

Report of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Institute of Wood Science and Technology, and Hitachi India Private Limited, on 26th October 2016.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bengaluru and Hitachi India Private Limited, Bengaluru at IWST on 26th October 2016. The MOU was signed to develop a protocol for microchip based e-protection system for high value timber species like sandalwood which will help to protect, conserve and enhance the status of these precious bio-resources of the country.

The MOU was signed by **Mr. Surendra Kumar, IFS Director, IWST** and **Mr. Gnaneshwar Kambali, General Manager, Hitachi India Private Limited, Bengaluru** in presence of **Mr. Hiroshi Ishijima, Deputy General Manager – Digital Solutions and Services Group, Hitachi India Pvt Ltd, Mr. N. Mohan Karnat, Group Coordinator (Research), Head of Divisions, Scientists, Officers and staff members of IWST and e-protection system development group members Mr. V. Soundararajan, Mr. M. Srinivasa Rao, Dr. K. Murugesan and Mr. G. Ravi Kumar.**

Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS welcomed the esteemed guests and other IWST members. **Mr. M. Srinivasa Rao, IFS** explained about the sandalwood status and importance of protection system and also briefed about the genesis and conceptualization of e-protection project. **Mr. Mohan Karnat, IFS Group Coordinator (Research)** has congratulated the team members for their efforts and also briefed about the benefits of the project.

Mr. Surendra Kumar IFS, Director IWST congratulated the efforts taken by the team members on this key milestone achievement and said; “This is one of the first MoU’s signed by IWST for the corporate fund. The Director emphasized that “This will enable us to work closely with industry promote investment in research and development of technologies having high commercial value and which are environmentally friendly.

Mr. Gnaneshwar Kambali and **Mr. Hiroshi Ishijima**, briefed about the technical aspects of the e-protection project, its concept demonstration ie. Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) for monitoring and detection of illegal felling of trees. He also emphasized that even if the response to the alarm system is slow the embedded chip ie., the sensors technology HAD2P will help in tracking the sandalwood trees after it is illegally felled.

Finally, **Dr. Pankaj Kumar Aggarwal, Excision Officer** thanked the guests, speakers and other team members involved in the conduct of the programme.









