

**WORKSHOP ON
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 2008-09**

Theme

“Climate Change”

Organized by ENVIS Centre

Sikkim State Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management

11th Feb, 2009

Forest Conference Hall

The workshop on National environment awareness campaign workshop was held on the 11th of February 2009 at forest conference hall. For this workshop all the participating NGO's and the officers from the Forest Environment & Wildlife management department were invited.



Mr. S.T.Lachungpa PCCF-cum-Secretary; Mr Manjit Singh Addl PCCF (Planning & Administration); Mr. T. R. Poudyal, Chairman (State Pollution Control Board) were present. Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri S.B.Subedi graced the presence as the chief guest.

The workshop started with the opening speech by the Mr K. B. Gurung, DFO (LU&E) welcoming all the participants and the officers from the department followed by the address by the PCCF cum Secretary, FEWMD. Mr S.T.Lachungpa mentioned the various indicators of Climate change happening in and around the state Sikkim. In his address, he mentioned about the Hydel power that is being set up in the state as an alternative to the excess usage of the thermal energy used by us. Most importantly he stated each one of us to “Think globally and act locally”, where our small act affects globally. Change in one part brings about a change in the other, a result of which clearly explains that we all are interdependent in terms of every aspect of the environment. The successful implementation of NEAC is dependent on the active participation of NGO.

HMF Shri S.B.Subedi expressed his contentment in the active participation of NGOs in this field. He also expressed his gratitude towards NGOs in working for the state and global cause. He urged the NGOs to take up the issue of environment protection and preservation as well as education of people on these lines consciously and actively. The Minister reminded everyone

the initiatives taken by the Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling and the government, in the environmental sector such as ban on the use of plastic, anti smoking campaign. However he expressed dissatisfaction at the unsatisfactory implementation of the policies. The minister stated that while the policies are formulated by the state there is an element of people's responsibility for their effective implementation. On incidence of forest fires Shri S B Subedi mentioned that the department was doing its best to control forest fires but due to negligence of some people and some miscreant, this type of incidence still continues; in this regard he directed the NGOS to create awareness among the people on the subject.



The technical session was taken over by Mr. C. Lachungpa, CCF (Lu & E); where he talked about the changes that are happening in the environment and the various indicators to this were that there is less snowfall as compared to the previous years. The evidences accounted for were melting of snow and breaking of glaciers, seasons changing prematurely, shifting of vegetation, reduction of migration of people from the colder region to the warmer area during winter. Strong message to the NGOs was to encourage themselves despite meager financial grant-in-aid and act as building blocks in environment conservation in the society.

Towards the end was the interactive session with the NGOs. One of the NGOs stated that the resource material being provided by the department should also be published in various local languages. Workshops on half yearly basis was also urged by the NGOs. There was a Healthy interaction among the NGOs and the resources persons. The zeal



among the NGOs in betterment of their area was reflected in the interactive session. The presence of the HMF Shri S.B.Subedi gave the workshop a good momentum. The whole workshop turned out to be fruitful since the main motive of the workshop was realized.