

Spreading green chemistry culture

A specialised event focussing on green chemistry, Industrial Green Chemistry World 2011 (IGCW 2011) was held from December 04-06, 2011, in Mumbai. It witnessed participation from 350 organisations, with representation from 8 countries.



IGCW symposium in progress



Visitors inspecting products at display



Participants in rapt attention during the conference

■ Mahua Roy

IGCW-2011 proved to be an insightful event, acquainting the industry and distinguished academia about the recent developments and future predictions related to the field of green chemistry. The event also witnessed the presence and enthusiasm of the student community.

A comprehensive coverage

IGCW comprised three concurrent events taking place at the venue. The main attraction was the symposium. The whole structure of the symposium was divided into 9 parts spread over three days to discuss ignition, inspiration, initiation, identification, invention, innovation, implementation, industrialisation and impact of green chemistry, thus making it a smooth flow of knowledge exchange.

Distinguished speakers from Tata Chemicals, Dr Reddy's, L'oreal, Pfizer and others turned their presentations into healthy discussions, with active participation from the equally distinguished audience. The symposium was graced by the pre-recorded talk by Prof Paul Anastas, Associate Admin, US Environment Protection Agency

(USEPA), USA, who is also renowned as the Father of Green Chemistry. He said, "The reason green chemistry is being adopted so rapidly around the world is because it is a pathway to ensuring economic and environmental prosperity. Green chemistry is powerful because it starts at the molecular level and ultimately delivers more environmentally benign products and processes."

The other widely attended concurrent event was the IGCW-180⁰ Seminar Series, which were held on five distinguished topics. Each seminar was presented by 4 key experts on the subject, attended by over 200 delegates across all 5 seminars, followed by focussed interactions and questions. The delegates gained valuable technical insights from over 30 global speakers and experts whose presence on all the three days allowed in-depth interactions and sharing of knowledge.

The IGCW-Awards Evening, attended by over 200 guests from the industry, government bodies, academic institutes, in addition to the symposium delegates and exhibitors, acknowledged the winners of IGCW Green Innovation Awards. Eminent organisations and individuals were felicitated for their contribution in promoting industrial green chemistry and engineering practices.

The expo

The IGCW-2011 Expo got established as one of the key dimensions of the event, successfully bringing together over 50 organisations, which showcased their green chemistry and engineering focus. There was also a provision of 'technology showcase', which greatly benefitted the give and take of collaboration backed by green technologies. The technologies showcased at the IGCW-Expo served as door-step solutions for the industry delegates seeking commercially viable technologies to address their process-relevant environmental challenges as opportunities. Apart from the symposium delegates, the exhibition was visited by senior decision makers from over 100 companies across three days.

Nitesh Mehta, Co-founder, Newreka Green Synth Technologies, and convenor of the symposium, said, "The core idea behind this initiative is to activate work towards green chemistry for which involvement of academic, industrial and governmental & non-governmental bodies is needed collectively, which will further help the designing and development of environment-friendly chemistry practices around the world." ■

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