the performance of AiA during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 and decided to keep its pace. The members unanimously elected the following persons as the new office bearers of the AiA to run its day-to-day activities and inducted a couple of new members.

President: **Shri Buchibabu Tungam**
Vice president: **Shri PV Manmadha Reddy**
Secretary: **Smt. M. Madhavi**
Joint Secretary: **Shri Dayakar Reddy**
Treasurer: **Smt. Swapna Balla**

Keeping in view the scarce resources and growing overheads, the general body unanimously decided to have virtual office instead of a physical one. The general body decided to use the money thus saved for a better productive project.

Upcoming events

Symposium on Emerging Technologies: Curriculum, Industry and Policy at Hyderabad

In order to communicate the real policy gaps and ground level initiatives required to the stakeholders and policymakers concerned, AiA will organise a symposium titled "Emerging Technologies: Curriculum, Industry and Policy" at JNTUH, on **August 2nd, 2019, Friday**. Stakeholders i.e. Core Industry, Manufacturing sector, Academicians and Students will be part of this dialogue. After a thorough review at this symposium, experts who were part of earlier symposia and representatives from the industry would reveal as to what is expected from technologically trained manpower and how state agencies like AICTE to University and colleges can think of reorienting their curriculum in order to match the Industry demands. The next step would be to seek a policy change that reduces the regulatory function of the state agencies on the curriculum of institution, move towards a higher autonomy to an academic institution and build a climate where there is the enriching and nurturing of Industry to Institution and vice versa relationship in order to provide the best outcome.

The outputs of the AIA symposium would certainly focus on bridging the gap between academia and industry. Our further focus is to support/encourage research and development along with connecting students and industrialists, as we believe that their combination would boost the research sector and in turn would facilitate Nation's Development.

Symposium on Rethinking Globalisation: Contextualising Globalization of University Education at Bengaluru

At Bengaluru Globalization, being a multidimensional process, has affected almost every sphere of our life including education in general and the University education in particular. Higher education in India has witnessed a huge expansion in the number of universities and colleges, with around 800 universities and about 40,000+ colleges today. The Indian higher education eco system is now an extremely heterogeneous combination of institutions. We must recognise that Globalisation is taking the best of the talent from our country and it is not available for our use. Then the question is how do we make use of this most productive talent in the world for the betterment of India? Why is that there is no such policy framework on these issues even today? Can we invest on education to lose the most significant talent from our nation? Thus, it is high time now that we reflect upon the existing situation and search answer for a few critical questions.

Hence the AiA has decided to organize a symposium on Rethinking Globalization: Contextualising Globalization of University Education, scheduled to be organized on **September 21, 2019, Saturday**. The symposium will debate the aspects that are ignored so far in the discourse of globalization and university education.



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