

Professor Dinabandhu Sahoo - A Glimpse

Dr. Dinabandhu Sahoo is a Professor, Scientist, Administrator, strong advocate of youth empowerment, environmentalist, inventor and innovator, who has been striving ceaselessly towards improving the quality of lives of people living in coastal and rural India through application of Science & Technology at the grass root level. Through his relentless efforts, for more than three decades now, he has contributed immensely to the socio-economic empowerment of the people and protection of the environment. This has earned him well-deserved accolade from around the world. Prof. Sahoo has been championing the causes of Sustainable Development. He was the First Indian student to visit Antarctica in 1987 during the 7th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica where he hoisted the Indian flag and with other members laid the foundation for India's permanent station "Maitri" in Antarctica which was a landmark in the history of Indian Antarctic Science. By the time he was 27, he travelled all the seven continents and five oceans in a record time of just 18 months. Subsequently, he made two trips to Arctic. Prof. Sahoo stepped out of his laboratory into the real world and trained villagers in various coastal states of India for seaweeds cultivation and utilization thus sowing the seeds of a "Blue Revolution". His inspiring story "Teach a Man to Fish" has been published in the best-selling book "*I have a Dream*", which has been translated into several Indian languages.

Prof. Sahoo was instrumental in conceptualizing and organizing **India's First Cherry Blossom Festival** since **2016**, which has been drawing lakhs of people from different parts of the world. He established a state-of-the-art Orchidarium at Shillong which is singular of its kind in the country attracting a large number of visitors. He was part of the scientific delegation and gave a presentation before Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the 19th August 2015 at New Delhi regarding Sustainable Development of North East and . Delivered a **TEDx Talk** at IIM Shillong and a talk on Global Warming in Korean Parliament. He has published several research papers, 13 books, received several Awards and elected as Fellow of Science Academies in India. He was conferred D.Sc (*Honoris Causa*) in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of application of Science and Technology.

A New Ginger species *Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis* is being named after him.

An Orchid *Papilionanda Dinabandhu Sahoo* has been registered in UK in his name.

He has visited as many as 38 countries which include more than 80 Institutions. Antarctica, Arctic (2 times), Brazil, China (3 times), Japan (8 times), Korea (4 times) Australia (3 times), USA (6 times), Spain & Canada (2 times), France (2 times), England, Switzerland, Peru, Portugal, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Germany, Austria, Italy, Mauritius, Netherland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangladesh, Malaysia (3 times), Greece, Turkey, U.A.E., Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, South Africa, Indonesia, New Zealand, Philippines (2 times), Vietnam, etc

Professor Dinabandhu Sahoo

Ph.D, D.Sc(Honoris Causa)

FNASc, FNAAS, FBRS, ISEES

Head, Department of Botany, University of Delhi

Former Vice Chancellor, FM University, Odisha

Former Founder Director, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of Delhi

Former Director, Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi

Former Director IBSD (NORTH EAST), DBT, Govt. of India

Former, Scientific Adviser, to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya

Antarctic and Arctic explorer (1st Indian student to visit Antarctica)

Founder, Indian Cherry Blossom Festival

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