



"Environment protection in people's hands"

Clarion call for national campaign to create public awareness of climate change issues

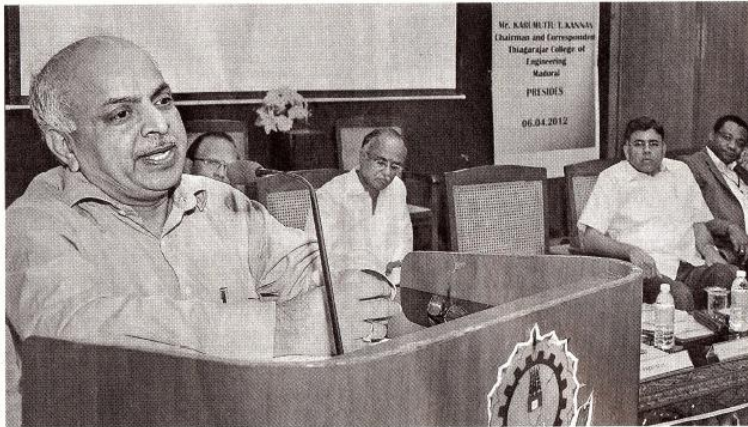
Special Correspondent

MADURAI: The Advisor to Ministry of Environment and Forests, G. V. Subrahmanyam, has said that people's participation in environment protection alone can bring the desired results more than any number of legislations brought by the Government.

"Protecting the environment is for our own future and not for anybody else. You can have any number of legislations...but the implementation is done by local people. Any campaign on climate change or environmental issues can be successful only when all of us come together," he said, while speaking at the Thiagarajar College of Engineering (TCE) here on Friday.

He was in the city to participate in an 'International Workshop on Climate Change and GIS' organised jointly by the TCE in association with Madurai Kamaraj University.

Dr. Subrahmanyam underlined that respecting the environment is nothing new to India because historically this land was known for conservation ethics which came to its people either through religion, culture or philoso-



WORDS OF WISDOM: G. V. Subrahmanyam, Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi, speaking at the international workshop on climate change and GIS at Thiagarajar College of Engineering in the city on Friday. - PHOTO: R. ASHOK

phy. "Nature and humans are inseparable and historically, we Indians have been respecting nature. The same spirit must be shown now because we have to protect environment for our own

future," he appealed.

The Ministry's Advisor also mentioned about the pollution caused by small scale industries across the country and the need to sensitise them on pollution control

strategies.

"Pollution, energy and climate change are all related issues. It is important for our people to understand the consequences of climate change since it will have an

impact on surface temperature, sea level and vegetation," he stressed.

Stating that the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been doing a lot in creating public awareness, Dr. Subrah-

manyam said that it was also deploying Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing to implement natural resources management scheme. Himalayan glacier and wetlands besides several other areas were mapped already.

National campaign

Karumuttu T. Kannan, Chairman and Correspondent, Thiagarajar College of Engineering, in his presidential address, has urged the Government of India to launch a nationwide campaign to tell people about the dangers to environment.

"India is not new to scary scenarios.

In the 60s and 70s, they said that India will not have food and then the Green Revolution happened thanks to the late C. Subramaniam. Next came the milk crisis and that was tackled by Kurien.

After the industrial revolution in the 80s, we had IT revolution in the last decade which made India e-enabler for the world. So, we will be able to demonstrate and rise up to the challenge of facing environmental issues too," Mr. Kannan expressed confidence.

Daniel Ayuk Mbi Egbe, Se-

nior Scientist, Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria, spoke on the importance of tapping solar energy while A. Sundaram, Head and Chairperson of School of Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, Madurai Kamaraj University, said that renewable energy revolution is the need of the hour.

V. Abhaikumar, Principal, TCE, in his welcome address, said that climate change has become a governance issue and it is of paramount importance to understand the issues in climate change.

K. Arunachalam, Head of Department (Civil Engineering), proposed the vote of thanks.

The workshop on climate change held at TCE was part of the three-day international workshop and conference on renewable energy and climate change-exploring opportunities for sustainable development-2012' being organised jointly by the Madurai Kamaraj University, Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Planters Energy Network and Centre for Awareness and Research in Environment, Pudukcherry, with the support of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy from April 5 to 7.

SOLAR SUCCESS

"God has blessed us with a sun, use it"

Power cuts are a daily problem in Cameroon just like in Tamil Nadu

Shastry V. Mallady

MADURAI: The city is now charged up with renewable energy talk thanks to an international workshop and conference being organised by the Madurai Kamaraj University and Thiagarajar College of Engineering from April 5 to 7.

A solar energy expert hailing from the African nation Cameroon, after seeing many similarities between India and Africa with regard to power cuts has given an important message based on his experience by saying- "God has blessed us with a sun, use it."

Dr. Daniel Ayuk Mbi Egbe, who is at present a senior scientist at Johannes Kepler University at Linz in Austria, is spearheading a solar revolution through the African Network for Solar Energy (ANSE) for which he is the global coordinator.

"I am originally from Cameroon and the environment here is similar to our place. Africa too has power cuts and we depend on generators," says Dr. Egbe. Dealing with a wide range of



Daniel Ayuk Mbi Egbe.

- PHOTO: R. ASHOK

issues connected to climate change and renewable energy, the ANSE coordinator only says that we have to 'use the sun and solve our problems.'

Power cuts are a daily problem in Cameroon while in Germany where this expert lived for several years, it is unheard of. "When Germany could succeed in tapping renewable energy to a great extent, why is it not possible for us to do? It makes us to sit and think," he said speaking at an international workshop in climate change in Thiagarajar College of Engineering on Friday. The ANSE is now actively engaged in campaign for

solar energy. According to him, the efforts have yielded good results as many European companies dealing with solar energy infrastructure including those from Germany have been coming forward to set up units in various African countries.

"Our network works at grass root level. We can discourse many things in conferences, but ultimately it is the people who matter. To spread our environment protection campaign, we use local radios and spread awareness messages in local language. Maybe, you can also try it out in Tamil language to reach out to rural people on the challenges of climate change and energy crisis," Dr. Egbe says.

In December last year, Cameroon Government took a policy decision that renewable energy must become an important part of energy sources. So, it accelerated the import of solar panels and other components required for tapping solar energy.

"Indian companies too can come and contact our network. There are members from many countries and India also can represent. Use the sun, tap solar energy and do good for the future of our children," he made an energetic plea. Interested persons can know more about ANSE through their website www.ansole.org.