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## “Switch over to renewable energy”

Staff Reporter

*Call to utilise wind, solar and geo-thermal energy sources*

Photo: M. Moorthy



**EARTH MATTERS:M. Ponnaivaikko, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, releases a book at a symposium in Tiruchi on Saturday. K.Ramaseshan, Deputy General Manager, ISRO, Mahendragiri, receives it.**

TIRUCHI: Optimum utilisation of renewable energy will bring about a lasting solution to environment-related problems, said S. Ingersol, Scientist, Division Head, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Mahendragiri.

Addressing a symposium on ‘Planet earth for young scientists’ organised by the Department of Marine Bio-Technology of Bharathidasan University and Kumari Arivial Peravai at the university on Saturday, Mr. Ingersol referred to the serious fall in genetic diversity, depletion in coral reef wealth; increase in the atmospheric carbon-di-oxide and decline in the taxonomic group of plants, animals and micro-organisms.

He said that action to increase one ecosystem service often resulted in the degradation of other services. For instance, efforts to step up food production involved increased use of water and fertilisers, or the expansion of the area of cultivated land.

These factors, he said, resulted in exploitation of water resources and forest cover.

Efforts must be taken to switch over to renewable energy.

Wind, solar and geo-thermal energy should be utilised. Transmission losses should be avoided through effective and smart use of energy.

“There should also be a marked change in our lifestyle with an eye on reduced consumption of energy,” he said.

Incidence of diseases among marine organisms and a rise in the emergence of new pathogens, which were harmful to human health, were some of the important issues which should be addressed immediately.

Incidences of floods and unforeseen natural calamities were on the rise in the last five decades due to changes in the eco-system.

Mr. Ingersol said that young scientists and technocrats should view these challenges as great opportunities and take all efforts to save the planet earth. "The current trend of damage being caused to the earth indicates that human race will be extinct on the planet," he warned, appealing to the scientists to come to the rescue of earth.

Study by students

Mullanchery M. Velaian, organiser, Kumari Arivial Peravai, Kanyakumari, said that 85 students from 35 schools in Kanyakumari district undertook the study on various topics, including coastal wealth and global warming.

The students, including 37 girls, participated in the symposium.

They would also conduct a study on rare medicinal plants, herbs and shrubs at the sprawling campus of the Bharathidasan University.

M. Ponnavaikko, Vice-Chancellor, underlined the need for bringing down carbon-di-oxide in the atmosphere. He appreciated the students who undertook a study on a wide range of ecology-related topics.

S. Sridharan, Controller of Examinations; K. Ramaseshan, Deputy General Manager, ISRO, Magendragiri; and M. Sundararaman, organising secretary of the symposium, were among those who spoke.

Earlier, Mr .Ponnavaikko released a book on 'Planet earth,' brought out by the Peravai.

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