

Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting held on 21st July 2006

To take stock of the achievements and shortcomings of the Envis Centre of the Department of Environment (DoE), Government of Tamil Nadu an ENVIS advisory committee meeting was held on July 21st, 2006 at the Mini conference hall, Panagal buildings, DoE, Chennai. The meeting was chaired by Dr. D.Bandyopadhyay, Director, ENVIS Secretariat, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. The following advisory committee members were present at the meeting.

1. Dr D. Bandyopadhyay, Director, ENVIS, MoEF, GOI
2. Dr K. Ranganathan, Member Secretary, Loss of Ecology, GOI
3. Thiru. A. Mohan, Deputy Director General, NIC, Chennai
4. Dr (Mrs). Nanditha Krishna, Hon. Director, CPRECC
5. Dr K. Venkataraman, Member Secretary, NBA
6. Dr V.N. Rayadu, Deputy Director, TNPCB

Thiru P.C. Tyagi I.F.S, Additional Director, DoE introduced the advisory committee members and briefed the activities of ENVIS Centre. Dr. C. Thomson Jacob, S.P.O, ENVIS Centre of the DoE made a detailed presentation of the ENVIS activities and presented the action plan for the year 2006-07. The advisory committee members have suggested following points for improving the ENVIS activities.

Dr. D. Bandyopadhyay:

- He has suggested to include State relevant Environment related information in the ENVIS website
- ENVIS website should create reliable & automatic information along with source
- Envis centre should have details about query responded/ month wise query responded/ query statistics and feedback service etc.,
- Database of the DoE projects could be linked; the ENVIS centre should provide referral services instead of generating primary information
- Web Hit statistics should be provided over a period of time
- Sector wise GIS map may be provided

.2.

- He has suggested us to provide secondary data information along with the source rather than providing primary information.
- Suggested to include the list of Colleges/Universities offering Environmental courses in Tamil Nadu. Activities done by the parent institutions should not be the mandate of the ENVIS centre. He laid stress on popularizing the ENVIS website through awareness programme and media
- He has requested to provide DA to the Advisory committee members from the ENVIS funds provided for the department.
- He emphasized on including the feedback form for better planning.

Dr. K. Venkataraman:

- Suggested to provide link to Lichen database available in the MSSRF website
- Emphasized on creation of database on Bio resource available in Tamil Nadu
- He stresses to include information on scheduled species
- Requested ENVIS centre to exhibit the distribution of floral and faunal species through thematic maps.

Dr. Mrs. Nanditha Krishna:

- District wise waste land maps should be provided
- ENVIS website should provide distribution maps of crop, floral and faunal diversity of Tamil Nadu
- Data on cyclone to be added
- Emphasized to include the local names of the floral and faunal species available in the website.
- She also said that State/District specific environmental laws should be included in the Envis website.
- Clearance of new environmental projects may be published in the website
- An interactive website like Wikipedia may be incorporated in the ENVIS centre website
- E-mail may be sent to all the user groups about the activities of the ENVIS Centre to increase the Web hit
- Individual raising environmental queries should be acknowledged and answered immediately

.3.

- Suggested to include e-learning modules for schools students, she has assured that CPREEC will help us to prepare the Learning modules for the school students and requested us to visit their centre for the possible collaborative work
- CPREEC website should be linked to the NGC website

Dr. K. Ranganathan:

- ENVIS Centre may provide link to the environment standards (Ambient air and water quality etc.,) available with TNPCB
- List of Environmental Research carried out in College/Universities in the form of PhD thesis may be included in the ENVIS website
- Information on environmental cases (legal issues) and judgments delivered pertaining to the State of Tamil Nadu and important National case may be screened from the judiciary website and incorporated in the ENVIS website

Thiru. Mohan, NIC:

- He has informed that there is a Judiciary website available (www.judis.nic.in). Envis Centre can cull out legislative information(High Court judgements) related to environment and assured that NIC will help Envis centre to identify environment related information pertaining to the state of Tamil Nadu
- He has assured that NIC will support ENVIS centre to popularize and locate information related to environment and mapping environment related information
- He also highlighted that ENVIS centre has linked the sector wise Environmental statistics in their website from the benefit of the user groups from the Statistics Hand Book – 2005.

Dr.V.N.Rayadu:

- He has agreed to provide Environment quality information of Tamil Nadu to the ENVIS Centre
- Requested to send email to the user group to increase the web hit
- Popularize the ENVIS website