

Goa Institute of Management, Sanquelim

Earthly Misgivings

Carl S D'Souza

Bjørn Lomborg, renowned Danish writer and author of the best-selling 'The Sceptical Environmentalist', delivered a talk at the Goa Institute of Management at Sanquelim on November 5 on the best way to tackle climate change.

Lomborg told the students how most facts and beliefs that people harbour about the environment change taking place were skewed, and how the effects of climate change could be better tackled by using basic and cost-effective measures and policies.

"Initiatives like Earth Hour made people 'feel' that they were contributing in

some way to reduction of global warming, when actually using candles during that hour may be increasing the level of carbon emissions in the world! Thus, it is very important to remove our myths as well as panic due to exaggerated facts provided to us, which may actually make us take wrong decisions," Lomborg told students.

Lomborg pointed out that temperature due to global warming is likely going to increase by 2.6 degree Celsius by 2100.

He took three central effects that are taken by environmentalists to highlight the effect of climate change: heat deaths, hurricanes and malaria, and proved how these effects were not only because of global warming, but more because of bad policy, infrastructure measures taken by the governments. Lomborg proved through hard statistics and facts that heat waves were not a threat as more people in the world died due to cold weather conditions rather than heat waves.

"The above points prove why Copen-

gen Conference led to failure. Kyoto Protocol plans to invest \$180 billion per year to bring about a 0.004 degree Celsius reduction in temperature by 2100, whereas just making the cities of the world a bit greener may reduce global temperature by 8 degree Celsius!," he said.

Lomborg provided some basic solutions that could bring about a change, like reducing the price of solar panels that are right now more expensive than fossil fuels. "According to research, the best way a country can use its income is by investing 0.2% of its GDP in research and development on non-carbon emitting energy technologies. Thus, each country should be given the freedom to focus on its own visions, be it conservation, renewables or energy storage," he said.

What's happening in your college? Be a student reporter and write to us at toi.goa@timesgroup.com