

KU's CORD organises 'Consultative Stakeholder Meeting on Feasibility of Relocation of Houseboats in Dal Lake'



Srinagar, Nov 12: The Centre of Research for Development (CORD) University of Kashmir organised a one-day 'Consultative Stakeholder Meeting on Feasibility of Relocation of Houseboats in Dal Lake'.

The meeting was aimed at ascertaining the perception of stakeholders about the 'Relocation of Houseboats and their realignment at Dole-Demb in Dal Lake' proposed by the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Jammu and Kashmir.

Acting KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Neelofar Khan, who was the chief guest at the inaugural session, highlighted the importance of conservation of Dal Lake and impressed upon active involvement of all stakeholders in the process.

Prof Zafar Ahmad Reshi, coordinator of the meeting elaborated upon the context of the consultative deliberations.

During the deliberations, the pros and cons of relocation and realignment of houseboats in Dal Lake were discussed in detail, including effect of relocation on

ecology of Dal Lake, socio-economic aspects of relocation, rehabilitation of houseboat owners in view of relocation and overall condition of Dal Lake.

During the session, concerns raised included type and quantum of pollution by houseboats, effective sewerage system, spring impact arising out of relocation, social and economic impact, convergence of economic and environmental aspects, attractive compensation, delayed decision-making and lack of wider consultation with the concerned stakeholders.

Prof Mohammad Niamat Ali, Director CORD and convenor of the meeting, welcomed the guests formally.

Prof M S Bhat, former Dean, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences KU summed up the deliberations while Dr Samiullah Bhat and Dr Arshid Jehangir conducted proceedings of the meeting, which ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Sumira Tyub, Senior Scientist CORD.