IWST conducted a two days wood user’s interactive meet and product exhibition (WUIMPE) on 23rd and 24th March. The event was inaugurated by Sri. Kaushik Mukherji, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Forest and Ecology, Government of Karnataka and presided over by Dr. Ashwatha Narayan, M.L.A., Malleshwaram, Bangalore. Sri S.C. Joshi, the Director, IWST, Bangalore welcomed the delegates and made a presentation of the institute activities.

During this meet primary focus was to find out areas of cooperation between various wood using industry and sectors on one hand, and IWST on the other. The focus of the seminar was on making people aware of the varied types and quality of wood apart from guiding them on the species best suitable for them, their alternatives and places where they are available. The other important feature was to have a product exhibition in which different industries or wood using artisans/organizations showcased their innovative products and activities.

A total of 40 exhibition stalls were put up and different exhibit materials ranging from furniture, wood power tool, non wood forest products, handicrafts to advanced engineering materials were exhibited.

Honourable Minister for Forest and Small Scale Industries Sri. C.S. Vijayashankar was the chief guest during valedictory function on 24th March 2011.
Inauguration of the Interactive Meet by Sri. Kaushik Mukherji I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Forest and Ecology, Government of Karnataka
A view of the participants

Honourable Minister for Forest and Small Scale Industries Sri. C.S. Vijayashankar interacting with the participants during the valedictory function
Honourable Minister for Forest and Small Scale Industries Sri. C.S. Vijayashankar visiting the Exhibition

General public visiting exhibition stalls
Not all wood in Soudha is genuine

Bhaskar Khanuja

Did you know that in the market of teak, rose and sal, cheap substitute wood is being sold in the market at the cost of an original ones? Only about 60% of the wood used in Venkatana Soudha is of good quality.

The revelation comes from the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), which conducted a survey on wood. SC Joshi, chairman, IWST, said in the by-polls, Ayodhya and Bageshwar, teak wood, acacia and teak trees were being sold in most parts of the country. Including Karnataka, a forest official is being sold as house wood and Pongamia, purple heart wood, by the forest. He is sold in the market distorting, small wood, the door and windows, his speaking at the inauguration of a two-day wood users meet on Wednesday.

The focus of the seminar is on making people aware of the various types and quality of wood. There are more than 30 government officials in the market. They will have to consider their alternatives and what they are available.

Joshi said ignorant users were paying the rate of genuine wood for imitation ones. He said the IWST survey found that even government officials were selling wood which was not of high quality. Hence was the case with Indian Institute of Science, said Joshi, adding that a proposal had been placed before the department of environment, forests and ecology and state government, to make IWST's nodal testing agency of the quality of wood. IWST has requested the government and University to set up an institute in its campus to offer MSc in Wood Science.
vijaya kalnati
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