

Kerala Bamboo Fest 2009
Exhibition & Seminar
December 10 to 13, 2009 - Town Hall, Kochi

The Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Kerala in association with Kerala State Bamboo Mission is organizing 'Kerala Bamboo Fest' since 2004. Bamboo Fests were organized at Town Hall, Kochi during 2004, 2005, 2007 & 2008 and at Kozhikode during 2006 as part of Malabar Shopping Festival.

The 6th edition of 'Kerala Bamboo Fest' was organized at Town Hall, Kochi from December 10 to 13, 2009 with the support of National Bamboo Mission, New Delhi. Technical seminars on 'Bamboo Nursery Management' and 'Bamboo Product Development' were also conducted concurrent to the Fest. Forest Department, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Kerala State Bamboo Corporation etc. associated with Kerala State Bamboo Mission for making the event a grant success.

The Fest was formally inaugurated by Shri. Elamaram Kareem, Hon'ble Minister (Industries & Commerce) on December 10, 2009 in the meeting presided over by Prof. Mercy Williams, Worshipful Mayor, Kochi. A CD Rom on Bamboo Music 'Bamboo Symphony - Music of the wind', brought out by Manorama Music and the 'Bamboo Fest Directory' were released in the function. Shri. Dominic Presentation, Member of Legislative Assembly delivered special address and Shri. T. Balakrishnan IAS, Principal Secretary (Industries & Commerce) delivered key note address. Shri. K. A. Chackochan, Chairman, Kerala State Bamboo Corporation; Shri. Kamesh Salam, Director, Cane & Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) & President, World Bamboo Congress; Shri. Sudhir Kumar Panda, Advisor, National Mission on Bamboo Application (NMBA), New Delhi felicitated the programme. Shri. T.O. Sooraj IAS, Director (Industries & Commerce) welcomed the gathering and Shri. V. Rajagopal, Chief Executive Officer, K-BIP delivered vote of thanks.

The event showcased products such as Handicrafts, Furniture, Wood substitutes, Building, construction & structural applications, Industrial products, Specialized Bamboo processing machinery/techniques, Decorative & artistic products, Research & applications as well as publications. Exhibition stalls were set up to display various products made from Bamboo, Reed,

Rattan and Screw pine. Individual Artisans, Master craftsman, NGOs, SHGs, Small Scale Industries, Government controlled institutions, Machinery manufacturers and organizations from outside the State working in the Bamboo sector participated in the Fest.

Technical seminars on bamboo sector were also conducted concurrent to the exhibition during December 11 and 12, 2009 at Town Hall, Kochi. The details of the seminar are mentioned below:

‘Technology Interventions in Bamboo Product Manufacturing’

- Shri. Kamesh Salam, Director, Cane & Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Assam & President, World Bamboo Congress

‘Investment Potential & Marketing Opportunities in Bamboo Applications’

- Shri. Sudhir Kumar Panda, Advisor, National Mission on Bamboo Application (NMBA), New Delhi

‘Suitable Species for cultivation in Kerala’

- Dr. K.K. Seethalakshmi, Coordinator, Bamboo Technical Support Group, Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi

‘Conventional Methods of Bamboo propagation’

- Shri. Raveendran V.P., Scientist, Silvi-culture Department, KFRI

‘Micro-propagation’

- Dr. E.M. Muralidharan, HoD, Biotechnology Department, KFRI

‘Nursery Establishment & Management’

- Dr. R.C. Pandalai, HoD, Silviculture Department, KFRI

The Bamboo Fests over the years has been a big success. The Bamboo Fest mainly aims at creating a platform for the artisans and the organizations working in the Bamboo sector to interact and exchange new ideas on Bamboo. The Bamboo Fest brings together artisans and organizations working in Bamboo sector from different parts of the State especially from the North-Eastern States which is famous in the Bamboo sector. The Fest overall conveyed the importance of using natural item such as Bamboo in our day to day activities. It also aims at

creating awareness about Bamboo which is fast emerging as substitution of teak wood and other wood materials.

The Bamboo Fest was participated by more than 118 artisans from within the State and 60 artisans from Meghalaya, Manipur, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Sikkim and West Bengal. Technology providers/ machinery suppliers/ Research Institutions from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra also participated in the Fest. Total No. of stalls setup in bamboo fest 2009 is 86 Nos.

The Bamboo Fest 2009 was also accompanied by various cultural programmes such as the Bihu Dance of Assam, Bamboo Music (musical instruments made out of bamboo) by bamboo community, various traditional dances performed by bamboo community people.

The Bamboo Fest over the years has turned out to be a pioneer in promoting the Bamboo sector in the State. The Bamboo Fest 2009 was also successfully conducted in Ernakulam. Over the three days there was lot of visitors to the Fest which conveyed the message that lot of people are interested in Bamboo. Lot of visitors showed great interest in knowing more about Bamboo and its products. The exhibitors also experienced success in their sale of products.