

## COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE MAKING OF A COASTAL MANAGER

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The next two or three decades will witness the transition of our coastal villages to coastal cities, cities to mega domes and later in this century, the entire coastal belt of early and present day civilization will turn to broad, well pitched, prominent, super activity agglomerate. In the past quarter of a century and more recently, concerned over the sustainability of the coastal zones, in our thoughts and deeds, there are good reflections in attempts being made to evolve suitable mechanisms (both traditional and modern) to resolve issues of the coastal zones. How far are we equipped to address the intricacies of this vital region, given our abilities to understand the multi-facets of any coastal zone? Only the realm of education has helped us to transcend the knowledge (mostly traditional) and meaning of our interactions with nature, more particularly so, on the coastal zone. If so, do we have amongst us, qualified, skilled personals to redeem and improve the situation in the coastal zones? Certain issues have dominated the scene – global climate change, altered water budgets, depleting resources, and many more – all have paved the way to re-think our strategies and action supporting concepts for the coastal zones, calling forth a need based approach on administering the activities in the said region and evolve a more rational approach to issues in the coastal zones. This paper addresses the concept in preparing a “Coastal Manager”, one which has been in vogue in lines with the above. The C-IMCOZ has evolved a comprehensive study-cum-training program to impart education to different sections of the society, including students and local inhabitants to achieve the above stated goals. The focus is on preparing an individual to meet the challenges of the coastal zones and attempt to resolve the issues in an amicable way. For the coastal zone, he or she has to have a proper perspective view of the issue at hand, understand the circumstances leading to the cause of the issue, background of the region, the aspirations of the people, the working order of the administration, legal and associated set-up and more importantly, the working principles of the natural entities and their functional interrelationships, the ambient conditions and then proceed to critically resolve the conflict(s). It is not seemingly easy as read here and so there arises case studies to be attempted and bring out alternate solutions and select the best suited. The centre has considered the concept of rolling plans in such cases where the coastal environment is highly dynamic, as environmentally sound responses have necessitated equally challenging flexibility. A multi disciplinary approach, quite essential in dealing such subjects are given adequate attention. An eight module course curricula strengthens the academic activity whereas short and long term projects address the research components. The candidate is trained to draw up a proper perspective of the coastal scenario and conduct field studies, interact with people and government officials and equally to come up with alternate plans or solutions to redeem the situation. The essence of integrated management is thence an ongoing exercise and the coastal manager is prepared to function as a nodal person in his capacity to bring about an equitable and judicious settlement so as to preserve and conserve the use and resource of the coastal zone while paying all reasonable attention to the development of the region.