The Nineteenth National Symposium on Environment (NSE-19) was held at the School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala during 11-13, December 2014. This symposium is jointly organized by School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and Health, Safety and Environment Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai and sponsored by BRNS / DAE. Prior to this, eighteen such symposia were held in various parts of the country. Considering the fact that climate change has been the major environmental issue and is currently the single greatest challenge facing environmental regulators the focal theme of the symposium was chosen as “Climate Change and its Impacts”. Prof. C. T. Arvindkumar, Director, School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University welcomed the delegates of the symposium and highlighted the ongoing research activities of School of Environmental Sciences. Dr.(Ms.) G.G. Pandit, Head, EMAS, BARC and Convener, Symposium Organizing Committee talked about the theme of the symposium and outlined the National Symposium on Environment series being conducted earlier at different locations in India.

Dr. D. N. Sharma, Director Health Safety & Environment Group (HS&EG), BARC in his inaugural address, emphasized the importance of promoting nuclear energy as a clean and green energy option. He mentioned about the policies of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) which are in line with...
deployment of clean technologies that involves carrying out environmental surveillance of all its projects during pre-operational, operational and post operational periods in order to ensure safety of the surrounding environment.

Dr. Babu Sebastian, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University in his presidential address, highlighted the importance of environmental studies on climate change and forging alliances between academia and research institutes for national benefit.

There were more than 200 delegates across the country from various academic and research institutes apart from delegates from DAE units participated in the current symposium. The invited speakers for the symposium included experts from various research institutions including IITs and DAE units.

A wide range of topics related to environmental science and technology were covered during the three-day symposium. It includes climate change and mitigation strategies, Environmental radioactivity including NORM, Speciation studies of toxic pollutants, Monitoring & modeling of pollutants and their transport, Environmental awareness, education and other related areas. There was lively interaction between young researchers and experts during poster sessions. Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) organised Public awareness programme during the symposium.

A one day workshop for capacity building in “Measurement of Kd (distribution coefficient) for toxic contaminants in geological matrices and its application in contaminant transport modeling” was also organized for the benefit of the delegates. An interactive session was also arranged to on the concluding day chaired by Dr. D. N. Sharma, Director Health Safety & Environment Group (HS&EG) for answering queries about the DAE activities with students from different universities.