

The Kolkata Mangrove Dialogue

In search of sustainable coping strategies for
freshwater & waste plastic management in the Indian Sundarbans

27th February, 2020



A Symposium organised by



Department of Geography & IQAC
Dum Dum Motijheel Rabindra Mahavidyalaya
(Affiliated under West Bengal State University)

&

soceo

27th February, 2020

BACKGROUND

Mangroves are unique and indispensable to the ecosystem of the Sundarbans. Habitats for large and diverse flora and fauna they also form vital carbon sinks helping to contain the effects of climate change. In spite of their importance, the mangrove ecosystems worldwide are under stress and the same is also true for the Sundarbans. Against this backdrop, Soceo, an Indo-German organisation working in the areas of social innovation and entrepreneurship, and Prasanta Chandra Mahalanabis Mahavidyalaya of West Bengal State University collaborated to organise the a-day symposium on the Mangrove Ecosystem of the Sundarbans in January 2019. In this symposium leading experts on the Sundarbans from several universities and other organisations took part, shared their knowledge and engaged in dialogues in order to look for a coping mechanism to save the ecosystem.

In continuation with the initiative of the previous year, the next one-day symposium will take place on 27th February 2020 in Kolkata. The symposium will host distinguished keynote speakers and will be attended by research scholars from relevant fields. Dum Dum-Motijheel Rabindra Mahavidyalaya of West Bengal State University and Soceo have collaborated this time to organize the symposium.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CURRENT SYMPOSIUM

Since the invention of plastic, the production and consumption have increased constantly all over the world. An alarmingly large proportion of this plastic has ended up in landfill or reached our oceans as waste. An impending danger of plastic waste playing havoc to normal ecosystem functions in global scale, evident from numerous researches. The Sundarbans with its river besieged and river mouth existence is highly vulnerable to plastic waste pollution on the land and in the water. The burgeoning urbanisation and the tourism activities have important role in determining the influx of plastic items and resultant plastic waste inside the area. Furthermore, the islands are bordered on the south by the Bay of Bengal, the factor that may transform unmanaged waste plastics quickly into ocean plastics. The current symposium intends to create a dialogue on this topic involving leading researchers in the field with a view to identifying sustainable coping strategies.

The Sundarbans, an archipelago of 102 islands, spread across India and Bangladesh, is crisscrossed by a complex network of rivers, rivulets and creeks. In the monsoon months the area receives substantial amount of precipitation. However, fresh water is a scarce resource in the Sundarbans due to several reasons including the brackish estuarine nature of its water channels. High salinity is also measured in the ground water in several parts of the Sundarbans along with arsenic contamination. The Indian part of the Sundarbans is home for approximately 4.5 million human beings. Research shows that the fresh water needs of the large population of the Sundarbans can be met through number of options such as, rainwater harvesting, desalination of groundwater, improvement of ailing water channels, et cetera. The symposium aims at facilitating a dialogue on this topic involving leading researchers with a view to identifying sustainable coping strategies.



27th February, 2020

Chief Patron

- * Prof. Basab Chowdhury
[Honourable Vice Chancellor, West Bengal State University]

Patron

- * Dr. Sandip Dasgupta
[Principal, Dum Dum Motijheel Rabindra Mahavidyalaya]

Organising Committee

- * Convener: Sujoy Chatterjee [Managing Director, SOCEO]
- * Jt. Convener: Dr. Suchita Dutta [Lecturer, Department of Geography]
Dr. Sarmistha Roy Chowdhury [Assistant Professor, Head,
Department of Geography]

Organising Secretary / Co-ordinator

- * Dr. Sabitri Dutta [Co-ordinator, IQAC / Assistant Professor, Department
of Economics]

Organising Jt. Co-ordinators

- * Ms. Sangeeta Chowdhury [Lecturer, Department of Geography]
- * Ms. Kaushani Banerjee Bhaduri [Lecturer, Department of Geography]
- * Ms. Dipasree Roy [Lecturer, Department of English]
- * Ms. Swatilekha Halder [Assistant Professor, Department of Economics]
- * Ms. Somali Roy Chakrobarty [Lecturer, Department of Geography]



27th February, 2020

SCHEDULE

* 09:30 am. Registration begins

* 09:45 am. Inaugural Session:

Welcome speech by **Dr. Suchita Dutta** (Lecturer, Department of Geography, Dum Dum Motijheel-Rabindra Mahavidyalaya)

Inaugural Speech by **Mr. Sujit Chowdhury** (President, Governing Body, Dum Dum Motijheel Rabindra Mahavidyalaya)

Speech by **Prof. Basab Chowdhury**, Honourable Vice Chancellor, West Bengal State University

* 10:30 am.

A brief orientation of the Symposium by **Mr. Sujoy Chatterjee** (Managing Director, SOCEO)

* 10:40 am. Key Note Speaker: **Dr. Anamitra Anurag Danda** (Senior Visiting Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata)

Topic: Water woes of the Sundarbans.

* 11:25 am. Question and Answer Session

* 11:40 am. Technical Session I - Opening note by SOCEO

* 11:50 am. **Prof. (Dr.) Pradip K. Sikdar**, Professor, Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management, Kolkata.

Topic: Improving Freshwater Provision based on wise use of Groundwater resources for Livelihood resilience in the Indian Sundarbans

* 12:25 pm. Question and Answer Session:

* 12:40 pm. **Dr. Tuhin Bhadra**, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Adamas University

Topic: Freshwater Availability and Demand in Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve, India

* 1:15 pm. Question and Answer Session

LUNCH BREAK 1.30 pm.

* 2:00 pm. Technical Session II - Opening note by SOCEO

* 2:10 pm. **Dr. Mahua Saha** (Ph.D.) Senior Scientist (Headquarters, Goa), Department of Chemical Oceanography (COD), CSIR – National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)

Topic: Microplastics pollution marine environment- Abundance, sources, impacts on biodiversity and mitigation

* 2:45 pm. Question and Answer Session

* 3:00 pm. **Prof. (Dr.) Shantanu Bhowmik**, Professor at the Department of Aerospace Engineering at School of Engineering, Head: Research and Projects, School of Engineering, Amrita Viswa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore.

Topic: Recycle technology of plastic waste to plastic composite product: To save environment and ecological balance

* 3:35 pm. Question and Answer Session

* 3:50 pm. Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks.



27th February, 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

- * Online Registration start: 13th February, 2020
- * Online Registration Closed: 20th February, 2020

REGISTRATION FEE:

All faculty members and research scholars or students of colleges / universities who are working on this research area are cordially invited you to attend the same. A certificate of participation will provide to all the attendee.

- * Delegates / Research Scholars / Students: **250 INR**(Registration fee includes kits and refreshment during the symposium)

The registration fee can be paid online through RTGS/NEFT/Direct transfer to the Bank

Account. The details are:

- * Beneficiary Name: **Soceo Cconsulting Services Private Limited**
- * Account No. **37756484476**
- * Branch: **Lake Gardens, Kolkata - 700 045**
- * IFSC Code: **SBIN0001802**
- * For payment related queries: **subarna.nath@soceo.de (+91 8777385080)**
- * For any other Symposium related queries: **geosarmistha@gmail.com (+91 9051353604), suchita.pps@gmail.com (+91 9874918873)**





soceo

The Kolkata Mangrove Dialogue

In search of sustainable coping strategies for
freshwater & waste plastic management in the Indian Sundarbans

27th February, 2020

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please mail the completed registration form to suchita.pps@gmail.com)

NAME: Prof./ Dr./ Mr./Ms./ Mrs.....

SEX: M/F..... FOOD HABIT: VEG/ NON-VEG.....

DESIGNATION:.....

AFFILIATION:.....

ADDRESS:

.....
.....

MOBILE NO.:..... EMAIL ID:.....

DETAILS OF THE BANK TRANSFER SLIP:

TRANSACTION ID:..... DATED:

Amount(Rs.):.....

BANK:

BRANCH:

DATE:

PLACE:

SIGNATURE

