

## KERALA BAMBOO FEST 2014

### Post Show Report

The Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Kerala in association with Kerala State Bamboo Mission (KSBM), Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP) and National Bamboo Mission; New Delhi organized the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of 'Kerala Bamboo Fest' (Kerala Bamboo Fest 2014) at Marine Drive, Kochi from December 5 to 9, 2014.



The Fest was inaugurated by Shri. K. Babu, Hon'ble Minister (Fisheries, Ports & Excise) in the meeting presided over by Shri. Hibi Eden MLA. Prof. K.V. Thomas MP released the Coffee Table Book on bamboo. Shri. Dominic Presentation MLA and Shri. Benny Behanan MLA, Shri. C.P. John, Member, Kerala State Planning Board and Vice Chairman, Kerala State Bamboo Mission presented the report on the activities of Kerala State Bamboo Mission.



Shri. P.J. Joy, Ex. MLA, Chairman, Kerala State Bamboo Corporation; Shri. Michel Abadie President, World Bamboo Organisation, France; Shri. Kamesh Salam, President, South Asia Bamboo Foundation, Assam felicitated the function. Shri. P.H. Kurian IAS, Principal Secretary (Industries & IT) welcomed the gathering and Shri. P.M. Francis IAS, Director (Industries & IT) proposed Vote of thanks during the function.

As part of promotional activities, Kerala Bamboo Mission conducted Essay writing competition, 'Bamboo - the future crop' conducted for the Higher Secondary Students of Kerala State. The first three winners are Kumari Anjali. V (St. Thomas HSS, Mayannur, Thrissur), Kumari Sreeveena S.S (Sree Sarada Vilasom HSS, Chirayinkeezhu, Thiruvananthapuram), Kumari Remya S (Mohd. GHSS, Edathara, Pathanapuram, Kollam). Prof. K. V. Thomas MP distributed prizes to the award winners during the inaugural function.



Kerala State Bamboo Mission associated with National Service Scheme (NSS) of Mahatma Gandhi University to plant bamboo in 129 Colleges during the inaugural date of Kerala Bamboo Fest 2014.



The Forest Department had setup a Bamboo Hut, fully made with bamboo at the venue. Kerala State Bamboo Corporation (KSBC) had furnished their stall with bamboo products (bamboo flooring tiles, bamboo furniture's etc. Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute (JNTBGRI) displayed various bamboo plants, research documents, publications etc. pertaining to bamboo sector. Kerala State Handicrafts Apex Co-operative Society Ltd. also displayed various handicraft product made out of Bamboo and natural fibers in the Fest.



The Fest was organised as part of the exercise of marketing of Bamboo products made in the State. The Kerala Bamboo Fest 2014 showcased products such as Handicrafts, Furniture, Wood substitutes, Building construction & structural applications, Industrial products, Decorative & artistic products, Research & applications etc. Exhibition stalls were set up to display various products made from Bamboo, Reed, Rattan and Screw pine. Individual Artisans, Master craftsman, NGOs, SHGs, Micro & Small enterprises, Government controlled institutions etc. participated in the Fest.



The Speciality of Kerala Bamboo Fest 2014 was the 'Bamboo Public Toilet' which was developed in the International Workshop organised by Kerala Bamboo Mission in association with South Asia Bamboo Federation (SABF); Auroville, Pondicherry; Kerala State Bamboo Corporation and Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) displayed in the fest.



In total 133 Nos. fully converted stalls were setup for the Event to display bamboo and related products. 250 Nos. Artisans / craftsmen / NGOs from Kerala had participated in the Event. Also 17 Nos. leading entrepreneurs from the State had also displayed their products in the Fair.

The Bamboo Fest was participated by 61 artisans / craftsmen / entrepreneurs from 9 Nos. States outside Kerala particularly from Nagaland, Jharkhand, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura, and Chattisgarh.



The Bamboo Fest 2014 was also accompanied by various cultural programmes such as Bihu Dance, Lambadi & Mathuri Dances, bamboo music, traditional bamboo dance, traditional bamboo art forms etc. performed by people belonging to the bamboo community. M/s. South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India; Bihu Dance troupe from Assam, M/s. Green Fibre, Pathanamthitta; Shri. Sivadasan, Kunnamkulam M/s. Polika group, Thrissur and M/s. Vayali Folkore Group, Thrissur also performed cultural programmes during the Fest.



The Bamboo Fest 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.

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