

A report on Silver Jubilee Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and Council Meeting of IAPT and International Seminar on Advancements in Angiosperm Systematics and Conservation

The 25th Annual Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and International Conference on “Advancements in Angiosperm Systematics and Conservation” was organized at the Department of Botany, University of Calicut. The conference was held from 19th to 21st November 2015. The inaugural function was presided over Dr. K. Jayakumar,



Lighting of the lamp during the inaugural ceremony by Dr. K. Jayakumar, Hon'ble. Vice-Chancellor, Thunjathezhuthachen Malayalam University.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Thunjathezhuthachen Malayalam University, Tirur and inaugurated by Prof. Karol Marhold, Secretary General, IAPT, Slovak Republic. Presidential address was



Prof. Karol Marhold, Secretary General, IAPT, delivering the inaugural address.

delivered by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor. Prof. A.K. Pandey introduced the IAAT and the abstract as



Release of Abstract volume by Dr. M. Sanjappa, former Director, BSI

released by Dr. M. Sanjappa. Prof. John E. Thoppil, Head of the Department of Botany welcomed the guests. Felicitations were done by Dr. David Mabberely, Australia and Dr. Indira Balachandran, CMPRI, Kottakkal. Prof. M. Sabu, Secretary, IAAT summarised the activities of the IAAT and delivered vote of thanks.



Welcome speech by Prof. John E. Thoppil, Head, Department of Botany, University of Calicut.

The inaugural function is followed by the presidential address by Prof. K.G. Bhat, President, IAAT. Dr. C. Kameswara Rao delivered Prof. Y.D.



Prof. Y.D. Tiagi Gold Medal Award being conferred upon Dr. C. Kameswara Rao.

Tiagi Gold Medal Award Lecture on the topic "The Role of Taxonomists in Modern Agricultural Biotechnology". Prof. V.V. Sivarajan Gold Medal Award lecture on "In search of *Impatiens* from Western Ghats was delivered by Dr. A.G. Pandurangan. The plenary lectures were delivered by Dr. David J. Mabberley, Australia. Dr. Karol



Prof. K.G. Bhat honoring Dr. R.R. Rao, the senior member of IAAT .

Marhold, Slovakia and Dr. Gonzalo Nieto Feliner, Spain. Dr. Sundara Rajan S. and Dr. R.R. Rao delivered plenary lectures. Dr. Datuk Seri Lim Chong Keat, Malaysia, Dr. A.K. Pandey, Delhi and Dr. N. Sasidharan, Thrissur delivered lead lectures.



Inauguration of the office building of IAAT, Prof. V.V. Sivarajan Memorial Library and Prof. K.S. Manilal Portrait Gallery.

The office building of IAAT, Prof. V.V. Sivarajan Memorial Library and Prof. K.S. Manilal Portrait



IAAT Executive Committee meeting at the new buiding.

Gallery was inaugurated jointly by Prof. K.G. Bhat and Dr. Karol Marhold.

As part of the cultural programme the students of the University, Providence Women College and locals performed Mohiniattam, Kerala Nadanam, Odyssi, Thiruvathirakkali, and Vattappattu.



M.Sc. Students, Botany Department, University of Calicut performing Thiruvathirakkali.

Themes of the Conference were 1. Systematics of Flowering Plants and Phylogeny 2. Modern trends and Techniques in Plant Taxonomy 3. Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation 4. Ethnobotany, Medicinal Plants and Bioprospecting 5. Plant response to Climate Change and 6. Phytogeography, Endemism and Threatened Plants.



Prof. K.G. Bhat, President of IAAT addressing the members at general body meeting of IAAT.



Participants of the IAAT Silver Jubilee conference and International Seminar

More than 530 delegates from across the country and outside the country participated. A total of 232 oral and poster research paper presentations were made during the Conference in five parallel sessions. The following are the various best paper and poster presentation awards and awardees for best presentations:

Prof. R.S. Rao Award for Best Paper in Biodiversity Conservation: Dr. Amitha Bachan K.H. MES Asmabi College, Kodungallur.

Prof. K.S. Manilal Award for Best Paper in Floristics (New Species/ New Reports): Dr. Sudhakar J.V., BSI, Coimbatore.

Prof. T.R. Sahu Award for Best Paper in Medicinal Plant Systematics: Mr. Pradeep N. Saudagar, Amaravati University, Maharashtra

Fr. Antony Mukkath – K.S. Manilal Award for Best Paper in Modern Techniques in Plant Taxonomy: Ms. Janeesha A.P., University of Calicut, Kerala.

Prof. M. Sabu Award for Best Paper in Angiosperm Taxonomy (For Teacher & Scientists): Dr. Gnanasekaran G., BSI, Coimbatore

IAPT best oral presentation award

1. Dr. Thomas V.P., Catholocate college, Kerala
2. Ms. Akhila H., University of Kerala, Kerala
3. Dr. Krishnaraj M.V., Baselius College, Kottayam, Kerala
4. Mr. Manudev K.M., St. Joseph's College Devagiri, Kerala



Dr. K. Mohammed Basheer, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, delivering valedictory address.



Dr. G. Gnanasekaran, BSI, Coimbatore receiving Prof. M. Sabu Award.

IAPT best poster presentation award

1. Dr. Mahua Pal, BSI, Kolkata
2. Mr. S.A. Rather, University of Delhi, Delhi
3. Ms. Pathak S., BSI, Kolkata

This conference was sponsored by Kerala State Council for Science and Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) Thiruvananthapuram, Department of Science and Technology (DST-SERB), National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai; Indian National Science Academy (INSA); Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi; University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi; Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Thiruvananthapuram.

Valedictory function of the 25th Silver Jubilee Conference of IAAT was welcomed by Prof. A.K. Pandey. Presidential remarks and distribution of prizes were done by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mohammed Basheer, University of Calicut. Prof. Karol Marhold, Secretary general IAPT and Prof. Gonzalo Nieto Feliner, Council member IAPT distributed the fellowship certificates to the awardees. Prof. M. Sabu, Organizing Secretary of the conference proposed vote of thanks.

Prof. M. Sabu
Organizing Secretary
University of Calicut, Kerala