

## Kerala Bamboo Fest 2007

### Report

Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Kerala in association with Kerala State Bamboo Mission under Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP) organized the Kerala Bamboo Fest 2007 at Town Hall, Kochi from December 6 - 9, 2007.

Shri. Elamaram Kareem, Hon'ble Minister (Industries & Commerce) inaugurated the Kerala Bamboo Fest 2007 on December 6, 2007 at 6.00 PM. In his inaugural speech the Hon'ble Minister said that Bamboo should be grown in more areas to replace the plants being cut for industrial purpose. It was said that China had introduced innovative tiles made of bamboo and similar products needed to be developed in India. He asked Self Help Groups & Non Governmental Organisations involved in production of items based on Bamboo to make use of the schemes offered by the Union and State Governments.



Shri. Binoy Viswam, Hon'ble Minister (Forest & Wildlife), in his key note address said the Fest would open a new opportunity for Bamboo based industrial development. Prof. Mercy Williams, Worshipful Mayor, Kochi Corporation, in her presidential address said that the Fest will provide an opportunity for the artisans to have a deep knowledge on the wide variety of products that can be made out of Bamboo.

Dr. M.L. Choudhary, Horticulture Commissioner, Government of India, stressed the importance of sensitizing the farmer and spreading awareness of raising bamboo plants. Shri. T.

Balakrishnan, Principal Secretary (Industries & Commerce) welcomed the gathering and Shri. V. Rajagopal, Chief Executive Officer, Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP) delivered the vote of thanks. Shri. K.A. Chackochan, Chairman, Kerala State Bamboo Corporation spoke during the occasion.



Artisans/ Entrepreneurs/ Organizations/ Technology Providers/ Research Institutions/ Machinery suppliers etc. from 12 different States including Kerala participated in the Fest. 114 Nos. of Artisans/ entrepreneurs/ organizations/ Technology Providers/ Research Institutions/ Machinery suppliers etc. displayed their products/ services in 84 Nos. of stalls in the Bamboo Fest. 34 nos. of artisans from Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Utharanjal, West Bengal and Maharashtra participated in the Bamboo Fest. Technology providers / machinery suppliers / Research Institutions from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka also participated in the Fest.



Judging by the huge crowds that thronged the venue on the event days, the expo was an unqualified success. Exhibitors got the opportunity to interact with each other and establish business linkages, which would be of mutual benefits in the time to come. They also used to

catch up the developments being made in other States. The exhibitors were able to sell their products as well as gather several business enquiries from the Fest.

By organizing the Fest, the State Bamboo Mission was largely able to achieve close association with the bamboo based players in the Country, cement the bonds between Government agencies and private enterprises and explore ways to establish strong linkages to carry out the activities of the Mission aimed at the bamboo community in the State.

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