85th Annual Session and Symposium on “Marine & Fresh Water Eco-systems: Role in National Development”

December 06-08, 2015

being organized by

KIIT University, Bhubaneswar - 751 024, India
NASI: A Brief Profile - The idea of establishing a forum for Indian scientists, which would help them in publishing their researches and bring them on one platform to discuss and find scientific solutions to the problems of the country, was mooted by Prof. Meghnad Saha, a great scientist, visionary and the then Professor of Physics at the University of Allahabad. His views were published in an article entitled ‘A Plea for an Academy of Sciences’ in December 1929 issue of the University of Allahabad magazine; and in the very next year, The National Academy of Sciences, India was established as the first Science Academy of this country. Speaking in the inaugural session, Prof. Saha said:

“An Academy of Science can do a great deal by educating public opinion, undertaking particular problems, and bringing out scientific workers in various fields for discussion and cooperative research. But the main function of the Academy should be towards cultural improvement by contributions to human knowledge.”

Therefore, NASI strongly feels that science-society programmes are must to generate scientific temper as well as to solve several societal problems through scientific education and research. Presently, the programmes are being steered by Prof. Akhilesh K. Tyagi, President of the Academy, and Director, NIPGR, New Delhi. The Past Presidents as Prof M G K Menon, Prof M S Swaminathan, Prof (Mrs.) Manju Sharma, Prof A K Sharma, Prof V P Sharma, Prof S K Joshi, Prof Ashok Misra, Prof Asis Datta, Dr. K. Kasturirangan and others are also taking keen interest in the development of Science in general and the Academy, in particular.

NASI - envisions the cultivation and promotion of Science & Technology in all its branches. The Academy (NASI, Allahabad) is striving hard to promote Science & Technology by regularly organizing several activities, such as: (1) Publishing two quarterly journals (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, India-Sec. A & B) and one bi-monthly journal (National Academy Science Letters); (2) holding an Annual Session in a scientific and academic institution, every year. The sessions were held (since 2000) at Allahabad, Pune, Shillong, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Pondicherry, Mumbai, Mysore, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Jaipur, Trivandrum, Varanasi, Goa and Jodhpur. These Annual Sessions provide an opportunity for presentation of research papers by the young researchers. The sessions are popular and draw young and senior scientists alike from far and wide; (3) organizing symposia, seminars, and workshops on subjects of current national and scientific interest. More than 70 such programmes were held in last about ten to twelve years; (4) planning and executing programmes of science communication, like Science Extension Lectures, State Level Science Contests (Quiz, Debate, Oration, Exhibition, Essay, etc), Talent Search, Teachers’ Workshop, Summer School, Vacation Training Programmes, Winter School, National Level Scientific Creative Writing Contest, Celebration of National Technology Day, National Science Day and World Environment Day, etc. About lacs of students/teachers have been benefitted by such programmes in last decade; (5) recognizing the significant contributions of the scientists at every level by honoring them with Fellowship/Membership/Lecture Awards/ NASI-Reliance Awards/ NASI-SCOPUS Awards/NASI-Young Scientist Awards and so. About 2000 scientists have been awarded in last 10-12 years; (6) instituting prestigious Research Fellowships/Chairs/Senior-Scientist Fellowship etc. to honor the distinguished scientists. More than 60 eminent scientists have been awarded with such prestigious Chairs/Fellowships; (7) holding a well organized library known as Dr. Sir Padampat Singhania Library in which there are two sections, one for the research students and teachers and the other for school students. Library services were enriched through digitization of the library, subscribing more books and by providing facilities of storage, reading room, microfilming, citation index etc. Internet facility for educational purpose is also being provided to the students free-of-cost. In the year 2011 the library has been connected to National Knowledge Network (NKN); (8) maintaining 18 Chapters all across the country to organize scientific activities in and around their respective regions; (9) establishing river-galleries. NASI decided to adopt ways to make the people aware for the conservation and restoration of the holy river Ganges by establishing a Ganga-gallery with well defined objectives in order to highlight the religious, cultural, socio-economic and scientific aspects of the holy river. After the establishment of Ganga-gallery at Allahabad, the Academy established another river-gallery on Brahmaputra river at Assam. The work on third gallery (on river Cauvery) is to be started soon at Mysore, Karnataka; (10) organizing sensitization programmes for women researchers/scientists & conducting DISHA programme. The Academy
organized more than 11 workshops on Technological Empowerment of Women at different centres of the country in past five years; also organized meetings of DISHA (DST Scheme) for selecting the women scientists/researchers, for SoRF Scheme. About 2000 women scientists/researchers were sensitized under this programme and a booklet was published with pragmatic solutions to the problems of women scientists/researchers. Also, collaborations were established with ICAR & ICMR for developing some mechanisms to reduce the problem of malnutrition and drudgery of farm/rural women; (11) conducting safe water project. After organizing several brainstorming sessions on Safe Water & Sanitation at NASI, as well as several workshops all across the country, the Academy has taken practical steps by rejuvenating the baolies (step-wells) of Bundelkhand area of M.P. for ensuring safe water to the common mass; and (12) organizing/conducting other projects & schemes, as Science Awareness Programme were organised in collaboration with the Army Personnel for the welfare of the Jawans; and also a joint programme of NASI & ICAR on Farm Mechanization/Implementation, was started last year with instituting an award of Rs. one lac in this sector.

Apart from these activities, it is also organizing several other activities jointly with other two National Science Academies.

Symposium on “Marine & Fresh Water Eco-systems: Role in National Development” -

Marine and Freshwater ecosystems cover more than three-quarters of the Earth’s surface, providing an array of critical ecosystem services, from participating in various biogeochemical cycles and nutrient exchange, to providing natural protection and habitat, to degrading and dispersing many environmental pollutants.

Freshwater ecosystems include some wetlands, streams, rivers, ponds and lakes. They are low salinity areas, with distinct animal and plant life that is typically unable to adjust to higher concentrations of salt water. Diversity in these ecosystems can vary since some, like ponds and lakes, can be isolated from other water sources. Marine ecosystems consist of high salinity areas; but the Coastal ecosystems include both, having borders where land and water join to create an environment with a distinct structure, diversity, and flow of energy. They include some wetlands, salt marshes, mangroves, estuaries and bays and are home to many different types of plants and animals.

Coastal ecosystems are very sensitive to changes in the environment, and there is concern that some areas are struggling to maintain their diversity due to human activity, the introduction of non-native species, and other factors. The water environment of Chilka is an unique assemblage of marine, brackish and freshwater ecosystem with estuarine characteristics. This combination has endowed a highly productive ecosystem and a valuable biodiversity, including many endangered species. The freshwater and marine issues have also been part of the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) mandate since its inception in 1972. The recent trends in climate change is continuously posing threat to our ecosystems; the devastating floods, cyclones, landslides etc. are one of them. To protect and conserve our productive ecosystems, is part of our scientific and social responsibility. As per the mandate of NASI, it is a major issue of concern. Therefore, the basic idea of organising this symposium, when the 85th Annual Session of NASI is being held at Bhubaneswar (a coastal area), is to bring out the trends in aquatic ecosystem conservation, restoration and management including the hydrological, biophysical aspects, peoples participation and the role of non-governmental, educational and the governmental organizations with a focus towards future research needs; the role of ecosystem services in nation development are also going to be discussed. The scientific sessions would cover – Physical processes conditioning the Ecosystems along Indian coastline, Climate Change-Indian Ocean Perspective, Utilization of Marine Resources, Coral Microbiome: An unexplored Bioresource, Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in India: Advances, Potential and Strategies for Future Development, Chilka Lake – Ecosystems and Ecological Services, Blue Revolution in Coastal states, Anticipatory research for the benefit of Inland open water fisheries etc.

The Council of the Academy (NASI) has nominated Professor (Mrs.) Manju Sharma, former Secretary to the Govt. of India, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, as the Convener of this symposium. The program has been developed in consultation with many experts. We thank them for their valuable inputs.
Dear Sir/Madam,

We are happy to inform you that the 85th Annual Session of the National Academy of Sciences, India and Symposium on “Marine & Fresh Water Eco-systems: Role in National Development” will be held during December 6-8, 2015 at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar - 751 024 (Odhisha) India.

On behalf of The National Academy of Sciences, India, we have great pleasure in inviting you to attend these and participate in the deliberations.

Scientific Sessions

The Scientific Sessions will be held in two sections: Section of Physical Sciences and Section of Biological Sciences. The Physical Sciences Section will be presided over by Prof. Anurag Sharma (Sectional President - Physical Sciences, 85th Annual Session of NASI), Professor, Physics Department & Dean Academics, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi - 110016; Tel: (011) 26591350(O); Email: asharma@physics.iitd.ac.in; and Biological Sciences Section will be presided over by Prof. W.S. Lakra (Sectional President - Biological Sciences, 85th Annual Session of NASI), Director & Vice-Chancellor, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Panch Marg, Off Yari Road, Versova, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 061; Tel: (022) 2636404(O); Email: lakraws@hotmail.com; wslakra@cife.edu.in; wslakra@gmail.com.

The scientific papers are presented by the selected researchers/scientists in the scientific sessions; for which prior submission of the Abstract(s)/Paper(s) is necessary (for details please see the sub-heading “Abstracts”, given overleaf).

The National Academy of Sciences, India - Swarna Jayanti Puruskars, each comprising Rs.5000/= and citation, will be awarded to the young scientists (below the age of 35 years on 1.1.2016) presenting the best research paper(s) in the Sections of Physical and Biological Sciences.

Symposium

A Symposium on “Marine & Fresh Water Eco-systems: Role in National Development” will be held during the Annual Session. Presentation of papers in the Symposium would only be through invitation. The Convener of the Symposium is Prof. (Mrs.) Manju Sharma, NASI Distinguished Woman Scientist Chair & former Secretary to the Govt. of India, DBT, New Delhi.

All interested persons are invited to attend the Symposium and Scientific Sessions of Physical and Biological Sciences; however, other facilities will be available only to those who get themselves registered with the host institution as well as enroll themselves as Sessional Members. Fellows and Members of the NASI are exempted from paying the registration fee as well as Sessional Membership fee; for all others, the Sessional Membership fee is Rs.50/= (for scientists & stipendiary researchers) or Rs.30/= (for non-stipendiary researchers).

The Sessional membership fee should be sent to the Executive Secretary, The National Academy of Sciences, India by a Bank Draft or Account Payee Local/Multicity Cheque drawn in favour of ‘The National Academy of Sciences, India’. Payment in Cash/I.P.O/Money Order/Outstation Cheque will not be accepted.
Through the next Circular, the host institution (KIIT University, Bhubaneswar) would inform about the amount and date of receipt of Registration/Accommodation fee.

Privileges

Fellows and Members of the Academy and Sessional Members are entitled to attend the Session and other activities, submit papers for presentation in the Scientific Sessions, receive copies of Presidential Addresses, Abstracts of papers and other related material circulated during the Session. They will be entitled to rail travel at concessional rates as per Rules - scientists whose total emoluments/earnings do not exceed Rs.5,000/= per month are only entitled to the concession of return tickets in 2nd class. Those desiring to obtain Railway concession should write to the Executive Secretary referring the nature of their Membership.

Abstracts

The abstract(s) of paper(s) (not exceeding 200 words), along with one copy of full length paper for presentation in the Scientific Sessions should reach the Office of the Academy at 5, Lajpatrai Road, Allahabad - 211 002, India, latest by September 30, 2015. An author can submit up to a maximum of three papers including papers having more than one author. The advance copy of the abstract may also be sent by email on - nasi.allahabad1@gmail.com

Bonafide research scholars are required to get their abstract(s)/research paper(s) forwarded by the Supervisor and the Head of the Department/Institution. All abstracts/papers submitted for presentation will be screened. Authors whose papers are accepted will be informed about the mode of presentation (Oral or Poster) at the earliest. The decision of the Academy would be final for the acceptance/rejection; and also for the mode of presentation.

The Academy would pay, on production of Xerox copy of railway tickets, 2nd class rail fare, by shortest route (both ways) only, to the author who would present the paper provided his/her travel has not been subsidized by any other agency.

Publication of full length Papers

In case it is desired that a paper presented at the Annual Session be considered for publication in the journals of the Academy, viz. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, India/National Academy Science Letters, it must be submitted online (for details please see the website of the Academy), as per prescribed procedure of submission. These papers will undergo the usual processing and refereeing as per rules of the Academy. Papers sent for the Session will not be automatically considered for publication in the journals of NASI.

Signing of the Fellow’s Register

The Fellows who have not signed the Fellow’s register so far can sign the register in the Fellow’s meeting, to be held during the 85th Annual Session.

We once again extend a very cordial invitation to you to participate in the 85th Annual Session and Symposium on “Marine & Fresh Water Eco-systems: Role in National Development” at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar.

Yours truly
Sd/ U.C. Srivastava
Sd/ Veena Tandon
General Secretaries,
NASI, Allahabad

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The host city & institution:

Bhubaneswar has a unique position among the cities of India. A temple town with series of ancient sandstone temples, heritage ponds and water tanks, its wealth of monuments is testament to an ancient continuous architectural and historical heritage covering over 2,000 years from the 3rd century BC to the 15th century AD representing most of the important dynastic changes over the period. Bhubaneswar is dubbed the “Temple City” - a nom-de-plume earned because of the 700 temples which once stood here. It still boasts of a cluster of magnificent temples, constituting virtually a complete record of Kalinga architecture almost from its nascence to its culmination. ‘Ekamra Kshetra’ comprises the area of the old city of Bhubaneswar that forms the centre of this temple architecture and is considered a Hindu holy city.

The 85th Annual Session of NASI and Symposium on “Marine & Fresh Water Eco-systems: Role in National Development” will be held at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. The host institution is a multidisciplinary University respected worldwide due to its rich educational culture of excellence. It sprawls over 25 sq.km. area; and one of the most prestigious universities of India.

KIIT University, Bhubaneswar – 750024, India

For further details about the KIIT University, you may please contact-Prof. P.P. Mathur, Vice-Chancellor, KIIT, University, Bhubaneswar - 751 024 (Ph.91-674-2725171; email : vc@kiit.ac.in; ppmathur@kiit.ac.in).