

***CSIR-NEERI moves international for
Training programme on “Capacity building for promoting synergistic
implementation of BRS Conventions in Sri Lanka”***

CSIR-NEERI, under the banner of Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC) on POPs for Asia Region organized a training programme on ***“Capacity building for promoting synergistic implementation of Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions in Sri Lanka”*** during October 28-30, 2014 at Hotel Palm Village, Colombo, Sri Lanka supported by Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Geneva. A four membered team from CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur comprising of Dr. Asha A. Juwarkar (Chief Scientist); Dr. Atul N. Vaidya (Senior Principal Scientist); Mr. Sanjeev K. Singh (Senior Scientist) and Mr. Jitendra K. Sharma (Senior Research Fellow) visited Sri Lanka for organization and conducting the abovesaid training programme in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy (MoERE). The major objective of the training programme was to strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders with respect to effective and synergistic implementation of the BRS conventions in Sri Lanka which will also help in updating the National Implementation Plan on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Various national stakeholders from different agencies of Sri Lanka such as Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industrial Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Customs, Import and Export control, Board of Investments, Central Environmental Authority, Office of Registrar of Pesticides, National Cleaner Production Centre etc attended the programme. The programme started with the welcome address by Dr. Asha. A. Juwarkar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NEERI and Coordinator, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre. Dr. Juwarkar highlighted various aspects which were to be covered during the training programme. She also informed the gathering that the teams from CSIR-NEERI, SCRC, India and MoERE, Sri Lanka have done unmatched hardwork to make the programme happen. She gratefully acknowledged the mentorship of Dr. S. R. Wate, Director, CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur and Mr. B.M.D.U. Basnayake, Secretary, MoERE, Sri Lanka, who provided their valuable guidance for organization of the training programme and execution of project activities including preparation of assessment report. She also thanked Secretariat of BRS Conventions, Geneva for financial support to organize the training programme. Mr. B.M.D.U. Basnayake, Secretary,

Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony who also delivered his views during the inaugural function and thanked CSIR-NEERI for selecting Sri Lanka as a beneficiary country for implementation of the project activities. He highlighted the importance of different Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) especially BRS conventions along with the role of MoERE in implementation of these conventions in Sri Lanka. He also highlighted the significance of “assessment report on current situation of implementation of BRS Conventions in Sri Lanka” prepared by MoERE and CSIR-NEERI, which is first of its kind and will help other countries to develop similar type of reports. Mr. D.W.Prathapasinghe, Chairman, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka also graced the inaugural ceremony by his presence. Dr. A. N. Vaidya, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI proposed vote of thanks during the inaugural session. The inaugural ceremony was followed by extensive technical sessions for in which eighteen lectures by the various experts from India, Sri Lanka and Germany covered all the aspects with respect to synergistic implementation of BRS conventions at national and global level. Dr. Roland Weber (international expert/consultant on POPs) from Germany and Mr. Piyush Mohapatra (Toxics Link, International POPs Elimination Network for South Asia, New Delhi) shared their expert views during the training programme.

The training programme was concluded on 30th October 2014 along with the award of certificates to the participants. Overall the training programme was highly successful and deeply appreciated by the participants and they requested to organize such programme in future. This programme was one of its kind which was conducted in regional country by a CSIR institute. It is a proud time for CSIR-NEERI to successfully conduct such programmes in regional countries under the banner of Stockholm Convention Regional Centre. This will be highly beneficial for SCRC in future for its evaluation as a regional centre as well as getting funds.



Dr. Asha A. Juwarkar lighting the lamp at the inaugural ceremony of training programme and Mr. B.M.D.U. Basnayake, Dr. Atul N. Vaidya, Mr. S.M.Werahara and Mr. D.W.Prathapasinghe looks on (from R to L)



Experts and participants at the training programme