



Multidisciplinary Oceanographic Observations for Coastal Zone Management for officials of State of Gujarat



Gujarat Ecology Commission in association with National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) organised a training program - "Multidisciplinary Oceanographic Observations for Coastal Zone Management for officials of State of Gujarat" from 30th July to 9th August 2012 at NIO campus, Goa. The training covered major topics like Geological Processes, Coastal Geomorphology, Coastal Erosion, Geological and Geophysical exploration tools and techniques to study seabed and sub-seabed of coastal region, Weather and Climate of coastal water, Remote Sensing in coastal zone waters, Coastal Biodiversity, Coastal aquaculture, Bio-invasion and ballast water management, Coral Reefs-impact & monitoring, Tsunami early warning system etc. The training program included lectures, lab work and interactions with the experts of NIO, Goa for enhancement of knowledge and better understanding of participants with regards to coastal zone management. Total 30 participants from Gujarat, West Bengal and Odisha SPMU participated in the training. This included participants from Gujarat Forest Department, Gujarat Project Executing Agencies, Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) and Gujarat Coastal Zone Management Authority.



An Inaugural function was held on 30th July 2012, which was chaired by Shri. Vivek Wadekar IRS, National Project Director, NPMU, SICOM. Other delegates present were; Shri. C.H.Pandya IFS, Director, GEC; Shri Bharat Pathak, IFS, Director, GEER Foundation, Dr. S.R.Shetye, Director, NIO and Dr.A.K.Chaubey, Chief Scientist, NIO.

In the Inaugural Function, Dr.A.K.Chaubey welcome all delegates and gave a brief introduction about the training course, its design and expected outcome. The program was declared open by the lamp lighting ceremony





Dr. S.R.Shetye, Director, NIO gave a brief introduction to NIO and the work undertaken by the Institute. He elaborated about the significance of oceanography in coastal zone management.

Shri. C.H.Pandya, IFS, Director, GEC gave a brief introduction about Gujarat Ecology Commission and Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project. He elaborated about the importance of the training component under the ICZM Project.



Shri. Bharat Pathak, IFS, Director, GEER Foundation, had given a brief introduction about the GEER Foundation and its role. He also appreciated the importance of the training for capacity building of officials of Gujarat govt. and emphasized on its role for better implementation of the ICZM Project in Gujarat

Shri. Vivek Wadekar, IRS, National Project Director, NPMU appreciated the training program and encouraged the participants. He elaborated about the role and importance of conservation & sustainable development in India in the perspective of the Rio summit held in 1992. He also applauded the efforts of Gujarat SPMU in bringing together participants from various departments for the training and stressed on the need for a similar kind of integrated approach towards capacity building as part of the ICZM Project.



Director, NIO delivered a lecture on Introduction to Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project and briefed about the importance of coastal zone management perspective.

On the concluding day of the training i.e. on 9th August 2012, a valedictory function was conducted, which was chaired by Shri.A.K.Verma, IFS, Member Secretary, GEC & Project Director, ICZMP Gujarat. Other delegates of the function were Dr. S.R.Shetye, Director, NIO and Dr.A.K.Chaubey, Chief Scientist,NIO



Shri. A.K.Verma, explained about the importance of the training program with respect to the ICZM Project. He urged the participants to implement the learnings from the training in their own field for better coastal zone management.

Dr. A.K.Sahoo, Ecologist, SPMU Odisha and Shri. Y.A.Tai, Executive Engineer, GPCB shared their experiences and the key learnings about the training program. They also gave thanks to the various resource persons, NIO and GEC for organising the training. The participants also expressed a need to include a field visit which would have given a practical experience about coastal zone management issues. The training concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants.



Feedback

The participants have appreciated the uniqueness of the workshop and the immense knowledge imparted in a matter of few days by the trainers of NIO. Lectures on Coastal Geomorphology, erosion and Remote Sensing in coastal waters were specially appreciated. The lab exercise conducted during the workshop related to analysis of various data was also considered to be exceptionally informative by all the participants.

Organising similar trainings on a regular basis for capacity building of even more technical officers was one of the suggestions given by the participants. The participants also suggested that a field visit would have been an added experience.