

A landscape photograph of a tree at sunset reflected in water. The tree is silhouetted against a sky with soft pink and blue hues. The water in the foreground is calm, creating a clear reflection of the tree and the sky. The overall mood is serene and natural.

**THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR
ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS (INSEE)**

**Annual Report
2008-2009**

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About INSEE

The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was established in New Delhi (India) on September 24, 1998. It was registered as a Society under the Societies Act in January 1999. It is a regional society affiliated to the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). It aims to further the cause of sustainable development by providing a forum for continuous dialogue among scholars, practitioners and policy analysts working on different aspects of the economy, ecology and the environment. It seeks to fulfill a felt need for a body that would catalyse interaction between scholars from various disciplines, particularly economics and the ecological sciences, and including both natural and social sciences. It strives to promote new thinking and better understanding on arrange of issues of national and international interest, such as institutions and instruments for natural resources management, energy analysis and policy, environment and trade, toxic waste management, environment and development, the valuation and accounting of ecosystem functions, climate change and the global commons. INSEE works to disseminate the results of research and its policy implications to national and international bodies (governmental and non-governmental) through multiple avenues such as conferences, workshops, networking and publications.

INSEE Newsletter

The Indian Society For Ecological Economics (INSEE) brought out Newsletter in September 2007, which was compiled and edited by Dr. Bijlee Madhukar Deshmukh, Institute of Technology Aurangabad, Recent issue is on the INSEE website.

The Fifth Biennial Conference of INSEE

The Fifth Biennial Conference of INSEE was held in **Ahmedabad** at Gujarat Vidyapeeth in collaboration with Gujarat Institute of Development Research, (GIDR), Ahmedabad, from January 21 to 23, 2009. The inaugural session began with the welcome address by Prof R. Parthasarathy, Director, GIDR followed by Prof Jayanta Banyopadhyay, Chairperson, Scientific Committee who talked about the conference and Prof Sudharshan Iyengar gave the presidential address. Guest of Honour, Prof, Y.K. Alagh, Chairman, IRMA addressed the gathering. Mr. Nitin desai, former under-secretary General, United Nations gave the inaugural address. His Excellency Shri Naval Kishore Sharma, Governor of Gujarat addressed the gathering and inaugurated the event.

The main theme of the conference was “**Environmental Governance.**” The conference included plenary sessions on important problems and policy issues related to environment and natural resources, and lectures and technical sessions on nine sub-themes. In addition, a roundtable on “Environmental Challenges in Gujarat” was also held.

The call for papers elicited an encouraging response as a large number of abstracts were submitted for approval. About 70 papers were selected of which 40 were presented at the conference. The papers dealt with a range of sub-themes outlined below.

Sub-themes:

- Emerging concepts and applications of interdisciplinary knowledge involving ecology and economics
- Regulatory institutions, regulatory failures, pollution control boards, EIA debate, etc.
- Institutions for natural resources management and needs for innovation
- Markets and environmental governance, carbon credits, etc.
- Information, knowledge and IPR regimes for environmental governance
- Gender issues in environmental governance
- Law, judiciary and environmental governance
- Global environmental governance – climate change, WTO, etc.
- Alternate frameworks for environmental governance – Green parties, Green consumerism, etc.

A pre-conference workshop was held on January 20, 2009 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The topic was **Introduction to Theoretical Ecological Economics: Analytical Study of Scale** conducted by Dr. Deepak Malghan from IIM Bangalore. The tutorial was attended by academic researchers from various institutes in the state as well as students from CEPT University and Gujarat Vidyapeeth. The tutorial gave insight into the development of a toolbox to study the economy that is conceived as an open sub-system of the larger ecosystem that contains and sustains the economy.

Technical sessions were conducted from 21-23 January 2009. The first session addressed gender issues, Law and Judiciary in Environmental Governance chaired by Dr. Purnamita Dasgupta, Associate Professor, IEG, India. The session consisted of six papers addressing various gender aspects such as economy of fisherwomen of Ganjam district of Orissa, role of mountain women in environmental governance, political assessment of water governance, need for separate environment courts and so on.

Parallel sessions were conducted at Vidyapeeth auditorium and tribal studies seminar hall. The second sessions consisted of issues and discussions related to Global Environmental Governance and alternative frameworks for Environmental Governance such as green parties, green consumerism etc. The session was chaired by Dr. Gopal Kadekodi, former Director, ISEC, Bangalore. Papers presented consisted of topics ranging from self discipline as a regulatory

instrument for Environmental Governance and Gandhian Approach to the scope and limitation of CDM towards improving the global environment.

The second session addressed the issue of markets and environmental governance and carbon credits chaired by Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Senior Vice president, MCX Academia of Economic Research, Mumbai. Five papers were presented under this theme and addressed issues ranging from fish biodiversity and profit maximization, REDD and trading in forestry, irrigation development and ground water extraction in Uttar Pradesh and green marketing economy.

The second parallel session addressed information knowledge and IPR regimes for Environmental Governance chaired by Dr. Sundararaman, General Secretary, IPCC, Geneva. Three research papers were presented addressing issues such as pesticide application in BT cotton farms, reassessments of the conflicts between environmental governance and IPRs and redefining the role and scope of IPR in the realm of Environmental governance in India.

The third technical session was on Emerging concepts and application of inter-disciplinary knowledge involving ecology and economics chaired by Prof Joan Martinez Alier, Former president of ISEE. There were five presentations made on a range of topics from sea level rise and impacts on Gujarat coast, Urban environment valuation in Mumbai and its suburbs, Ecological degradation and tribal livelihood in Purulia, waste water irrigation in peri urban areas of Hyderabad and so on.

The third parallel technical session was chaired by Dr. Amita Shah, Gujarat Institute of Development research, Ahmedabad. The session addressed issues of rural industrialization programme, small scale fisheries, state pollution control boards, urban wetland system and role of urban wetland system and so on. There were nine papers presented on these varying themes.

The final session was on Institutions for natural resource management and needs for innovation chaired by Dr.R.Parthasarathy, Director, GIDR, Ahmedabad. This session had six speakers addressing issues of governance of wetlands, analysis of forest institutions in Orissa, compensation and reward for ecosystem services, bio fuels in india and corporate social responsibilities in coal mining and so on.

Three panel discussions and a round table were conducted. On the 21st January panel discussion on **Environmental Governance: Challenges in rapidly growing economies** was chaired by Prof Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, IIM, Kolkata and had two panelists Kanchan Chopra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi and Prof. Gopal Kadekodi, Former Director, ISEC, Bangalore. The second panel session on **Forests, People and Rights** was held on 22nd January chaired by Miss Shamima Hussain, IAS, Commissioner, Tribal development department, GoG and panelists Dr.Anil Patel, ARCH-Vahini, Mr. C.P Pandey, Director, GEER, Gandhinagar and Dr.Sharachchandra Lele, CISED, Bangalore. On 23rd January panel discussion on **Economic Implications of Climate Change** chaired by Prof. Gopal Kadekodi, Former Director, ISEC, Bangalore along with panelists Dr. Sundararaman, Former General Secretary, IPCC, Geneva, Dr.Navroz Dubhash, JNU, New Delhi, Dr.G.A.Thivakaran, Scientist, GUIDE, Bhuj. This was followed by a round table session on **Environmental Challenges in Gujarat** which was chaired by Mr.Sunil Parekh, Advisor, Zydus Cadila, Ahmedabad and panelists Mr. Jay Narayan Vyas,

Minister of Health and Family welfare, GoG, Mr.Sanat Mehta, Former Finance Minister, GoG, Mr. Michael Mazgaonkar, Environmentalist, Prof. Anil Gupta, IIM, Ahmedabad, Mr. Karthikeya Sarabhai, CEE, Ahmedabad, Dr. Malay Mahadevia, Adani group of Industries, Gujarat.

On the second day of the conference, Juan Martinez Alier, Former President, ISEE gave a lecture on Ecological Economics and global perspectives followed by Ms Supriya Singh and Ms Leah Temper from CEE on Civil Society Engagements with Ecological Economics.

All these sessions saw a range of participants from Government departments, NGOs, industries, environmental activists and researchers sharing the platform. These sessions gave an insight into the various environment and development perspectives. Most of these sessions had fair participation by students and researchers from various institutes such as CEPT, IIM, and Gujarat Vidyapeeth.

INSEE Website

The INSEE is providing online registration to interested members, those who want to get INSEE family membership.

INSEE Membership

As on December 31, 2009 INSEE has 284 Life members, 6 Ordinary members, 03 student members, and 6 Life Members Corporate Bodies. The total membership thus stands at 299.

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