

## **Inauguration of National Institute for Wetland Analysis, Research & Application (NIWARA) and celebration of World Wetland Day by TERI Mumbai**

Wetland preservation being one of the core areas for TERI's Mumbai centre, it organizes programmes and activities every year on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, to commemorate the World Wetlands Day (WWD). On a broader scale, TERI has undertaken the initiative to preserve more than 150 fresh water wetlands of Navi Mumbai in collaboration with CIDCO (City and Industrial Development Corporation). In a pioneering process, a historically significant lake at Khandeshwar, Navi Mumbai, India has been developed as a sustainable model. The two unique features of the project are integration of fund raising options and demonstration of eco-friendly technologies. The total area of the lake complex is around 4.7 hectares, comprising a dedicated wetland resource centre referred as `NIWARA, a theme park and a lake measuring 1.7 hectares.

This year a day long programme called "Jaltarang" was organized. A brief report of the same is given below.

### ***Inauguration of NIWARA***



NIWARA was inaugurated on January 25, 2010 by Mr Ashok Chavan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra in presence of Dr. R. K. Pachauri, Director General, TERI, Mr. G.S. Gill, MD, CIDCO, senior Government Officials and other dignitaries. The programme was well attended by senior government officials, municipal commissioners, researchers, students, teachers and other stake holders. The key sessions of the programme were as follows:

### ***Stakeholders' meet and Inauguration of Ravi- Taru***



Diverse stakeholders of wetlands were brought under the roof of NIWARA. Mr. Ganesh Naik, Hon'ble Minister of Non Conventional Energy, GoM graced the occasion as the chief Guest. Dy Secretary, Urban Development and Director of Municipal Administration, GoM were the guest of honors.



The session elaborated upon the plans of NIWARA in the areas of Policy, Research and Awareness pertaining to wetlands management. The end users of wetlands shared their views and experiences on the related issues. Case studies, challenges and solutions pertaining to wetland management were also discussed.

The Chief Guest inaugurated a first of its kind solar tree called Ravi-Taru which has been implemented in India as a part of the project, to promote and demonstrate applications of solar energy. The structure is designed to generate 100 Wp of energy with the help of solar panels. The harnessed energy is used to power LEDs set at the bottom of the 6 meter stainless steel structure. The tree is attracting lot of attention of the localities' and hence is successful in arousing interest and curiosity about renewable energy resources.

### *The poster dissemination activity*



TERI designed posters with catchy slogans pertaining to wetland and water management in Hindi, English as well as other regional languages. A record number of 10,000 hand made posters were prepared with the help of students from 20 educational institutions of Navi Mumbai. On WWD, TERI in collaboration with CIDCO and Transport department, Maharashtra disseminated these posters in a single day on Interstate vehicles like buses, trucks and tempos, thereby helping spread these messages far and wide across the

country, creating awareness about significance of fresh water reservoirs and water conservation.

### *Workshop on Recycle and Reuse*



The wetlands are often treated as wastelands. In addition to the non degradable floating waste in the form of Styrofoam and plastic, the lake bottom is often saturated with PoP (Plaster of Paris) accumulated in the form of idols of gods, lamps and other religious offerings. This workshop was organized with an objective to motivate youth to come up with innovative ways to recycle PoP and other waste material. In the first half of the workshop, the experts gave live demonstrations of successful applications of waste which was followed by a competition to make the best possible articles

using waste material. The students enthusiastically participated in all the activities.