



International Conference on Photo-irradiation and adsorption based Novel Innovations for Water-Treatment (PANI-WATER)

Development Alternatives participated in the International Conference on Photo-irradiation and Adsorption based Novel Innovations for Water- treatment (PANI-WATER) at BITS Pilani KK Birla Goa Campus from 3-4 March 2020. The conference was organised by BITS Pilani and brought together 18 partners of the PANIWATER project, along with experts and researchers working on drinking water and wastewater treatment technology from across India to share their work and experience. The conference also provided a platform to exhibit the innovative products and technologies through poster and oral presentations.

During the inaugural session, the participants were welcomed by Halan Prakash, Head, Department of Chemistry, BITS Goa. In his lead presentation Dr Rakesh Kumar, Director, NEERI provided some statistics on availability of water and its consumption pattern in Indian states. Other lectures focused on different technologies for removal of pollutants from water and the outreach of water technologies across the world. These included lectures by Dr Kevin McGuigan, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland who presented on experiences from WATER SPOUTT project; Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar, CSIR – NEERI on Low-Cost Nanomaterials: Efficient adsorbent for Selenium removal from water; and Dr K Vijayalakshmi from

Development Alternatives presented on Systemic Gaps in Research Benefits Reaching the Community - an Analysis with a Special Focus on Water Technologies, all were appreciated by the audience.

The highlight of the day was training cum awareness session with the school students on Water Quality and Hygiene. It was an interactive and hands on session where the team from DA Group demonstrated field based testing kits to the audience who then performed the experiments themselves.

The second day of the event focused on presentations of wastewater technologies, contaminants of emerging concerns (CECs) present in the wastewater and their detection methods. These included lectures by Dr Rita (NEERI), Prof. Suresh Pillai, Institute of Technology Sligo, Ireland and Prof. Javier Marugán, University Rey Juan Carlos, Spain focusing on wastewater statistics, technologies for removal of CECs and use of nano-materials for removal of contaminants from wastewater.

Furthermore, a number of short presentations by researchers and research scholars were presented on both days. A short laboratory visit was also organised for the participants of the conference to gain insight into the research activities of BITS Goa. The platform also facilitated exchange of knowledge and experiences, and networking opportunities with participants from across India for collaboration.