

## Education Events in India for World Environment Day and International Year of Biodiversity

### WED-IYB in Mysore – organized by S. Mamatha

IYB Day in South Asia, the World Environment Day 2010 allied with International Year of Biodiversity was celebrated by the students of De Paul International Residential School and Junior College. The Principal Rev. Jose Aikara introduced the theme 'Many species, One planet, One future'. The students performed a drama using WED packets developed by Zoo Outreach Organisation in which they explained the loss of habitat and the need for species conservation. A 10th grade student, Madhavi gave a talk on 'The story of Life on Earth' which was very useful and informative. A 12th grade student Karnika, gave a power point presentation on Biodiversity. Individual commitments were made by the students to preserve the precious biodiversity which is our future. Each class along with class Teacher planted a sapling in the school campus. De Paul campus is a Green campus with four thousand and odd plants, which includes ornamental, commercial, medicinal and aesthetic. School Academic Dean Mr. Sunny Francis concluded the programme with the slogan, Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is our Life. Thanks to Sea World Conservation Fund and Zoo Outreach Organisation for their support for the programme.

**Submitted by S. Mamatha, Faculty, DPIRS, Mysore. E-mail: mamatha57@yahoo.com**



*Inauguration by lighting a lamp*



*Students performing a drama on biodiversity conservation*



*Posing with ZOO's Biodiversity education kits*

**WED-IYB in Madurai - organized at TN Theological College and Dhan Foundation**

The International Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 22nd May at TamilNadu Theological College, Madurai with 30 students. Definitions about Biodiversity, genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity were explained with the pictures and in selected places in the campus. The biological conditions of India the richness found in Western Ghats, the bio reserves, the National parks, Wildlife protection and India's initiation in the protection of animals and plants were explained. With the education materials supplied by the ZOO, separate sessions were carried out about amphibians and Human/Animal co-existence. All the participants took part in role play, drawing competition and observation. WED also was celebrated at DHAN Foundation with the Madurai Corporation with 69 participants. The contents of the UNEP packets received through ZOO published in Hindu prior to the day's programme attracted many mass media persons in 4 local channels. WED Packet material was explained to students and especially their roles at home, school and in public. The world wide organizations which are leading biodiversity conservation were also explained. Participants bubbled with ideas and plan for the following months and made a year plan to - Adopt a sapling in the campus, Refuse, Reduce, Re-use and Recycle, a News gathering, - a Project on One cubic foot, - a signature campaign for amphibians. One representative from Kalzangiyam, an NGO gave few guidelines to the students in eco protection.

**WED-IYB in Chennai - organized at Sri RKM Saradha Vidhalaya HSS & Eward School**

WED celebration and award to best schools on CountDown 2010 took place on 5th June 2010 at Sri RKM Saradha Vidhalaya HSS, Chennai. Free educational packets about UNEP and other organizations from ZOO were



*Visually impaired participant singing about biodiversity conservation*



*Human Elephant coexistence drama performs by teachers and students*



*Tree plantation at the school campus*



**Students are taught about coral reefs and other animals**

distributed. There were 4 sessions: observation, explanation, learning and planning in which contents of the educational packet were dealt clearly. They developed a future plan taking into consideration Climate Change, WEHAB, in relation to water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity. Elements of their plan were: re-use of water in the campus; replacement of CLF at home and at school; Energy audit at school; conception of vegetables and fruits; eco garden; project on one square feet and one cubic feet. Another WED celebration was conducted at Ewart Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Chennai, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Students shared their experience from summer holidays. Educational packets from ZOO were distributed with students thrilled to see the picture on the cover and identify its content. Questions were asked about the animals, plants, peoples of various nations etc. to convey the meaning of biodiversity, genetic diversity, species diversity and eco systems diversity. Follow up discussion on environmental conditions of the world and the reasons for that were useful. 'The What is Booklet' seems to be a mini- encyclopedia so the guide teacher and the resource person explained in detail. The Wheel of Life made a lasting impression with its mental map and Kingdom parts made them to recollect the names of all pictures

printed on it. They established 'One kingdom one week' as follow up. They renamed the "Do Do Do..." suggestions as MUST DO. They enacted a short play on Know your Monkey Manners.

**Submitted by  
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**WED-IYB in Calicut – at Regional Science Centre** The Conservation of Nature Society organized WED for high school students 5th June in basing their programme on the "Many species, One planet, One future" them in IYB. Classes were taken for the students on protecting

National Animal. An awareness programme was done on the reduction in the National Bird, the peacock and increasing sale of its feathers in Kerala. Also the huge felling of trees in the State was taken in detailed classes conducted for the students. Even threats from winds are reasons explained by the Social Forestry wing to fell shade trees even in forest areas. Another programme was organized for Lower Primary School in Eranhipalam in Calicut on June about the threat likely to face for the saplings planted in the state on the WED by Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department as the monsoon has not begun and heavy scarcity of water continues and wetlands are filled daily. The participants thanked ZOO, UNEP, WILD, IZE etc for materials. On 07.06.2010 the Dolphin Protection Committee organized a programme on the Day of the Oceans. Awareness programmes on mangrove coral reefs, sand, beaches, sand dunes, Mudflat, Salt Marshes, Turtle nesting grounds, Horse Shoe Grabs habitats, Sea grass beds, sea weed beds were taken on the day. Corals were also a subject. **Submitted by Vinod Kumar Damodar, Calicut. Email: mspca3@hotmail.com**



**Young kids with ZOO's education kits**

**WED-IYB in Madhya Pradesh:  
organized by CEE MP State  
Office, Bhopal**

Centre for Environmental Education (CEE) is a national institution engaged in developing programmes and material to increase awareness about the environment and sustainable development. CEE celebrated a week-long WED/IYB from 1-5 June, in partnership with different agencies, e.g. Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal, Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal. Archaeological Survey of India, Bhopal Circle, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Regional Science Centre, Bhopal, Environment Planning and Coordination Organization, EPCO, Bhopal, Capital Project Authority, CPA, Bhopal, Zoo Outreach Organisation, TRI-NATURE, Training and Research Society for Nature Conservation. Summary of WED-2010 Program.

**1 June, Tuesday:** Regional Museum of Natural History, RMNH, Bhopal, TRI-NATURE, Bhopal & Capital Project Authority, CPA, Bhopal. 50 participants

**2 June Wednesday:** Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal. 50 parts & Archeological Survey of India, ASI, Bhopal Circle. 30 parts

**3 June Thursday:** Regional Science Centre, Bhopal 60

**4 June Friday** Environment Planning and Coordination Organization 60 participants

**5 June Saturday:** Central Pollution Control Board, CPCB, Regional Office, Bhopal. 300 parts ASI, Bhopal Circle. 50 parts

The various teaching tools used in these were: WED & YOB Lecture, Zoo Outreach Organisation packet with headband, booklet, learning cards, drama, Who AM I Game, Rope & Ladder Game, Environmental Quiz. Book Exhibition at Ekant Park. Lecture on Biodiversity. Quiz on VVN. Park. Message/Slogan Writing for forest officials & Visitors, Orientation to Heritage Conservation, Do's and Don'ts of Heritage site, Know your heritage sites (M.P.). Through Quiz, Environmental Games and Quiz, Bird Identification Game, Book



**Rope & Ladder game to understand the environment conservation**



**Bird Identification game by forest officials at Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal**

Exhibition at Ekant Park, Bhopal for general public, Debate, Discussion on WED and IYB with local community & Plantation at Adamgarh Rock Shelter, Hosangabad, Resource material as IYB Kit for WED participants.  
**Submitted by CEE, MP.**

**CEE Himalaya: Celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity**

CEE Himalaya celebrated the day with events in the districts of Baramulla and Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir. Over 260 students and teachers participated in drawing, speech and quiz competitions. Students sketched diverse aspects of nature of Kashmir.

CEE North organized a two-day community awareness programme reflecting the theme 'Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is Our Life' in association with WWF Dudhwa and Forest Department. The programme was organized on 21 and 22 May 2010 at three locations in and around Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. The puppet show at Balera village and subsequent discussions, received enthusiastic participation of community members from four villages

CEE Madhya Pradesh organized nature trails on 22 May 2010 in the Swarn Jayanti Park in collaboration with Capital Project administration, for the regular Park visitors and general public in and around the Park. The Ropes and Ladders game was an enjoyable way to learn about Park ethics

CEE Kannur Facilitates Tribal Development: CEE Kannur is working on the NABARD sponsored project "Preparation of a comprehensive plan for the development of re-settled tribal communities in Aralam, Kannur district Kerala". It includes primary surveys, participatory rural appraisal, collection of secondary data and preparation of report on livelihood opportunities in the field of animal husbandry. More than 3000 landless tribal people were resettled at Aralam by providing



**Break and Build the Pyramid game by Physically challenged students at Kamlapati Palace, Bhopal**

1 acre of land to each family although they do not have basic facilities.

CEE WaRM Lends a Hand to NGOs: Waste and Resource Management (WaRM) group, Delhi completed a survey of six polyloom units set up by NGOs in Delhi. All these NGOs have full-fledged looms and warping equipments (given to them by Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi inspired from CEE-ERU proposal) for making mats, bags and other products from plastic carry bags.

Mock Drills: Creating 'Safe' Schools in Kashmir: Students and teachers from six schools in Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir (J & K), participated in mock drills on fire-safety, emergency rescue and first-aid. Prone to earthquakes, landslides and other natural and man-made disasters, disaster preparedness is of paramount importance for the

region. The school first-aid and rescue teams also benefited from the expert advice and useful tips. CEE North Engages Slum Children: CEE North joined hands with Vigyan Foundation, an NGO working on non-formal school programmes in slum areas of

Lucknow, to conduct special camps on environment education. Fun-filled games helped children understand importance of the local biodiversity.

CEE North conducted two camps in different slum areas of Lucknow. Eighty children participated in both the camps where a team from CEE conducted various educational and fun activities with the group, followed by a film screening and discussion on surrounding environment. Two more camps will be conducted in other slum areas of city in June. A group from these slums was also invited by CEE to be part of 5 June Paryavaran Mela.

The Green Teacher Alumni Meet. 'Green Teacher' is one-year distance-learning diploma in environmental education for in-service teachers. CEE learnt that these teachers not only applied the innovative teaching-learning methodologies but also have a thirst to continue exploring newer ideas in order to make teaching-learning more interesting and interactive. Besides the sessions, feedback on the Green Teacher Programme also formed a critical part of this meet. The meet ended with the

valediction speech by Mr. Frans Lenglet, Director of Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development, Sweden.

Establishing Energy Clubs in it is: The Directorate of Employment and Training, Gandhinagar, Gujarat , has been implementing Environment Management Framework (EMF) in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) with support from the World Bank. For effective implementation of the EMF, CEE has undertaken an initiative to facilitate establishing Energy Clubs in ITIs. This initiative is being supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy (SARI/ Energy) Small Grant Program.

A six-monthly action plan towards taking up energy conservation in each of the participating ITIs was the key output of the workshop.

During 27 – 29 May 2010, a three-day Orientation Workshop was conducted for Energy Club Coordinators from selected ITIs. The workshop focused on orienting coordinators on environmental concerns related to energy and energy use. Alternative and renewable energy forms, effective ways of energy conservation and the use of GIS as a monitoring and management tool were also discussed during the Workshop.

#### Take Care, Take Charge Campaign Culmination

Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State, Environment and Forests, felicitated the winners of the Campaign. Six innovators presented their ideas for sustainable solutions to environmental problems to Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, on 29 May 2010. Read about these 60 ideas at [http://www.takecaretakecharge.in./](http://www.takecaretakecharge.in/) For each idea received, the Times of India bought 10 kgs of paper for recycling. The paper was then donated to NGOs engaged in recycling and reusing waste paper. Mr. Jairam Ramesh appreciated the ideas and the concept behind the campaign, saying that this provides a chance for people to participate in and contribute to sustainable solutions to the environment. The newspaper circulated in the 6 cities on June 5 this year was printed entirely on recycled paper.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT: 2nd African Symposium on Zoological Medicine**

### **1st Announcement and call for abstracts**

### **16th - 18th September 2010**

Theme : "**Towards evidence-based zoological medicine**"

Venue: National Zoological Gardens of South Africa in Pretoria

#### Abstracts:

Abstracts of up to 450 words will be accepted for original research, case studies and reviews. The abstracts must be received no later than the 31st of July 2010. Presenters will not have to pay registration fees to attend.

#### Estimated cost:

Registration fees for veterinarians - R1000 - R1200\*

Registration for students, vet nurses and vet technicians - R500 - R600\*

Practical workshops (16th Sep) - Vets - R500, Vet nurses & Students R250

\*Registrations after 15th August 2010

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