

World Congress on Regional Science held at BITS Pilani

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus recently hosted the 12th World Congress of the Regional Science Association International in collaboration with Town and Country Planning Department of Goa and the Regional Science Association (RSA), India. The conference on 'Spatial Systems: Social Integration, Regional Development and Sustainability' and was attended by over 500 delegates from India and abroad and it held for the first time in India at Goa.

The governor of Goa Dr Mridula Sinha inaugurated the Congress in presence of director of BITS Pilani Goa campus, Prof G Raghurama, Professors Budy Resosudarmo (president of RSAI), guest of honor, Bibek Debroy (chief economic advisor to the Prime Minister of India and Member, NITI Aayog) and the venerable C R Pathak.

The objective of the congress was to provide an encouraging environment for researchers across the globe, to interact and learn from one another, and create a network that will be attractive and inspiring for young students and scholars. It further aimed to strengthen the community of regional scientists and achieve a better understanding of our future needs.

The sub-themes were aimed at providing a platform for debates and discussions around

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the key issues of contemporary regional science and carve out the way to future research agenda. Across the world, communities are striving to achieve an ecologically and socially secure future. The intricately linked ideas of sustainability and integration are the key to achieving our development goals.

The sub-themes discussed during the course of Congress include: Regional Inequality, Regional and Urban planning, Regional Finance, Innovation, Disaster Management, Governance Issues, Health Issues, Environment and Climate Change, Locational Activity, Growth and Development Issues in Latin America, Africa, Europe, South Asia, Goa, West Bengal and India, Spatial Econometrics, Tourism, Real Estate and Housing, Water Management, Co-operation and Diaspora, Social Integration, Rural Development and Methodological Issues in Regional Sciences. A Special Session on Braille Mapping by NATMO was also held.