

Key Points in inaugural speech by DG iCED on 27-04-2015 for Workshop Cum National Training Programme on Introduction to Environment Audit with special emphasis on audit of SPCBs

1. Participants were greeted and welcomed by DG.
2. While quoting latest data from CPCB's annual report for 2011-12 the latest on their website – it was highlighted that there were no ambient air quality monitoring stations in Manipur, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh then. While number of such stations in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim was in 0-10 category, Mizoram and Assam had more than 10 such stations.
3. It becomes pertinent to note that number of environmental surveillance scheme (ESS) inspections in the same year were two in Arunachal Pradesh, seven in Meghalaya and 14 in Assam and 'NIL' in the remaining states in North Eastern Region. This is a pointer to the need for us to evaluate the working of State Pollution Control Boards.
4. Keeping the focus of Audit of SPCBs while explaining the Indian saying of "Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam", importance of sustainability was explained in environmental parlance. We have not owned this earth, we are only the custodians of this earth, we have inherited from our ancestors and we have to pass it on to our future generations. If we are polluting the earth, how can we pass a planet in deteriorated condition to the future generations?
5. This workshop is not intended to end with receiving inputs but will conclude with delivering a Study design matrix for the audit of SPCBs in States represented in the workshop.
6. At iCED we discourage lack of punctuality and the use of paper and non- recyclable plastic as our commitment towards environment is profound.
7. The takeaways for participants from this training include enhanced skills; memories of uniqueness and ambience of iCED. Speech closed with wishing all the participants a good learning experience ahead.