

Report on
International Symposium on Sustainable Polymers
and Launch of SPSI-North East Chapter & SPSI-MACRO-2020

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Department of Chemical Engineering has successfully organized three-days International Symposium on Sustainable Polymers from 23rd to 25th August, 2019 as part of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of IIT Guwahati. The symposium also witnessed the launch of SPSI-North East Chapter; the 9th Regional Chapter of The Society for Polymer Science, India and the prestigious SPSI-MACRO-2020 conference to be held in Dec 13-17, 2020 at IIT Guwahati. Honorable Director of IIT Guwahati, Prof. T.G. Sitharam presided over the launching ceremony as the Chief Guest. Welcoming all the delegates, invited speakers, participants and students gathered from various parts of India, the director hoped that this sort of endeavor will strengthen IIT Guwahati's commitment to act as Network of Excellence. He emphasized the need of the hour to develop sustainable polymers especially in the development of infrastructure of the country. Distinguished guest Dr. S. Sivaram, Former President SPSI and Honorary Professor IISER, Pune highlighted the legacy of SPSI from its inception to its present day and called for active participation of young researchers from North Eastern Region of India. Prof. S. Ramakrishnan, President SPSI and Professor, IISc Bangalore also graced the occasion as distinguished guest. He expressed confidence that the symposium will be an excellent beginning to concerted efforts of researchers from all over the country to address the issue of sustainable polymers that can be recycled with zero detrimental effects to the environment.

IIT Guwahati has taken the step to involve with Assam Science and Technology University, and collaboratively organize the National symposium on "Chemistry Education for Sustainable Engineering" in associated with Assam Engineering College. This is the first ever joint symposium between ASTU and IIT Guwahati, for taking up the initiative to promote knowledge sharing and networking among scientists, academicians, researchers and other stakeholders in and across the North East of India. The symposium witnessed the congregation of interactive dialogues and expert talks by eminent scientist from across the nation with Prof. S. Sivaram (Ex-president, SPSI) IISER Pune, Prof. S. Ramakrishnan (President SPSI) IISc Bangalore, Prof. Ajayaghosh A., Director CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Dr.

Pradeep Kr. Srivastava, Deputy Director, CDRI Lucknow, Prof. Okhil K. Medhi, Former Vice-Chancellor, Gauhati University. The technical sessions provided ample opportunity for the researchers across the nation in sharing and gathering knowledge on various aspects of sustainable polymers starting from overviewing the current research activities and global trends on sustainable polymers (bio-based and biodegradable plastics) and various application of sustainable materials

This SPSI-North East Chapter will create enormous impact upon developing awareness on sustainable use of polymers, chemistry and engineering practices among the participants from multiple institutes and society of North East, India, which will strengthen the vision and commitment of The Society for Polymer Science, India.