

Education Reports

Report of "Bhaalu tera kya haal-Bear what is your state" held on International Youth Day

The event took place at PETIT school auditorium on 12 August 2010 and the target audience was BMC school children who were there to understand the status of India's environment and animals in various States. A photo gallery consisting of India's glory of states and culture was depicted to them and also via a few dances. Amidst this glory India is experiencing a down fall in its environment and natural resources. Amongst the living resources, world of animal is a special cause of concern and this was conveyed to them. They were given the big poster of sloth bear and interaction was held with them after they had gone through those posters. The mask helped them greatly to understand the 4 types of bears. A session was conducted by Dr. Puja Vijay Sukhija to know their understanding of the subject. She was very impressed with how the children show in action about the snout of sloth bear and how they happily ate the termites. **Submitted by Ms. Anita More, OASIS, Mumbai. E-mail: info@oasisngo.org.**



Dancing bear problems explained to the students by poster



Students trying four types of bear masks



Bear Education and other bear related information displayed



Student participants of one of the programme



Students looking and reading the bear posters

Celebration of the "World Environment Day" at V.J.B. Udyan-Zoo, Byculla, Mumbai

The "World Environment Day" was celebrated on 5 June 2010 at the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan-Zoo, Byculla, Mumbai.

The activities such as street plays, quiz and nature trials were conducted for the general visitors with the help of "ECOFOLKS" volunteers, a NGO working in the field of conservation of environment. An oath, to be taken by the visitors with regards to conservation and protection of the environment was displayed at the entrance gate of the zoo in Marathi, Hindi and English languages. Twelve posters, on the theme of conservation of environment were also displayed at various suitable sites inside the premise of the zoo.

In all 4800 visitors visited the zoo on that day, who actively participated in all the activities. **Submitted by Anil.M.Anjankar, Director & A.L.Paranjpe, E.P.R.O, V.J.B. Udyan-Zoo, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Email: vjbudyanzoo@yahoo.co.in**



Visitors are given interesting facts about animals during nature trial



Street plays highlighting the importance of saving nature



ECOFOLKS volunteers tying rakhis to young visitors



Posters carrying conservation message displayed inside the zoo



Volunteers with the Zoo Director Mr. Anil. M. Anjankar

Count Down 2010 – Year of Biodiversity programmes at PSBB SS School, Chennai

Report – Day 1

The two days programmes were thought provoking and inspiring to the students of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, Chennai. Nearly 140 students from Std IX underwent the training programme on 22 July in the school premise. Mrs. Valli Arunachalam welcomed the participants. Mrs. Annapoorni & Mrs. Aanka Pillai the teacher co-ordinators assisted the programmes. There were 4 technical sessions of WED, Frog, Monkey Manners & Elephant Etiquette. The contents of each packet supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation attracted the students. Most of the students liked the masks and the information booklet. Some have gone to duped the mask too. Though the matters are known to them, the in- depth materials, the purpose they serve etc. seems to be an excellent and kindled their interest. The dramatization and role play brought out their talents. Student's participation and creative thinking were extremely good. The Amphibian Ark book is not for colouring alone. But it has made the students to go in-depth by their field visit to IIT park with the teacher guide. The students project work is centered around the frog. So moving from words to action has started. **Submitted by Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran, Chennai. Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**

Report-Day 2

It was a day for exercising our creativity. A day for thinking about the world around all and specially the student community. A day to commemorate the Year of Biodiversity. On that day a remarkable, interesting project was launched. Dr. Guhan Jayaraman, Professor at IIT Madras, the chief guest of the event, inaugurated the "Countdown 2010 – Save Biodiversity" project on 23 of July.



Dr. Mrs. YGP, Dean inaugurating the programme by traditional way and Dr. Guhan, resource persons, staff are present



Leaping frog performance to explain the plight of amphibians

The 9 and 10 standard students attended the programme.

Project "Countdown 2010" is organized by the Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO), a NGO that works for animal welfare. Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran, an educator with ZOO, organized the workshop. It is a full year programme, part of CCE for the 9 std. students. It helps the

students to learn about Biodiversity and the importance through projects. We divided the students into 5 groups – World Environment Day group (WED), Frog Group, Monkey Group, Elephant Group and Frog Drawing Group.

Shreya of class IX A welcomed the gathering and the programme began with Dr. Guhan

lighting the lamp. The students recited a short prayer after which the presentation of skits started. D.S. Aravindh of IX D shared his experience on the pre-inaugural session.

The students of the WED Group presented a skit on how to save resources in our daily lives, and incorporated simple solutions like judicious usage of water, conservation of electricity and so on.

The Frog Group presented a skit on frogs-about how they help humanity and how they are being exploited and solutions to this problem. The Monkey and Elephant Group enacted plays on animal behaviour. The oath was taken by Anirudh Badri and the students to conserve the environment.

Dr. Guhan in his inaugural address briefed the students on the dire situation of our environment and conservation measures. He urged the students to opt for studying biology in senior school.

It was heartwarming to see Dr. Mrs. YGP, Dean, Padmasri awardee inaugurating the programme & participating with enthusiasm. She narrated us interesting tales from mythology and outlined the importance of treating animals with concern. Reshma. R of class X-D proposed the vote of thanks.

The coordinator Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran explained how UNEP has also recognized this project & lends support. Mrs. Valli Arunachalam, Principal described this project as an ideal one to foster the scientific spirit and kindle students curiosity and it includes observation, data collection, drawing, inference or prediction of the future status.

**Submitted by
Mrs. Valli Arunachalam,
Principal, PSBB, Senior
Secondary School,
Nungambakkam, Chennai. Email:
webmaster@psbbngn.com**



Students wearing ZOO's Count Down 2010-Biodiversity masks



Mini skits on amphibians & human elephant co-existence

City zoo keepers to get lessons on the wild

MUMBAI: In an effort to impart knowledge on maintenance, conservation and welfare of wild animals, officials from Veer Jijamata Udyan or Byculla Zoo have planned to send zoo keepers on a training programme to some of the better-managed zoos across the country.

The tour will be subsequent to a two-month in-house training programme, starting from Monday. At Byculla Zoo, a team of veterinarians and wildlife experts will hold special sessions for the 45 keepers to improve their animal handling skills.

A N Anjankar, director of the zoo said, "The idea is to empower them with knowledge that will help in better maintenance of the zoo. A visit to various zoos in the country will allow them to learn new techniques and they will be able to see how animal enclosures are maintained."

Some of the zoos that have been identified by officials for the tour include the Katraj Zoo in Pune, Mysore Zoo, Hyderabad Zoo, Delhi Zoo, Ahmedabad Zoo and even Bhopal Zoo.

According to zoo officials, keeper-to-keeper interaction at various zoos will help Byculla staff understand conservation issues, animal feeding schedules, kitchen maintenance techniques and will also build their confidence.

Until now, keepers have received information about animals only through experience. However, during the in-house training session, they will get information on various animal species and their habits. "The keepers would also be given information on the natural instincts of animals, enclosure designs and basic Central Zoo Authority (CZA) guidelines", added Anjankar.

For instance, big cats like lions, tigers and leopards have the habit of marking their territory. "It is essential for zoo keepers to

have this kind of knowledge. So while cleaning animal enclosures, they retain some amount of the animals' natural scent," said Dr. Sanjay Tripathi, Chief Veterinarian of Byculla Zoo.

Also, with such an exercise, the keepers would be able to identify symptoms of a disease. When a big animal—a tiger for instance—contracts a disease like tuberculosis, he stops eating. "Now, the staff will be trained to understand behaviour patterns and immediately recognise symptoms of diseases in animals," added Anjankar.

In fact, for the first time in the last two years, the zoo keepers were sent for a medical test—a mandatory exercise to be carried out annually according to CZA guidelines. A medical check of the zoo staff involved in the upkeep of animals is mandatory, so that the animals do not contract any diseases from humans.

None of the keepers were found to have any disease. According to experts, such exercises facilitate better maintenance of the zoo, which in turn will help keep animals in a healthy condition.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/City-zoo-keepers-to-get-lessons-on-the-wild/articleshow/6277350.cms#ixzz0w5TffvmX>

Celebration of 61st Vanamahotsava Week (1-7 July 2010) by APOWA, Orissa

Human activities including carbon emissions, other pollution, poaching, habitat destruction and fragmentation, natural disasters and climate change are driving an unprecedented wave of destruction and habitat degradation that is leading to species extinction on a scale never before seen in the Earth's recent past. As the society becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. Extinctions

are widespread and are rapidly depleting the rich tapestry and treasures of life on Earth.

Protection and conservation of the environment is a major concern indeed. And what is needed is a bit from every individual which will go a long way and save the world from calamity in the coming years. This is the simple message which the Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA) has been sought to convey on the "Vanamahotsava" week celebration this year.

Vanamahotsava at Schools: A formal function to launch the Vanamahotsava Week (a great festival of tree planting) at Ucha Sikhya Srama Arua Kadaliban. The local forest officials along with a host of school teachers and children participated. In his inaugural speech, Forest Range officer

Dr. Mihir Patnaik stressed the importance of conservation of forest and explained the phenomenon of global warming caused in changing environmental scenario. Mr. Bijaya Kumar Kabi, Director, APOWA, in his speech, requested the people and students to plant trees so that ecological balance can be maintained at all level. Mr. Somanatha Mohapatra, Head Master said that greening of the earth was the only way to mitigate environmental problems. On this occasion, the chief guest was felicitated Mr. Manoj Kumar Satapathy, Eco club guide teacher and Mr. Bibhuti Mohapatra, Sandhapalli village for their excellence work for the conservation of environment and tree plantation. In the concluding function, prizes were distributed among the winners of essay competitions. The meeting was end with tree plantation by the eco club students along with members of the APOWA. The saplings were also distributed among the school students and public throughout the week by APOWA.

Vanamahotsava with Community Disaster Resilience Fund Committees:

As many as 3,000 saplings were planted as part of the Vanamahotsava week celebrated by the APOWA in association with CDRF (Community Disaster Resilience Fund) committees of Pentha and Badakot village under Rajnagar block of Kendrapara district. These communities are at the front line of natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Aptly described as 'Climate's First Orphans,' they have been left to fend for themselves in these hostile and uncertain conditions. Today though, villagers' understanding and attitudes towards the disaster management have changed for the better. The villagers have now actively become involved with disaster management and other collective effort on developmental issues, especially since APOWA implementing the Community Disaster Resilience Fund (CDRF) programme in their villages. The team APOWA, which has pledged its support to make the CDRF committees more vibrant beyond the project assignment. Women moved from the sidelines to become active participants in implementing disaster preparedness. The increased level of women's participation was a real mark of success in CDRF initiative, in a culture and society where women are often not allowed to participate in household and community decision making. The going seems to be very encouraging.

Thanks to the local forest officials as they are not only participate with the communities in their tree planting campaign, but also supply them saplings with free of cost. The saplings of different species were planted all around the village.

Mangrove Plantation for protecting village from soil erosion:

APOWA has been conducted a mass mangrove plantation drive on 7th July 2010 with the active participation of In



Vanamahostava observation with school students and teachers



Childrens carrying saplings distributed by APOWA

this connection APOWA is helping people to adapt to climate change and reduce the impact of future disasters. APOWA is providing support to enable communities to address natural disaster and climate change impacts across coastal districts of Orissa, taking into account their ecological, economic and social priorities. Our approach is focused on the reduction of mangrove threats, as well as the protection of healthy coastal resources, as it provides community with a buffer from waves and storm surge, avoid rapid erosion of soil, feeds

coastal communities and livelihoods, and sustains economies. Our work aims to bring together community participation, economic and social information, and based on the ground work. The formation of village mangrove councils in Rajnagar block, one of the disaster prone areas, has engaged local communities in recognizing the importance of disaster risk reduction and taking concrete actions to reduce their vulnerability to the hazards that threaten them.

The community now has a village mangrove council which has already started a mangrove nursery to provide seedling for mangrove restoration. The mangrove species, Rai (*Rhizophora mucronaia*) was planted in the creeks near the village and plans are to continue plantation until there are trees on both sides of the creek. The community has committed to protect the plantation site. They also decided that animals should not be allowed to graze on the river banks and village chiefs and committee members are reminding them about that. We believe that this collective effort of Badkot villagers will inspire other vulnerable communities addressing climate change adaptation, building resilience to disasters among the world's most vulnerable communities.



Awareness meeting with communities for protecting mangroves

APOWA has been at the forefront of implementing activities to help local communities recognize how their interaction with the local environment can influence, and reduce, the risks they face from common hazards. **Submitted by: Bijaya Kumar Kabi, APOWA, Orissa. www.apowa.org Email: apowa1999@yahoo.co.in;**



Plantation drive by CDRP members at Pentha Village