

# **Woods Museum cum Interpretation Centre At Institute of Wood Science & Technology, Bangalore**

A Woods Museum cum Interpretation Centre (WMIC) has been established at Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore in January 2012. The museum cum interpretation centre provides information and details of all aspects of wood as a material and importance of wood science and technology. This museum was inaugurated by Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, IFS, DG Forests and Special Secretary, MoEF, Government of India in the presence of Dr. V.K. Bahuguna, IFS DG, ICFRE on 4th January 2012. The WMIC is unconventionally structured and strongly deviates from being merely a storehouse of artifacts. It aims to educate the common man on the science of wood; on the fact that wood is not just a carpenter's material; to make him realize that it is the usage of wood that would help in tidying the environment and tiding over the climate crisis.



Hon'ble DG (F) and DG (ICFRE) cutting the tape to inaugurate the Woods Museum and Interpretation Centre.



### **The salient features of the museum are:**

- Right from origin of Earth to evolution of forests and trees to emergence of most recent trees and accordingly vast diversity of woods has been clearly demonstrated and displayed.
- Colorful panels take the visitor into the world of wood. A story line entwines him beginning from the evolution of woody trees, through ecosystem functions of trees, and the man–wood saga.
- Later, wood is systematically dissected from its macro form to cell ultra structure and constituent chemicals.
- The later section is dedicated to different properties and features like density, color, knots, spiral grains, etc.
- A section is dedicated to agencies causing biological degradation of wood. An attractive part of the WMIC deals with diverse products of wood.
- There is a highly informative segment on wood processing. Interesting panels on tracking past events through the study of tree rings, engineered wood products, etc., are also there.
- The last section suggests why society should promote wood use to make life sustainable; it ends with a slogan – grow wood, use wood.
- Among the many artifacts kept, two large discs of teak form the centre of attraction. One of the discs traces the time since British came to India till Indian Independence. There is a wonderful opportunity for visitors to learn to count tree rings.
- Bamboo, commonly known as poor man timber, has versatile uses. Its utilization aspects are also displayed in the museum in the form of decorative form.
- A model shows how rural energy needs could be met by generating electricity from gasifying wood. A large log eaten by many different kinds of insects goes to show how small creatures fall a giant. Diversity of insects, papers and engineered wood products strike the visitor.
- There is a full section showing modern products of wood-Wood Polymer Composites, panel and engineered wood products.
- Wood-polymers composite samples, the important and advanced material, are also displayed in the WMIC.
- Given the shortage of supply alternate woods have been widely created. Wood product made of plantation timber species- *Acacia auriculaeformis*, *Acacia mangium* like toys, artifacts and catamaran (*Maesopsis eminii*) are also displayed.
- Due to large demand of wood, timber is being imported. In the process, this is resulting in selling the spurious material like Assam Teak, Malaysian sal etc. In one of the sections of museum, impact of spurious material is displayed.
- In another section, how climate change has affected the natural resources like forest and the role wood can play in the changing climatic conditions is displayed.

The visitors are exposed to the many facets of wood – its history, anatomy, diversity in properties, processing, products, problems, solutions and many other nuances. The visitor takes leave with a note on the projected role of wood in future – a role to save Earth.



Hon'ble DG (F) and DG (ICFRE) cutting the tape to inaugurate the Woods Museum cum Interpretation Centre



Hon'ble DG (F) Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar inaugurated the Woods Museum cum Interpretation Centre by unfurling the Plaque



Dignitaries appreciating the displays



Sri. Y. B Srinivasa explaining the content of the Woods Museum to the dignitaries



Dr. Sakthi Singh Chauhan explaining the content of the Woods Museum to the dignitaries



Director, IWST Sri. S.C. Joshi explaining about disc of teak displayed in the woods Museum



Dignitaries viewing the diversity of tree seed displayed in the Woods Museum



Dr. V. K. Bahuguna (D.G., ICFRE) addressing the media

For further information or if you want to contribute to museum by way of providing photographs or a wood product, please contact

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