**International workshop on 22 & 23 March 2024**

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**International Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation Competencies at B. H. College, Howly**

On 22nd and 23rd March 2024, B. H. College, Howly hosted a vibrant two-day international workshop focusing on competencies development for biodiversity conservation and all the teachers of **The Science Forum** were involved in the mega event. Prof. Ramesh “Zimbo” Boonratana, an eminent figure with roles including Vice-Chair at IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group and Editor-in-chief of Asian Primate Journal, led the workshop. The event featured three technical sessions and drew participation from 57 attendees, encompassing faculties, research scholars, undergraduate, and postgraduate students.

During the workshop, Prof. Boonratana highlighted a significant insight, stating, "No formal degree is necessary to engage in conservation practice," thereby emphasizing the extensive network of conservation practitioners.

The workshop's importance was underscored in the welcome address by Principal, Dr. B. C. Pathak. Prof. Prabhat Ch. Choudhury anchored the inaugural session, with Convener Dr. Sadananda Nath elucidating the workshop's objectives. Dr. Nabajit Das assisted Prof. Boonratana during the technical sessions. The valedictory session was skilfully conducted by organizing secretary Dandeswar Deka, culminating with a vote of thanks from Dr. Bhabananda Deb Nath. Dr. Barnali Pathak and Hunjuli Katharpi curated the rapporteurs' notes. This event was a collaborative effort between B. H. College, G.L.C. College - Barpeta Road, Barnagar College - Sorbhog, Nabajyoti College - Kalgachia, and the Zoological Society of Assam, culminating in a resounding success.

One-Day International Symposium on 23rd March 2024, Following the workshop, a one-day international symposium was organized on 23rd March 2024. Prof. Boonratana returned to deliver a compelling speech on ecotourism, highlighting its urgent necessity in current times.

The inaugural session was anchored by Convener Dr. Bhabananda Deb Nath. Dr. Loitongbam Bishwanjit Sing, an Assistant Professor from the Department of South-East Asian Studies at Manipur University, presented a talk on the 'East Act Policy: Opportunities for Developing Cross Border Trade and Business.' He emphasized the significant potential of the North-East region in this domain.

With a participation of 120 attendees, ranging from undergraduate students to faculty members, the symposium was deemed highly successful. The rapporteurs' report for this event was meticulously prepared by Dr. Kripanjali Pradhani.

Prof. Jogen Ch. Kalita, HoD, Department of Zoology and Dean, Faculty of Science, Gauhati University played pivotal role in the entire programs.