

Department of Environmental Studies



The Environmental Studies Department had organized a variety of events during this academic year. From establishing a green club to invited talk, presentation and publications to organizing of international conferences- the EVS calendar had its fill. It had organized two important international conferences, namely on Environment and Climate change, and science and religion. The interdisciplinary aspect of the subject was well displayed by the involvement of Department of Animation and Multimedia. The campus looked colourful with eco-friendly decorations. Plastics in all forms were avoided. The event brought students from humanities and science disciplines together. On a single day (25th September 2018) nearly 3000 students participated in this environmental education and awareness exercise. The theme of the summit was “Environment and Climate Change”. The Chief Guest & Keynote Speaker for the day’s programme, Dr. Sugata Hazra, Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University gave a presentation and talk on climate change and its multifaceted impact on the world at large and India and the Sunderbans in particular.

The second International Conference was on a unique subject, “Science and Religion” on February 18-19, 2018. It was a public discourse to the whole city of joy on “the Emerging Issues on the interface of science and religion”. We had an international speaker from Santa Clara University, Dr. Aleksandar Zecevic, Associate Dean of Engineering Department, speaking on “The Unknowable and the Counterintuitive”. The core values and the fundamental principles of science correlating with important religious concepts were well delivered by individuals having profound experience in the field of science and religion. All the faculty members teaching the foundation course in the college curriculum attended the

symposium and found it very productive, enriching their understanding on science and religion.

The feather to the cap of the department was added by Prof. Mahua Basu. She defended her research thesis on “Modulating Neurotoxic Effects of Chlorpyrifos by a Naturally Occurring Coumarin Scopoletin” in the Department of Environmental studies of Visva-Bharati Central University, Bolpur, Santiniketan. Now the department is with 100% doctoral degree holding faculty members.

Besides the conferences and the doctorate, the faculty members presented papers in various renowned institutions including the Oxford University. Between 6-9 December 2017, Dr. S. Xavier, was invited by the Oxford University to participate in a colloquial discourse on “Caring for our Common Home”. His presentation was titled as “Natural Resource Depletion And Environmental Ethics - From a Hydrological Perspective”.

On 8th August 2018, a Green Club in St. Xavier’s College Raghobpur Campus was inaugurated and a tree Plantation Programme was organized in association with Lions Club of Calcutta, BBD Bag, with the theme “Let’s Invest in Green Gold”. An invited talk titled “Why do we need to care about air pollution?” was organized on 18th August, 2018 at R. K. Hall. Dr. Sagnik Dey, Associate Professor of Centre for Atmospheric Science of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi was the invited speaker.

Paper Presentations and Publications

Dr. Sharad Dey presented a paper entitled “Spatio – temporal Variation of PM10 and Heavy Metals over an Urban Area in Eastern India” at 2nd Second World Clean Environment Summit organized by International Benevolent Research Foundation (IBRF) Kolkata in association with World Environment Foundation held during 16th – 18th July, 2018 at Science City, Kolkata, India and received Best Presentation Award. (In print.) ISBN: 978-81-928924-6-7.



S. Xavier, S.J. and **Prof. Shaunak Roy** presented a paper entitled "Pioneering Environmental Sustainability through Technological Innovation: A Case-Based Approach" at the International Conference on 'Sustainability Development – A Value Chain Perspective' organized by the Management Development Institute (MDI), Murshidabad during September 7-8, 2018. In Print an Edited Book published by Speaking Tiger Publications.

Manisha Guha, Nilanjan Das, Dr. Xavier Savarimuthu S.J. (2018): Infrastructure Assessment of Biomedical Waste Management facility at Health Care Establishments in Kolkata. Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Ecotoxicology and Environmental Sciences, New Delhi. (In print.) ISBN: 978-81-928924-6-7.

Nilanjan Das, Manisha Guha, Dr. Xavier Savarimuthu S.J. (2018): Teratotoxicity: Developmental Toxicity due to Environmental Toxicants. Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Ecotoxicology and Environmental Sciences, New Delhi. (In print.) ISBN: 978-81-928924-6-7.

N. Mukherjee, A. Yadav, A. Bhattacharya, A.K. Mitra and S. Xavier: "Development of Unique Rhizospheric Solid Organic Supplement for Better Crop Productivity and Biocontrol of Pathogens", International Management of Crop Diseases 2018. pp79-93. ISBN:81-7019-621-6.