

Young Biotechnologists Contest for “NORTH ZONE- VOICE FOR BT-2015”



Participants for “North Zone” Voice for BT contest-2015

Vibrant and loud voices of budding undergraduates, discussing the prospects of biotechnology echoed the serene hills of Solan Himachal Pradesh, with promises of biotech inspiring a beautiful future. It was the fifth episode of North Zone “Voice for BT” public speaking contest organized jointly by the Novozymes, BioSpectrum and Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) at the Jaypee University of Information Technology, Wahnaghat, Solan (H.P).

“Voice for BT” an intercollegiate public speaking contest on Biotechnology served the platform for undergraduate biotech students to voice their opinion on key role that biotechnology can play in solving some of the most challenging problems that the nation and the world is facing in recent times.

Young and enthusiastic participants from 31 different institutes across North India gathered on Sept. 25, 2015 at the JUIT campus, Wahnaghat in Solan district (just 15 km from Shimla), thrilled a 300-strong audience with their impressive ideas along with superb gathering of facts as to why and how biotechnology can solve some of the immediate problems of the nation.

They spoke on either of three topics: Importance of ‘Cleaner Environment’ and the role of ‘Biotech Tools’ , Application of ‘Agricultural Biotechnology’ in improving ‘food Nutrition in Crops’ and Importance of ‘Waste to Energy’ and the role of ‘Biotechnology’. Each student was given 5 minutes to impress the audience and a panel of four judges— Mr Mads Bjornvad, R&D Head Novozymes, Mr. G S Krishnan, Regional President Novozymes, Mr. Divakar Rao, Advisor, Life Sciences Sector, Govt. of Karnataka, and Mr. Narayanan Suresh, Editor,

BioSpectrum Magazine. The event was witnessed by Prof. Samir Dev Gupta, Director (Academic) and Brig. (Retd.) Balbir Singh, Director (Admn.) of the JUIT. The winners, Ms Prateeksha Kaul, Ms. Harmandeep Kaur and Ms. Merlit Matthews made an impact in the contest. "It was the biggest "Voice For BT" and a grand success too", said Mr. Krishnan who has carried out the responsibility of organizing this

particular event for so many years. In the end, there was a clear winner, Ms Prateeksha Kaul, a biotech graduate from Meerut Institute of Engineering & Technology, Meerut. She showcased her public speaking skills with grace and placed her arguments vividly and in an impressive manner.



Prof. R. S. Chauhan (Dean Biotechnology, JUIT) received memento from Ms. Kanak Angrish (Advisor- PR & Communication, Novozymes, South Asia Pvt Ltd.)

There were two runners-ups, Ms. Harmandeep Kaur from S.D College Chandigarh and Ms. Merlit Matthews from Amity University, Jaipur, Rajasthan. The winner, Ms. Kaul got a cash prize of 25,000 and a three-month internship at Novozymes R&D facility in Bangalore. The first runner up was given a prize of 15,000 and the second runner up, 10,000. "It was quite informative listening to all the speakers, I made a good note of lot of interesting stuff ", said Mr. Bjornvad. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. R. S Chauhan, Dean Biotechnology, JUIT Waknaghat.