

## **INDO-SWISS SCIENCE WORKSHOP WETLAND RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTER, BARKUL**

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Chilika Development Authority (CDA) organized a two day international science workshop on “Ecology and Conservation of Chilika Lake” at Wetland Research and Training Centre (WRTC), Badkul on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011. His Excellency Mr. Philippe Welti, Swiss Ambassador to India, New Delhi has formally inaugurated the science workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at WRTC, Badkul in the presence of Dr. Mattia Celio, Science & Technology counselor from Swiss Embassy, New Delhi, Dr. Ajit Kumar Pattnaik, Chief Executive of Chilika Development Authority, Govt of Odisha and Dr. Mrutunjaya Suar, Chief of KIIT School of Bio-technology. The workshop is organized for two days from 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November by CDA in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland in India and KIIT University, Bhubaneswar.



*Swiss Ambassador to India at the inaugural function of Indo – Swiss Workshop on Ecology and Conservation of Chilika lake*

“Eco-tourism and wetland research can go concurrently in Chilika and CDA can collaborate with the potential facilitators in this regard,” said Mr. Phillippe

Welti, Swiss Ambassador to India on the inaugural session. “Chilika lake, the second largest brackish water lake of the world famous for its rich biodiversity, avian fauna and water birds has always attracted international researchers, scientists and agencies for focused studies and Swiss collaborations with CDA will bring new landmarks in wetland research,” said Dr Ajit Kumar Pattnaik, Chief Executive of CDA.



**Swiss Ambassador to India, Science & Technology counselor from Swiss Embassy, Chief Executive of CDA at the Indo-Swiss Science Workshop**

Chilika Development Authority has been carrying out close monitoring of Chilika Lake, continuously after the hydrological intervention in 2000. In the mean time it is realized that there are certain research gaps which need to be bridged through focused study/research. One of the major gap is the study of microbes and the role they play in bio-geo-chemicals cycles of the lake ecosystem. This information is essential for development of an ecological model. Thus, it has become imperative to conduct a science workshop to identify the research gaps and to strengthen the ongoing research of Chilika Lake.



*His Excellency Mr. Philippe Welti, Swiss Ambassador to India delivering his speech at Indo-Swiss Workshop*

The lake research (limnology) is well developed in Switzerland. To explore the possible collaboration, Chilika Development Authority (CDA) contacted Dr. Mattia Celio Science & Technology counselor from Swiss Embassy, New Delhi, who visited Chilika Lake in April 2011. After his visit he was briefed about the current status to assist CDA for a collaborative science workshop at Chilika and he agreed to this.

The objective of the workshop is on one hand to allow the Swiss participants to get familiar with the main issues and ongoing research related to the Chilika Lake, and on the other hand to assess research gaps opportunities and explore possible areas of collaboration between Swiss and Indian Scientists. The experts from reputed Universities/Institutions from India have participated in the workshop.



***Scientists from different countries participated in the Indo –Swiss workshop***

The Limnologists from Switzerland and India working on the brackish water wetland ecosystem would be familiarized with the main issues and ongoing research works in Chilika lake during the workshop. During the course of workshop that would identify the assess research gaps and opportunities as well as explore possible collaboration between Swiss and Indian scientist. The Swiss Embassy supported the visit of the overseas scientists.

19 overseas scientists and more than 30 Indian scientists & experts have participated in the workshop and deliberations on the various scientific research issues on Chilika.