



ENVIRONEWS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BOTANISTS

Newsletter

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Detailed information about ICPEP-5 including Abstract Book, Souvenir, Directory of delegates, Picture gallery has been uploaded on ISEB website: <http://isebindia.com> from where the same can be accessed.

Message from Director General, CSIR for ICPEP-5

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow and International Society of Environmental Botanists (ISEB) based at CSIR-NBRI are jointly organizing the Fifth International Conference on Plants and Environmental Pollution (ICPEP-5) during February 24-27, 2015 at CSIR-NBRI Campus, Lucknow, India.



One of the major problems faced by mankind today, the 'environmental pollution' has grown to alarming levels in the past few years. In the last century, the fast pace of industrialization, increasing demand for food, shelter and energy and over exploitation of natural resources, were mainly responsible for creating the problem of environmental pollution in developed countries. It's time now that this problem is addressed in right earnest and in an inclusive manner. Also, an enabling framework needs to be put in place for the same.

Vegetation plays an important role in cleansing the environment. There are research based evidences about the same. Further, deciduous plants are found to absorb about a third more of a common class of air-polluting chemicals than previously thought of. Thus plants have a very vital role in cleansing the environment. They being the natural resource could be gainfully utilized to address the pollution related problems faced by our ecosystem.

I hope that ICPEP-5 will provide an interactive platform for the in-depth deliberations on the burning problems of environmental pollution and the role of plants for its amelioration. This would be leading to learning as well from each other's experience.

I wish the ICPEP-5 a grand success and congratulate all the members of CSIR-NBRI and ISEB family for this extremely relevant and timely initiative.

New Delhi
February 25, 2015


(M.O. Garg)

Attention Environews readers & delegates of ICPEP-5: ICPEP 2015: XIII International Conference on Plants and Environmental Pollution, November 5-6, 2015, Cape Town, South Africa

Dear Colleagues

Another international conference, with precisely the same title as ours, is being organized in Cape Town, South Africa during 5-6 November 2015. Interestingly, this is the 13th ICPEP, while ours was the 5th in this series and, surprisingly, none of us, neither our delegates from overseas was aware about overlapping of the conference title

ISEB, CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, India.

Comments

I. Did you try to find out whether the previous 12 ICPEP conferences of that series really existed? I am asking because it seems to be a recent novel type of dishonest behavior of new conference organisers to take the name of an already existing, usually well-known meeting and set up a new meeting with exactly the same title and a seemingly (but non-existing) long history. I am writing this after a few days ago ASPB (American Society of Plant Biology) sent a mail to all its members that a "Plant Biology 2015" was set up (<http://plantbiology.conferenceseries.com/>) copying the name of the ASPB conference (<http://plantbiology.aspb.org/>), as it seems intentionally misleading potential attendees of the real ASPB meeting. The same problem exists with the ICBIC (International Conference on Bioinorganic Chemistry), which is a very renowned conference series (taking place every second year in a different city around the world, this year in Beijing <http://icbic17.org/>) that was now imitated by some unknown organiser setting up a

parallel "annual" conference with the same name in Dubai (<https://www.waset.org/conference/2015/03/dubai/ICBIC>) supposedly the 13th of a series, but the previous 12 never existed.

II. I just checked for the organizers of those conferences with identical names, and this makes clear that it is intentional misleading. The "ICPEP 2015" in Capetown (<http://waset.org/conference/2015/11/cape-town/ICPEP>), as well as an "ICPEP2015" in Singapore (<https://www.waset.org/conference/2015/03/singapore/ICPEP>), and the "ICBIC2015" (<https://www.waset.org/conference/2015/03/dubai/ICBIC>) are supposedly organised by "waset.org", a "World Agency of Science, Engineering and Technology". Obviously that agency is specialising on making fake conferences using the name of well-established conferences and pretending a long history of their own conferences. The organiser of the fake "Plant Biology 2015" conference in San Antonio, "omicsonline", is also known for aggressive spamming with a lot of advertisements for diverse dubious conferences and journals (see e.g. <http://milospjanic.blogspot.cz/2011/10/is-omicsonline-scientific-scam.html>). I don't know anyone who attended any conference of either "waset.org" or "omicsonline", so I don't know whether the "conferences" actually take place or only take registration fees.

Prof. Hendrik Küpper

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LETTERS

The accelerated pace of pirated academic book production (including Botany, Agriculture, Life Sciences, Environmental Sciences) in the Indian subcontinent has been seriously plaguing the growth of the science publication sector for both private and public enterprises. The academic book publishing industry being a non-organized sector has been hit irreparably hard by this piracy wave across the subcontinent for the past several decades. This not only denies dedicated authors from their well earned

royalties and publishers in reducing their profit margins; but, also denies the government from substantial erosion of revenue earnings through loss of credible sales and income tax. The piracy factor has been reducing opportunities of big investments. Both the government and the concerned industry need to work together in well coordinated efforts in monitoring, regulating, arresting and legally penalizing those who are involved. Use of holograms and other anti-piracy measures need to be strictly applied to curb this

malpractice. Overall awareness is the most important tool that could possibly help in slowly reducing this evil practice. On the other hand, it also clearly demonstrates that the production of academic books are way below the demands and the market prices relatively high for students and researchers (target consumers) to afford buying authentic copies and opting for pirated versions. The industry also needs to look for initiatives in keeping the market price within affordable reaches of the target consumers. I sincerely believe that all of us need to work together on a common platform to support the industry as well as the economic priorities of students, academics and researchers for quality academic book production in the nation for the purpose of propagating the opportunities of education as well as safeguarding economic interests.

Saikat Kumar Basu

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My very best wishes for the success of Fifth International Conference on Plants and Environmental Pollution (ICPEP-5). I was the Keynote speaker at ICPEP-4 and had a wonderful time. I express my deep gratitude for the delightful hospitality that was offered to me during my visit. I made many good friends. I want to congratulate National Botanical Research Institute in Lucknow and the International Society of Environmental Botanists for their vision in advancing scholastic interactions. I also want to congratulate the organizers for providing an international forum to discuss all aspects of environmental-biospheric interactions. I feel gratified that I have been a part of ICPEP. Wherever we live, we are ultimately dependent on the global environment which influences, directly and indirectly, every aspect of our daily lives and the conditions of life on our planet. So there can be few more important tasks than to seek to understand and respond to the environmental changes including climate that appear already to be having a profound impact on the fine balance between the environment and the biosphere/ecosystems. From the Rig Vedas we learn the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means the whole universe is one family. This principle is crucial in guiding us to think of protecting the global commons whether it be the environment, or plants and vegetation, or climate, or maintenance of peace. If we are one family, then the Earth is our home. Learning to safeguard that home, to

provide a healthy and a sustainable world, is perhaps the greatest gift we can give to the future generations. This International Conference represents a significant milestone in helping frame some of these critical, relevant, and timely issues.

I wish you every possible success with the ICPEP-5 and will look forward to hearing about your deliberations.

Dr. Viney P. Aneja

Professor Air Quality
Professor Environmental Technology
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We recently attended ICPEP-5 Lucknow, India during 24th-27th February, 2015. On behalf of Pakistani delegates we want to commend you on a very successful event. We are pleased to acknowledge all the members of the organizing committee for being very hospitable and kind to us during our whole tour. It was an excellent opportunity for us to make new friends and had discussions including exchange of research experiences, ideas and suggestions with renowned researchers and practitioners all over the world. We know you spent many months to plan this event and it showed. The organizing committee deserves an appreciation on this grand success.

Prof. Aliya Rehman

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Many thanks for sending me an invitation to attend the Inaugural function of the '5th International Conference on Plants and Environmental Pollution', being held on 24th February, 2015 at NBRI, Lucknow. I have been associated with the ISEB ever since its inception. As I have undergone a cataract operation 3 days ago, I am not able to attend the Conference. Through this letter, I convey my best wishes for the successful deliberations of the Conference, which will provide immense opportunities for exchange of ideas and find solutions to mitigate pollution of various kinds. With best wishes to all those who have been working ceaselessly for this noble cause.

Prof. H. Y Mohan Ram

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This is just to say thank you for your kind hospitality during my stay in Lucknow. I really enjoyed participation in the conference, and learned a lot of new things. ISEB, with the blessings of NBRI, should keep up the activities. Before coming to Lucknow, I had participated in another almost similar meeting on Genomics, at ICRISAT. They have uploaded all the photographs of the meeting. You may consider the same for ICPEP-5. It would help those who could not participate.

Dr. C.R. Bhatia

Ex-Secretary, Dept. of Biotechnology,
Govt. of India, Navi Mumbai, **India**
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Many congratulations to you and other members of organizing committee for successfully organizing the conference of such scale. I would like to thank you especially for your efforts to make my stay comfortable during the conference. It was a successful and enlightening visit for me.

Dr. Lhanjey Phuti Bhutia

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Congratulations for the successful organization of the event. It all went very well. Your efforts and hard work is worth appreciation. It is indeed a craft.

Prof. Seshu Lavania

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It was a great pleasure to attend the 5th International Conference on Plants and Environmental Pollution at Lucknow, India, after 19 years. I thank each and everyone who worked tirelessly to make this conference a great success. I also appreciate the hospitality extended by everybody to me during the conference. I was able to convey my research work to different scientists, research scholars from different localities during this conference. I was also able to listen to and discuss various issues related to my research work with fellow delegates. I am looking forward to being associated with you in the future.

Dr. Seema Shirish Ghate

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It was nice to meet you in Lucknow during ICPEP-5 Conference. You have given lot of time to organize this Conference. I wish to thank you the time and trouble that you have put in for us. With all good wishes.

Prof. A.K.M. Nazrul-Islam

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It was very good to meet you during 5th ICPEP in Lucknow. It was my first visit to ISEB & CSIR-NBRI. I am very much impressed by the kind of research NBRI is doing in the country. I visited the the Herbarium Section that has been maintained so well and thanks to the courtesy of Dr Tariq Husain who took me there by sparing his valuable time. Your introductory address during inauguration session of ICPEP-5 on 24th February was too good and crisp. I tried to meet you on 27th Feb after Prof. Varshney's lead lecture but I could not locate you and then I had to leave for Aligarh. My stay at NBRI Guest House was comfortable and I look forward to seeing you in future. It was overall a wonderful experience participating in the event.

Dr. Satish Kumar

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I seek an apology as I may not be able to attend this event due to unavoidable circumstances. But certainly I would like to be part of ISEB to take part in future endeavors of this society. I wish this conference all success.

Dr. Neel Kant Sharma

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I am sure that the Conference was very interesting. It is very pity that I didn't find a financial support and haven't possibilities to take part at the Conference. But I have question: published or not my abstract "Conservation of desert-steppe diversity in European Russia"?

Dr. Irina Safronova

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Fifth International Conference on Plants and Environmental Pollution (ICPEP-5) A Report

Nandita Singh

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Over the years, environmental pollution has become a major problem for a number of reasons. The growth of human population and industrialization has led to resource competition among humans over land use change, deforestation or over harvesting, expansion of urbanization, which causes a negative impact on biodiversity of different habitats, forest cover, forest growth and ecosystem services. Additionally, the continuous rise in temperature, a sharp increase in harmful gases, sea level rise, stress of nutrient and water

availability may increase the negative impacts on different processes in earth and human systems. To discuss these and many other environmental issues at an international forum necessitated for organization of Fifth International Conference on Plants and Environmental Pollution (ICPEP-5) during 24th to 27th February 2015. The conference was jointly organized by International Society of Botanists (ISEB) and CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, India. The conference was formally inaugurated on 24th

February, 2015 by the Chief Guest, Prof. Y.S. Rajan, Honorary Distinguished Professor, Indian Space Research Organization, Bengaluru, India in the presence of over 500 delegates from India, USA, Poland, Sweden Czech Republic, Egypt, Pakistan, Bangladesh & U.A.E. Prof. Rajan in his inaugural address, shared with the audience, latest information on various fields of science like space-based earth observations, natural and herbal products, soil biology, invasion biology, biodiversity, farming and deforestation etc. and discussed the need for collaborative approach and intensifying the research in various areas. Dr. C. S. Nautiyal, Director CSIR-NBRI & CSIR-IITR and President ISEB, presided over the function and welcomed the guests and delegates. On this occasion, Prof. V. S. Ramamurthy, former secretary DST, the Guest of Honour, in his brief address conveyed his blessings to ISEB and ICPEP-5. He emphasized the need to extend scientific information to common people for the development of the country. Dr. K. J. Ahmad, Secretary ISEB and organizing Secretary ICPEP-5 explained the genesis of ISEB and the purpose of holding ICPEP-5.

Before the formal deliberations, the delegates observed two minutes' silence to pay homage to two distinguished officials of ISEB/ICPEP namely, Dr Prakash Chandra (India) and Prof. Sagar Kurpa (U.S.A), who passed away after the last conference.

Scientific sessions followed the inaugural function. The conference program addressed the pressing problems of environmental stresses and the role of plants in combating them. The other important environmental issues deliberated upon included global climate change, freshwater problem, dwindling forests, biodiversity losses, emergent ecological disturbances on plants, environmental issues and other factors in environmental plant relation.

The deliberations during the conference revolved around the ten themes:

1. Climate Change
2. Environmental Biotechnology
3. Plant Microbe Interaction
4. Contemporary Environmental Issues
5. Plant Response to Environmental stress
6. Bioindication and Bioremediation
7. Environment and Biodiversity
8. Energy Biofuel
9. Environmental Impact Assessment
10. Eco-education

One special session devoted to Prof. H. S. Srivastava Foundation for Science and Society was also organized and Prof. Hendrik Kupper, Biology Center of the Czeck Academy of Sciences, delivered the Prof. H. S. Srivastava Memorial lecture. A special talk was delivered by Prof. Geeta Gandhi Kingdon, President and Coordinator, City Montessori School, Lucknow, India was delivered on "Illustration from a School Environment Project" highlighting the School Environment project and discussed how scientists can help in environmental awareness and technological changes.

The keynote lectures were given by leading researcher in relevant fields. In Climate Change session, Prof. V.R. Reddy, USDA-Agriculture Research Service, USA, deliberated on "Climate Change and Global Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities". The presentation outlined some examples of the development and use of the crop productivity and to mitigate the harmful effects of adverse environmental variables on natural resources, both in the current and in the future changing environmental ecenario. In another keynote presentation Prof. Om Prakash Dhankher, Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences, University of Massachusetts, USA discussed how engineered plants can be used for detoxification and phytoremediation of arsenic and production of Biofuels and Bioproducts on contaminated sites. Dr. Dipanker Chakraborti, Director (Research) School of Environmental Studies – Jadavpur University, India, through his keynote talk highlighted the widespread risk of arsenic and fluoride on health, socio-economic implications and mitigation strategies for safe water availability. Prof C.R. Bhatia former Secretary, Department of biotechnology spoke about the sustainable crop production with increasing population and diminishing natural resources. He emphasized on sustainable agriculture. In his keynote talk Prof. C.K. Varshney, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU and Distinguished Adjunct Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, focused on food security to feed 9.5 billion humans in 2050, which included declining land availability, soil erosion, CO₂ emission, climate change etc. He also focused on topospheric ozone and its impact on plants. Mr, Mahendra Modi, ADG, SIT U.P., Lucknow, India deliberated on the innovative methods for Rain Water Harvesting and models for water conservation, recharging and development.

The session on Climate Change" dealt with the impact of climate change on biodiversity shift and extinction.

The focus was on raising CO₂ concentration and its impact on growth and yield of crops and forests and the assessment through geospatial modeling.

The lectures in the session “Environmental Biotechnology” dealt with the biotechnological approaches to combat environmental stresses which included heavy metal, salt, biotic biopolymer, etc.

The third session was “Plant Microbe Interaction” emphasizing the role of microbes in reducing stress (both biotic and abiotic) induced in crops. Researchers was also discussed on the microbial contribution to carbon sequestration.

The fourth session was devoted to the “Contemporary Environmental Issues” where matters related to development of eco-friendly technologies, sustainable agriculture, biopesticides, ecosystem services etc. were discussed.

The session of “Plant Response to Environmental Stress” focused on the interaction of different pollutants with the plant system.

The session of “Bioindication and Bioremediation” dealt with the importance of Bioremediation and role of different plants in reducing the contamination from water and soil. The importance of the biomonitoring of pollutants by plants like algae, lichen, mosses, microflora, ferns, water plants etc was also emphasized by several speaks .

In the seventh session, the lectures were focused on “Environment and Biodiversity”. There was mention on biodiversity scenario, conservation management and Environmental sustainability. Emphasis was also on role of ecosystems in protecting environment.

A session was also devoted to “Energy Biofuel” being an important talk of the day. Discussion was on the biofuels – impact on ecosystem services, biodiversity and human well-being.

The ninth session dealt with the assessment of environmental impact on natural resources. Various models were presented which can be used for predicting and mitigating pollutants.

The talks on “Eco-education session took the audience to the new dimension in environmental sciences like Green Computing, Microbial Forensics, Environmental Information system, etc.

There was an enthusiastic participation of delegates in presenting their research findings through the posters. The posters were evaluated and twelve posters were awarded prizes for new concept and good presentation.

The Valedictory Session was organized after the

Scientific Sessions on the afternoon of 27th February, 2015 which was chaired by Dr. P.V. Sane, former Director of CSIR-NBRI and founder president of ISEB, Wherein, some distinguished delegates from different countries expressed their views about the outcome of the Conference. In the end Conference recommendations were presented and inputs were taken from the delegates.

ICPEP-5 RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. There is a need to focus our attention to geopolitical issues of the environmental concern especially Climate Change and Water Management
2. Develop and evaluate the comparative success of various cost-effective pollution mitigation strategies suited to and accepted by local community.
3. Initiate studies on ecosystem services, apparent today and in future and assess their broad tangible and intangible benefits so that the people and concerned authorities may become better convinced to conserve ecosystems.
4. Initiate ways to develop Global networking and linkages among botanical researchers in different countries to address common environmental issues.
5. Systematic studies need to be initiated on Plant Biodiversity as bulwark against environmental pollution and climate change.
6. Monitoring the spread of invasive alien plants and analysis of their impact on local biodiversity and ecosystem process.
7. To develop a strong mechanism to promote environmental education and awareness among young people and environmental literacy among the public through outreach.
8. Identification of suitable microbes and crop varieties for abiotic (including climate change) and biotic threat for enhanced productivity.
9. Strategic use of plant species for pollution abatement and for biofuel production.
10. There is a need to capture the benefits of “traditional knowledge” in plant research applying scientifically sound methodologies.
11. Organize “Sixth International Conference on Plant and Environmental Pollution ICPEP-6” during next 4-5 years to exchange information on the progress of work, based on the aforementioned recommendations.



Group Photograph of Participants of ICPEP-5

Glimpses of ICPEP-5



Glimpses of ICPEP-5



Glimpses of ICPEP-5



CONFERENCES

International Conference "Forestry: Bridge to the Future"

6-9 May, 2015; Sofia, Bulgaria
Associate Professor Milko Milev
University of Forestry
10, Kliment Ohridski Blvd, 1797 Sofia, Bulgaria
E-mail: forconf2015@abv.bg

National Conference on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Capacity Building

22-25 May, 2015, Srinagar, J&K, India
Contact: Dr Anita M. / Dr Annupama
NCCCB, 2015, Kashmir
E-mail: kashmir@gsrfindia.com

1st International Conference on Reforestation Challenges

3-6 June, 2015; Belgrade, Serbia
E-mail: jovana.devetakovic@sfb.bg.ac.rs
Website: <http://eventegg.com/reforestation-challenges-2015/>

27th International Congress for Conservation Biology

2-6 August, 2015; Montpellier, France
E-mail: iccb-eccb2015@agropolis.fri
Website: www.iccb-eccb2015.org/

Bioenergy 2015

2-4 September 2015; Jyväskylä, Finland
E-mail: bioenergy@benet.fi
Website: <http://www.bioenergyevents.fi/>

3rd International Conference: Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

1-2 October 2015, Aarhus, Denmark
Conference Secretariat
DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy
Aarhus University, Frederiksborgvej 399
Environment2015@dce.au.dk

8th ESP World Conference: Ecosystem Services for Nature, People and Prosperity

9-13 November 2015; Stellenbosch, South Africa
Contact: Martine van Weelden
E-mail: conference@es-partnership.org

BOOKS

Current Environmental Issues and Challenges

(Eds.) Cao, Giacomo and Orrù, Roberto
Springer 2014
ISBN 978-94-017-8776-5
Price: 69,99 €

Plant Virus-Host Interaction Molecular Approaches and Viral Evolution

(Eds) R.K. Gaur, Thomas Hohn and Pradeep Sharma
Elsevier 2014
ISBN: 978-0-12-411584-2
Price: USD 149.95

Climate Change and United States Forests

(Eds.) Peterson, David L., Vose, James M., Patel-Weynand, Toral
Springer 2014
ISBN 978-94-007-7514-5
Price: 99,99 €

Air Quality Management Canadian Perspectives on a Global Issue

(Eds.) Taylor, Eric, McMillan, Ann
Springer 2014
ISBN 978-94-007-7556-5
Price: 169,99 €

Global Environmental Change

(Ed.) Freedman, Bill
Springer 2014
ISBN 978-94-007-5785-1
Price: 539,00 €

Advances in Agronomy, 1st Edition

(Ed.) D.Sparks
Academic Press 2015
ISBN: 9780128021385
Price: USD 164.05

Conservation of Threatened Desert Plants

By Suresh Kumar, Chandan Singh Purohit
Scientific Publishers 2015
ISBN: 978-81-7233-878-7
Price: Rs. 975

Edible Medicinal and Non Medicinal Plants, Vol. 9

(Ed.) Lim, T. K.
Springer 2015
ISBN 978-94-017-9510-4
Price: 207,99 €

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