

## Kerala Bamboo Fest 2008

As part of the exercise of marketing of Bamboo products made in the State 'Kerala Bamboo Fest' were held at Town hall, Kochi during 2004, 2005, & 2007 and at Kozhikode during 2006 as part of Malabar Shopping Festival. The event was organized by Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Kerala in association with the Kerala State Bamboo Mission.

The Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Kerala in association with Kerala State Bamboo Mission and National Bamboo Mission organized Kerala Bamboo Fest 2008 at Town Hall, Kochi from December 12 - 14, 2008.



The Fest was inaugurated by Shri. Elamaram Kareem, Hon'ble Minister (Industries & Commerce) on December 12, 2008. The Fest Directory was released by Prof. K. V. Thomas, MLA. Special addresses were delivered by Prof. Mercy Williams (Mayor of Kochi Corporation), Shri. K. A. Chackochan (Chairman, Kerala State Bamboo Corporation), Shri. P. K. Mohanty IAS (Principal Secretary Forest & Wild Life), Shri. T.O. Sooraj IAS, Director (Industries & Commerce), Shri. Jose Dominic (CMD CGH Earth, Member Eco-Tourism Society of India & Convenor Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage). Shri. V. Rajagopal, Chief Executive Officer, K-BIP proposed the vote of thanks for the function.



The event showcased products such as Handicrafts, Furniture, Wood substitutes, Building, construction & structural applications, Industrial products, Specialized Bamboo processing machinery/techniques, Decorative & artistic products, Research & applications as well as publications. Exhibition stalls were set up to display various products made from Bamboo, Reed, Rattan and Screw pine. Individual Artisans, Master craftsman, NGOs, SHGs, Small Scale Industries, Government controlled institutions, Machinery manufacturers and organizations from outside the State working in the Bamboo sector participated in the Fest.



The Bamboo Fest over the years has been a big success. The Bamboo Fest mainly aims at creating a platform for the artisans and the organizations working in the Bamboo sector to interact and exchange new ideas on Bamboo. The Bamboo Fest brings together artisans and organizations working in Bamboo sector from different parts of the State especially from the North-Eastern States which is famous in the Bamboo sector. The Fest overall conveyed the importance of using natural items such as Bamboo in our day to day activities. It also aims at creating awareness about Bamboo which is fast emerging as a substitution of teak wood and other wood materials.



The Bamboo Fest was participated by 81 artisans from outside the State. Artisans from Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttaranchal and Tripura participated in the Bamboo Fest 2008. More than 122 artisans from Kerala State participated in the Fest. Organizations such as Kerala State Bamboo Corporation, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Development Commissioner – Handicrafts, Kerala Forest Development Corporation also participated in the Fest. The Forest Department through their stalls portrayed



the importance of Bamboo. Machinery Suppliers working in the Bamboo sector also participated in the Fest. No. of stalls setup in bamboo fest 2008 is 84 Nos.



The Bamboo Fest 2008 was also accompanied by various cultural programmes such as the Bihu Dance of Assam and Dummy Horse, Karagam / Kavadi of Thanjavur which was organized by the South Zone Cultural Centre. There was also cultural programme by people of Bamboo community and also Bamboo Music using various instruments made of Bamboo.



The Bamboo Fest over the years has turned out to be a pioneer in promoting the Bamboo sector in the State. The Bamboo Fest 2008 was also successfully conducted in Ernakulam. Over the three days there was lot of visitors to the Fest which conveyed the message that lot of people are interested in Bamboo. Lot of visitors showed great interest in knowing more about Bamboo and its products. The exhibitors also experienced success in their sale of products.

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