

**Loyola College (Autonomous)**  
**Chennai – 600 034.**

**National Symposium on Contemporary Issues in  
Environmental Economics**

The most awaited annual National Symposium for the year 2018-19 was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. The Symposium has been a cornerstone of the Loyola Economics Association for Development, with eminent personalities of the nation and the top brains of our country, all coming together on a common platform, and working towards addressing a critical aspect of the Environmental Scenario in India. The theme for this year's Symposium discussed an array of topics under the title of **"Contemporary Issues in Environmental Economics"**, as the need of the hour is not just growth but sustainable growth. In the race of growing faster, we often give up on environmental aspects related to it, which is turning out to be major threat for Human-Kind. Though the government took steps like Plastic Ban (Tamil Nadu), Emission tax etc., we are yet to reap benefits from the same. While the technological advancements play a positive note, the daunting challenges and problems that lay ahead is a major concern to the nation. Like every edition of the National Symposium, this year also saw a stellar panel of economists, agricultural experts and social activists, chosen to lead the Symposium in the right direction. The Symposium was inaugurated by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister & Former Governor of RBI and Chairman, Madras School of Economics (MSE) and other guest speakers were Dr. L. Venkatachalam, Professor (RBI Chair), Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), and Mr. Sanjay Pinto, Lawyer, Columnist, Author & Former Resident Editor - NDTV 24x7. They showed a glimpse of their vast knowledge, by speaking about the issue at hand, with utmost clarity and professionalism, providing the gathered audience with great exposure towards Environmental Issues in India and its future.

The inaugural function also saw the launch of the monograph of the Symposium papers and Oikonomikos, which is the annual Department Journal, with

grand success. The ceremony was followed by the panel discussion. Moderated by the post-graduate student V Henry Arokia Raj, the panelists for the event were Mr. Gopikrishna Warriar, Editor Mongabay.com, Prof. Zareena Begum I, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Madras School of Economics (MSE), Mr. G. Sankaran, President, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry Plastics Association, Mr. Sunderrajan, Poovulagin Nanbarkal (NGO) and Dr. S. Selvan, Additional Chief Environmental Engineer, TNPCB. The panelists spent more than an hour, discussing about the issues that plagued the environmental related sector of India, and talked about the various solutions towards the positive future of sustainable living in India. They also took on questions from the audience, providing an enlightening session for everyone gathered at the venue.

The panel discussion was followed by the technical sessions, across the four venues. Moderated by the senior students of the department and chaired by eminent Heads of Departments of various Chennai based colleges: Dr. Regi Manimegala, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Stella Maris College, Dr. D. B. Usha Rani, Vice Principal, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Ethiraj College for Women, Dr. A. Duraisamy, Dean Of Humanities,, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Madras Christian College, Dr. Jabeenara Begum, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College For Women. The sessions saw the participants of the symposium, gathered from various institutions from across the country presenting their papers and discussing the issue tackled by their paper, with the audience and the chairpersons. The presentations were followed by question answer sessions, asked by both the chairperson as well as the audience, which provided an interactive atmosphere for the presentations. The Symposium proceedings were wrapped with the valedictory ceremony, which saw the symposium report being presented, and the certificates being distributed to all those involved in the symposium, both as organizers and participants. The symposium garnered a lot of favourable and supportive feedback, which again provided foundation for the successful completion of this year's National Symposium.