

SWISS Scientists arrived at Chilika for a long term collaborative research:

CDA has signed a memorandum of understanding with Institute of Earth Sciences, University of Lausanne (UNIL) Switzerland to initiate collaborative research in the area of nutrient and hydrological cycling, ecological, and sedimentary evolution of Chilika Lake. So far, understanding of these areas in the complex and dynamic settings of lake is very rudimentary. In order to bridge these knowledge gaps, a six member research team headed by Prof. T. Vennemann and Dr. Laurent Decrouy including researchers from School of Biotechnology KIIT University took extensive sampling of water, sediments and macrophytes in the catchment area and Chilika Lake. These samples will be analyzed to generate data on three major projects

- (i) Tracing the hydrological cycling of Chilika Lake using stable isotope measurements of water
- (ii) Nitrogen cycle and nitrate analyses for groundwater infiltrating Chilika Lake – importance of macrophytes as effective filters for nitrate
- (iii)
- (iv) Sedimentological and ecological evolution of Chilika Lake.



SWISS scientists in conversation with the PD, ICZMP & Chief Executive of CDA in presence of the scientists of CDA on their research study

A better understanding of ecosystem functioning achieved through isotope signature of nutrients, water, and macrophytes would enhance our understanding of biogeochemical cycling, weed invasion, and ecological health of Chilika Lake.

The team of scientists also met Dr Ajit Kumar Pattanaik, Chief Executive of CDA and Project Director of ICZM Project – Odisha at SPMU office on 5th September 2013. They have discussed on the objective of their research methodologies and findings of their team. Dr Pattnaik assured all necessary support from Chilika Development Authority and ICZMP for the team of researchers. The meeting was attended by senior scientists from Chilika Development Authority.