

Press Communiqué



Rono Hills, 5 June 2022:

[BEGINS]

RGU declares 33% of campus as Reserve Forest

World Environment Day 2022 was celebrated in the Rajiv Gandhi University through with great enthusiasm and commitment through a number of programs. The day started with a formal ceremony at the Incubation cum Incubation Centre, IDE, RGU. The ceremony was chaired by Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor, RGU in the presence of statutory officers, Deans, Heads of the Departments, faculty members and students. With the motto of 'sustainable action' the program began with release of 'fingerlings' at the IIC pond. In his opening remarks, Prof. Tomo Riba, Chairperson, organising committee shared the history and importance of the day. He also shared the vision behind the program where action and continuity were the central theme. It was followed by remarks by Dr. N.T. Rikam, Registrar, RGU, who emphasised on the importance of individual commitment and participation in protecting our environment. Prof. Amitava Mitra, Pro Vice chancellor of the university also spoke on the occasion and emphasised on the need for vertical expansion instead of horizontal expansion. He also encouraged the students to become active participant of the event. The formal program was also graced by Shri. Nabum Epo, Head Circle GB and Mrs. Tana Yani, Environmentalist and former District Agriculture Officer.

The highlight of the day was declaration of 33% of RGU campus as reserve forest, jointly by Vice Chancellor and Registrar of Rajiv Gandhi University followed by oath by faculty members and students. It has been a long goal of the university to demarcate protected ecological areas so as environment is not harmed in the

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efforts of development. This declaration was made to ensure protection of ecosystems within the campus. This was followed by a remarkable Academia-Community collaboration, as Shri. Nabum Epo invited the RGU academia to the community owned forests around the campus for plantation and research purposes. Smti. Tana also addressed the gathering and also donated 100 saplings to the plantation drive that would follow the ceremony.

Delivering the presidential address, Prof. Kushwaha reinstated the commitment of the university to protect and nurture the environment. He shared that 33% is the minimum declaration and RGU would make a conscious effort to give equal importance to nature and development and will continue to work towards dedicating more areas under Reserve Forest. In his interaction with the faculty and students, he shared that the need is to protect #OnlyOneEarth and that can only be done through individual efforts. He shared the idea of 'Conservative Consumer', that we need to understand wastage and over consumption are also big contributors to ecological imbalance.

The closing remarks was delivered by Prof. Ashan Riddi, Director IDE and Head, Department of History, RGU. He thanked all the members present for their contribution with special mention of the two community guests of the ceremony. The program was conducted by Moyir Riba, Convenor, Organising Committee, RGU. This was followed by commemorative plantation of a 'Neem' plant at the IIC, RDE, RGU.

The second program was a 100-plant plantation drive organised by the RGU, wherein 100 plants were planted in the NSS park in the presence of HVC, PVC, Registrar, Deans, COE, HoDs and NSS volunteers. The drive was a joint initiative of the administration and students of the university.

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The day concluded with the 'One Student One Plant' program organised by the Department of Geography. The students and faculty under the initiative of Prof. Tomo Riba, Head, the department has initiated plantation of one plant by each research scholar of the university, who will also care for the plant till the date of completion of his/her course. Prof. Saket Kushwaha lauded the initiative and encouraged all departments of the university to adopt the model.

[ENDS]