BITS Pilani holds 4th Asia Pacific meeting

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BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus organised the 4th Asia Pacific - International Society of Microbial Electrochemistry and Technology (AP-ISMET) Meeting. The meeting included presentations, panel discussions and interactive dialogues on the latest advances in the field of bio-electrochemical and electrochemical approaches for decentralised sanitation. The meeting was attended by 55 participants representing around 22 different institutes from around 13 countries. The meeting also included 27 oral presentations and 12 Poster presentations by participants.

The meeting began with a welcome address by director, BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus, professor, Raghurama G.

The keynote address was delivered by head of the laboratory of microbial ecology and technology, professor, Willy Verstraete.

In his address titled 'Which microbial technologies show major potential for the needs of the next decades?' Verstraete focussed on the general aspect of current situation in the field and also gave an insight for future aspects and development required.

The conference focused on four different aspects – microbiology, technology, components aspects, and sanitation. On day one, Sarah Glaven spoke on 'The role of microbial communities in bio-electrochemical systems for energy generation and storage'; professor Korneel Rabaey spoke on 'Electroactive biofilms – the more control, the more questions'; professor Makarand Gangrekar spoke on 'Bio-electrochemical system with modified cement cation exchange membrane for kitchen wastewater treatment and electricity generation'; there was also a joint presentation by professor Korneel Rabaey and Sarah Glaven on 'Terminology and data representation.'

On the second day professor S Venkata Mohan spoke on 'Microbial Electrochemical Technology: Multi-facet Applications' and process session in the afternoon. On day three participants visited single household electrochemical and 100 people equivalent electrochemical system treating black water from the campus.