



## *International Seminar on Environmental Pollution and Awareness – Celebration of World Environment Day 2019*



In 1972, the United Nations designated 5 June as World Environment Day to highlight that the protection and health of the environment is a major issue, which affects the well-being of people and economic development throughout the world. The celebration of this day provides us with an opportunity to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment. To commemorate this day, the *Department of Environmental Studies, Directorate of Distance Education (DDE), Rabindra Bharati University* organized an *International Seminar on Environmental Pollution and Awareness* on 09.06.2019 in collaboration with the *Department of Environmental Studies, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata*. Students and faculty of both regular and distance mode of the University enthusiastically participated to make this event a success.

The seminar was inaugurated by watering of a plant by Prof. (Dr.) Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Rabindra Bharati University, Prof. (Dr.) Ishani Naskar, Director, DDE, Rabindra Bharati University and other invited dignitaries. A *Stotra Path* by Mr. Pramit Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Sanskrit, DDE, RBU rejuvenated all attendees for active participation in the sessions ahead. The inaugural speech was delivered by the Director, DDE, Rabindra Bharati University who highlighted the significance of the day and the interdisciplinary nature of environmental issues. This was followed by the session of lectures by the invited dignitaries.



Prof. (Dr.) Ishani Naskar delivering the inaugural speech.



Felicitation of dignitaries

The session of invited lectures was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Rabindra Bharati University. Distinguished dignitaries presenting lectures in this session were Prof. (Dr.) Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, HOD, Department of Environmental Science, University of Calcutta, Prof. (Dr.) Pradip Kumar Sikdar, Registrar (Acting), Department of Environment Management, Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management and Dr. Debanjana Das, Visiting Research Scientist, The Center for Ocean-Land-

Atmosphere Studies, George Mason University, Virginia. All dignitaries were felicitated by students of Environmental Studies, DDE. Prof. Mukhopadhyay's lecture addressed pertinent environmental issues, ancient Indian aspects of environmentalism and conservation and the significance of the thoughts and initiatives of visionaries like Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and others. Prof. Sikdar enlightened the audience on different aspects of groundwater hydrology, the present global and national status of water resources and measures for conserving the same. Dr. Das presented a lecture on extreme weather events, their causes, modelling and management. Attending such informative presentations delivered by experts of relevant domains is a rare feast for students pursuing distance

education. All invited lectures inspired our students and motivated them to contribute in their own way for the betterment of environment and society.

This session was followed by parallel sessions of platform and poster presentations delivered by the Assistant Professors of different disciplines of DDE, RBU, and students pursuing Masters in Environmental Studies under both regular and distance modes. The platform presentations delivered by Mr. Tanmoy Kumar Pal and Ms. Arunima Dhar, Assistant Professor(s) of Social Work, Mr. Debajit Goswami, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Ms. Anwasha Haldar, Assistant Professor of Geography, Dr. Pallavi Mitra and Dr. Priya Banerjee, Assistant Professor(s) of Environmental Studies, and Mr. Amlan De and Ms. Aditi Mukhopadhyay, Academic Counsellor of Environmental Studies, DDE, RBU and students of DDE, RBU having field



Faculty and students of Department of Environmental Studies, Rabindra Bharati University



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experience were highly informative and depicted the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary environmental issues. This session was chaired by Prof. Jayanta Acharya, Former Director, DDE, Rabindra Bharati University. The parallel poster session was chaired by Prof. Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, HOD, Department of Environmental Science, University of Calcutta. Posters presented by students were evaluated by Prof. Mukhopadhyay and Prof. Sikdar. This instilled a competitive spirit among the students and provided them an opportunity to share their thoughts and understanding of relevant environmental issues. It also inspired the students to identify potential sectors for future

research. Winners of the competition were awarded with a token of appreciation as encouragement.

After the completion of all sessions, the formal vote of thanks for concluding the seminar was given by Prof. (Dr.) Nirmalya Narayan Chakrabarty, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Rabindra Bharati University. The event ended with the distribution of certificates to all attendees. This event provided a huge platform to the students pursuing distance education to participate in an academic event that encouraged them to learn and interact with experts from different domains of their subject. A huge number of student participants confirmed the success of this event and highlighted the need for similar other events to encourage and inspire students pursuing education in distance mode.



Assistant Professors of Environmental Studies, DDE, Rabindra Bharati University with invited speakers