



## Nomination Jury Report

Films are not just an effective medium of presentation; they also engender a great deal of debate and discussion. This is something that was quite vividly visible during the nomination round for CMS VATAVARAN 2009. The four daylong nomination jury round (July 28-31, 2009) brought together 31 experts from different regions of the country on one platform. It was not only an occasion to watch a wide array of films related to environment and wildlife but also to debate, discuss and interact on several issues related to environment and film making.

The jury was quite astonished to know that CMS VATAVARAN 2009 had received 366 entries including 276 entries from 20 different states of India and 90 International entries from 23 countries. The sheer diversity of the films received made the nomination process an arduous but enjoyable task for the jury members. The 31-member jury was headed by M Vedakumar (President, Forum for Better Hyderabad) as its chairperson. The rich diversity of the films showcased during the nomination jury round showed how the festival theme of 'Climate change and sustainable technologies' and 15 other categories had been captured by film makers in different ways, resulting in a rich and diverse collection of films for the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of CMS VATAVARAN.

To streamline the entire process of nomination, the 31-member jury was divided into six committees according to their areas of interest and expertise. Each of these committees had a chairperson, subject and visual medium experts. The Nomination Jury gave their comments as well as valuable suggestions on the films entered in the competition.

### **Films are quite inspirational**

The jury members critically examined the content, presentation and the message given by the films. They were appreciative of the fact that many of the films really touched upon the burning environmental issues and send out a clear and loud message to all. "It's quite interesting to see how some films highlight the sustainable interlinkage between non-mechanised technologies and different cultures and ecology. Also, some forgotten/ neglected indigenous and low cost technology, which have the potential to help users have been positively depicted. These films are quite inspirational and also present models we can all attempt to follow," said Dr M Lal, chairperson, CMS Nomination Jury committee on Climate Change. He further added, "All the films in climate change (National) category were wonderful to view and they depicted the messages they wanted to convey clearly and were quite focused."



### **Sharing of technical expertise**

The jury members were of the opinion that international films were of quite high quality, in terms of the equipments that have been used to make them as well as in terms of overall presentation. "The international films in the category-Water for all, addressed the subject in a qualitatively superior manner than the rest. In terms of relevance, technical quality and overall standard these films stand out," said, M Veda Kumar. His views were complemented by Dr A K Ghosh, Professor In-charge, Dept. of Environment and Water Management, A. N. College, Patna who said that "Technically the movies selected in International section are better than movies in Indian section. It will be good if CMS VATAVARAN provides opportunity to share knowledge with the producers of selected films to Indian counterparts."

### **Giving vent to marginalized voices**

The nomination jury noticed that a fairly good number of films depicted the problems faced by the rural communities and marginalized groups. Dr Ainul Hussain was of the view "In the category-Livelihood some of the films managed to focus effectively on the problems of some key sections like agriculture, tea, silk etc. The films manage to capture the crisis communities are facing across the country. It was good that most films gave space for the community voices to be heard. However, there should have been more specific focus on livelihood related gender issues in some of the films."

### **Final nomination of films**

After a four day long nomination round, the jury finally nominated 106 films for the prestigious CMS VATAVARAN awards and screenings. These include 73 national and 33 international films.

### **Suggestions**

During the nomination round the rich and diverse conglomerate of experts from various parts of the country created a perfect atmosphere for healthy interaction on issues related to environment and wildlife. Jury members not only appreciated the concept and selection process of the festival but at the same time also gave valuable suggestions too. M Vedakumar, chairperson of the nomination jury, was highly appreciative of the entire process of the nomination. He said, "It's good to see that efforts are being made at such a big scale to spread awareness regarding environmental issues.

Some of the films that we have seen are of very high quality and it was quite difficult for us to make the final selection." Prof Mrinal Chatterjee from IIMC, Dhenkanal, expressed his desire to bring the festival next year to Bhubneshwar and assured of full cooperation. K Mohan Kumar from NCSTS gave several valuable suggestions to further enhance the reach and impact of the festival. "To make sure that the message of these films reach to the general public, these films should also be dubbed



in regional languages. As CMS VATAVARAN will be a traveling festival next year and it will be reaching to eight cities throughout the length and breadth of the country, dubbing of these films in regional languages will be of immense help to viewers in these regions," he said.



The jury panel appreciated the efforts made by the CMS VATAVARAN team in popularizing the issues related to environment through the effective medium of film festival.

Thank you.