

## Young students make India proud by winning medals at I-SWEEEP international science fair, USA



Indian students receiving awards at I-SWEEEP, USA

Students of India have made their country proud by winning medals at I-SWEEEP, the International Sustainable World Olympiad for research based projects in Energy, Environment and Engineering, a premier international high-school science fair held in Houston, Texas, USA from May 8-12, 2013.

Four innovative projects were selected to represent India at I-SWEEEP 2013, and all of them reached the medals podium with Team India bagging one Gold, two Silver and one Bronze medal.

Rashmiparvathi from Puttur, Karnataka won a Gold medal for her project titled “*Salt from coconut palm petiole & its anti-microbial activity*”. In this she found that the bio-waste of coconut petiole can be used as a substitute for increasing the plant soil nutrients and also found that it can be used as anti-microbial agent against certain fungi that cause skin diseases. Rashmi is a student of Vivekananda P U College, Puttur, D K, who has just appeared for the 12<sup>th</sup> std exams.

Ayush Panara from Rajkot won a Silver medal in the Environment category for his project titled “*Bio-degradable packing material*”, where he created a substitute for environmentally friendly substitute for thermocol using significant natural ingredients such as starch and corn. Ayush is in 9<sup>th</sup> std from Shri G.K.Dholakiya School, Rajkot.

Nambirajan Konar & Kushal Suvarna won a Silver medal in the Environment category for their project titled “*Saga oil coating to preserve fruits and vegetables*” where they found that using the oil from saga seeds (red bead tree) can be used increase the shelf life of fruits & vegetables. Nambi & Kushal are studying in 9<sup>th</sup> std in Modern English School, Chhedanagar, Mumbai.

Dhanyeshwari Manoj Kumar won the Bronze medal in a Environment category for her project titled “*Biodegradable film based on the waste vegetable peel*”. Dhanya took waste banana peels and found that it could be used as to prepare biodegradable film as a plastic substitute. Dhanyeshwari is a 9<sup>th</sup> standard student in Modern English School, Chhedanagar, Mumbai

The team was accompanied by their team leader Ms Vasanthi Kedila a science teacher from Ram Krishna High School, Puttur. Before the fair, the students were mentored at a pre-departure camp conducted at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), Mumbai.

The students qualified to participate in the international ISWEEEP fair by through the Indian Science & Engineering Fair (INSEF) organized by Science Society of India (SSI). Any student from India can submit project to INSEF online at <http://sciencesociety.in>. SSI invites schools to conduct INSEF Regional fair so that the students get a platform to showcase their innovation & winners get directly qualified for INSEF National Fair, and an opportunity to represent India at international science fairs.

Science Society of India (SSI) congratulates the team participants, guides and proud parents. SSI thanks Tata Chemicals Limited, who agreed to provide travel sponsorship for the team lead.



Ayush walking in after receiving the award at I-SWEEEP



Rashmiparvathi after receiving the award at I-SWEEEP

Students Prior to departure at HBCSE, Mumbai



L to R: Dhanyeshwari, Ms. Vasanthi Kedila (Team Lead), Rashmiparvathi. Kushal, Auys, Nambirajan, Dr. Paresh Joshi (HBCSE) & Narayan Iyer (SSI) are seen in the back. Dr. Arnab Bhattacharya, TIFR – not in the photo, conducted the pre-departure camp at HBCSE.