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GLOBAL WARMING IS NOT A MYTH

Temperature In The City Has Changed By 2 Degrees. Workshop Looks At Measures To Mitigate Climate Change

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: The once air-conditioned city is feeling the heat, thanks to global warming. Bangalore has witnessed a 2-degree variation in temperature; agricultural land and the green belt making way for constructions is the chief reason for this change. There has been a decline in vegetation by 65%, and water bodies have depleted by 35%.

These facts were revealed by professor T V Ramachandra during the Bangalore Workshop on Climate Change and Sustainable Development organized by The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) on Friday.

“A student actually proved that there was a variation of 2 degrees in Bangalore’s temperature over a period of time. It’s not just change in land use that has contributed to this. The cut-and-paste model used by architects who duplicate European style is an additional factor. Buildings in tropical countries like India don’t need to absorb heat as traditional ones here are eco-friendly. There is a need to use indigenous knowledge,” he pointed out.

The workshop, where over 200 students from 13 schools and colleges participated, was part of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2010. Winners of the Yuva competition held on Friday will participate at the summit in the national capital next year.

The panelists during the workshop included former senior advisor (energy — new & renewable) to the United Nations J Gururaja, energy department’s additional chief secretary K Jairaj, Suresh Heblkar of EcoWatch, Times Response general manager Rajdeep Lavani, Jalakam Solutions COO Anand Jalakam and KSPCB’s senior environment officer C D Kumar.

Students shot questions at them. Jairaj and Kumar said government policies at the moment are inadequate for ensuring sustainable development, and called upon people to modify their lifestyle and ensure minimum carbon footprints.



ALL EARS: Students jot down salient points at the Bangalore Workshop on Climate Change and Sustainable Development on Friday