The first International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata, India (SFE-India) was organized at Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, India, during March 7-9, 2014. Theme of the event was “Globalizing Traditional Medicines: Present and Future Prospects”. The congress was organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai. The congress has evidenced participation of over 700 delegates from 20 countries with more than 300 scientific presentations.

A pre-conference workshop was organized on “Publishing Your Research in Impact Journals”. Eminent editors/editorial board members of various internationally acclaimed impact journals delivered lectures in this workshop. Dr Pulok K Mukherjee, Associate Editor, J Ethnopharmacology, Elsevier; Dr Michael Heinrich, Editor, J Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Pharmaceutical Press, UK; Dr Rudolf Bauer, Editor, Planta Medica, Germany; Prof Anna Jäger, Copenhagen, Denmark, J Ethnopharmacology, Elsevier; Dr Gail B Mahady, J Pharmaceutical Biology, Willey; Dr T K Mukherjee, Ex-Editor, Indian J Traditional Knowledge, CSIR and other delivered lectures. This workshop focused on essential techniques for effective writing and presentation of scientific information and highlights some of the important issues related to publishing research works in journals with impact factor.

The congress was inaugurated by Shri Shekhar Dutt, Honorable Governor of Chhattisgarh, Sri V R Venkataachallam, Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai. Other respected dignitaries who attended the program were Dr H Devaraj, Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi, Prof Anna Jagar, President, International Society for Ethnopharmacology UK, Prof S Datta, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Dr Pratim Banerji, President, Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata, Dr S P Thyagrajan, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, Dr Pulok K Mukherjee, Secretary, Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata, Prof S S Handa, Former Director Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines, Jammu, Dr Michael Heinrich, Centre for Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, School of Pharmacy, University of London, UK, Dr D Chamundeeswari, Organizing Secretary, of the congress.

In the inauguration programme of the congress, a book entitled “Traditional Medicine and Globalization – The Future of Ancient System of Medicine” edited by Dr Pulok K Mukherjee, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, was released by Sri Sekhar Dutt, Honourable Governor of Chhattisgarh. Felicitation of the eminent scientists were made in is function followed by the special lectures by Prof S S Handa and Dr Michael Heinrich. SFE annual awards for outstanding contributions on Ethnopharmacology was awarded in the inaugural function. Dr Sukhdev Swami Handa received the SFE Lifetime Achievement Award “Bisheswar Saha Memorial Award”; Prof Michael Heinrich received the SFE Outstanding International Ethnopharmacologist Award “Pranab Banerji Memorial Award”; the SFE Outstanding Indian Ethnopharmacologist Award “Harihar Mukherjee Memorial Award” was conferred to Prof Y K Gupta;
Sri Birendra Kumar Sarkar received the SFE - Best Entrepreneur Award; Prof S P Thyagarajan received the SFE Merit of Excellence Award; Natural Remedies Pvt Ltd, Bangalore received the SFE - Herbal industry leader award; Dr D Chamundeeswari received the SFE Outstanding Service Award.

The Keynote lectures, special lectures and the plenary lectures were delivered on different issues for promotion and globalization of traditional medicine, ethnopharmacology and medicinal plant research by a galaxy of eminent scientists and researchers from all over the world. Some eminent speakers were Dr Gail B Mahady, USA, Dr Pradip Paul, USA, Prof Rudolf Bauer, Austria; Prof Elin Yulindah Sukandar, Indonesia; Prof Anna Jäger, Denmark; Dr R S Ramaswamy, India, Dr Y K Gupta, India, Dr R Soundarajan, India, Dr Ramesh K Goyal, Dr Michael Heinrich, UK, India, Dr S P Thyagarajan, India, Dr Alexander D Crawford, Luxembourg, Dr D K Mitra, India, Dr V Aridhasan, India, Dr Tuhinadri Sen, India, Dr S P Subramanian, Dr Sitesh C Bachar, Bangladesh, Dr K M Manikkavasagam, India, Dr Mukhlesur Rahman, UK, Dr Debprasad Chattopadhyay, India, Dr Mukesh Doble, India, Dr D K Mitra, India, Dr S K Maulik, India, Dr James Oluwagbamiagbe, Brazil, Dr Ciddi Veeresham, India, Dr A K S Rawat, India, Dr Anjan Adhikari, India, Dr Olatunde Peter Ajagbonna, Nigeria and many other representing 20 countries of the world.

The conference ended with a valedictory programme with the gracious presence of Dr B Suresh, President, Pharmacy Council of India and Mr Sibeswar Saha, Germany, Mentor, SFE, India. Special recognition was made by SFE-India and the organizers to recognize the services rendered by eminent personalities for their contribution in natural product and ethnopharmacological research, and contribution for the promotion and development of ethnopharmacology in India. Thus the first congress of the society was very successful in every aspect.

SFE-India was formed in 2013, registered under the West Bengal Society Registration act 1961, and affiliated to the International Society for Ethnopharmacology, UK. The society has made its presence through the country, which provides networking opportunity for development and promotion of medicinal plants and natural products. The Society works on dissemination of knowledge in this area through different local chapters made in different parts of India with the major highlights on globalizing local knowledge and localizing global technologies. The 2nd International congress of the society will be organized by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, R T M Nagpur University, Nagpur during February 20-22, 2015. We invite all of you to join the society. More information on the activities, awards and membership of the society is available on www.ethnopharmacology.in. For further information you may please contact Dr Pulok K Mukherjee, Secretary, SFE & Director, School of Natural Product Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata 700032, India.