

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Day

# "International Coir Tech Expo – 2012"

On 13th August, 2012

### International Seminar

In the international seminar, three papers were presented. The first paper was presented by Prof. Alcides Lopes Leao of Sao Paulo State University, Sao Paulo, Brazil on the subject "Coir Nanocellulose for High-End Applications". The paper dealt with the efforts



to develop an environmental friendly method for the effective utilization of coir fibre by adopting steam pre-treatment. The existence of strong lignin cellulose complex in the raw coir fibre is proved by its enhanced thermal stability. Steam explosion has been proved to be a green method to expand the application areas of coir fibre. Plant derived

nanocellulose were utilized for various applications in the medical field. The developed nanocellulose promises to be a very versatile material having wide range of bio-medical and bio-technology applications including scaffolds for tissue engineering, cardiovascular



implants and vascular grafts. The material can also be utilized for construction of non latex condoms, breathable wound dressing, surgical gloves, surgical gowns or drapes, medical bags, organ retrieval bags and medical disposables.

The second paper was on the Coir Industry in Sri Lanka which was presented by Mr. DMP Dissanayaka, Assistant Director, Sri Lankan Export Development Board, Sri Lanka. He broadly explained on the present status of coir industry in the Island and the need for technological assistance from India.

The last paper in the international seminar was presented on the subject "Cellulose - Nature's Plastic" by Mr. Trevor W Dean from the U.K. The paper was on the efforts of Zelfo Technology GmbH. to develop nature's cellulose as an alternative to plastic. The nature has engineered cellulose for its own requirements over millions of years that can be re-engineered to satisfy the requirements of the modern world. The company has developed cellulose fibres from industrial/agricultural waste into self binding materials. The products manufactured using this technology includes range of bowls, flooring materials, panels, tiles from bleached wood pulp, binder in unprocessed materials, tick light weight insulation boards, musical instruments, coffins, loud speakers, snowboards etc.



### **Symposium on Problems & Prospects of Coir Industry**

In the afternoon of the 2nd day of the International Coir Tech Expo, a Symposium on "Problems & Prospects of Coir Industry" was held. The symposium was inaugurated by Shri Anathalavattom Anandan, Ex. MLA in a meeting presided over by Shri A.K. Rajan,

Chairman, Kerala State Coir Workers' Welfare Fund Board. Shri A.K Rajan opined that the new machinery and technology developed by Coir Board and other organizations should reduce the drudgery of workers and be helpful



to enhance their productivity and wages. He suggested that the activities in the coir sector should also be brought under the ambit of the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. According to him, the coir industry should progress through diversification, modernization and mechanization. Shri Anthalavattom Anandan in his inaugural address opined that more workers will come forward to take up the job opportunities offered by coir sector if appropriate technologies are available which would make the job less tedious with improved productivity. He said that the census of workers in each sector of coir industry should be taken separately and in the event of workers displaced on account of modernization, they should be provided with alternative job opportunities. There is also a need of more trained technicians simultaneously with the introduction of modern machiney and equipments. Shri Anandan said that coir can become a "sun shine" industry if appropriate policy measures are undertaken.

Later, S/Shri V.A. Joseph, Member, Coir Board, Jayakumar, Member, Coir Board, R.B. Shyam Sundar, Member, Coir Board, Maheshkumar, President, Coir Pith and Allied Products Association etc. took part in the discussions and spoke on the subject of Problems and Prospects of Coir Industry.

Shri T.A. Rajendra Babu, Senior Scientific Officer, Central Coir Research Institute proposed Vote of Thanks to the participants.



In the evening, Magician Samraj, presented "The Great Indian Rope Trick" and "Miracula" as part of the Cultural Programmes. The magic, great "Indian Rope Trick", using Coir, enacted as a publicity and propaganda measure, attracted a large number of people to the International Coir Tech Expo.

### Chess Tournament on Gigantic Chess Board



champions and school children. 38 students from 8 schools in Kerala participated in the tournament.

A chess tournament organised in the venue of Coir Tech Expo on a gigantic checkered chess board made out of coir with large pieces decorated by coir was one of the main attractions of the Expo. The tournament was inaugurated by Prof. G. Balachandran, Chairman, Coir Board on 13th August, 2012. Separate tournaments were arranged for national players, state