

World Environment Day Education Workshops in India

Report of World Environment day - "Flora and fauna of Mumbai "

A group of 15 Eco ambassador students of a school were trained by a full team of OASIS on the subject of diversity in national parks and sanctuaries and flora and fauna of Mumbai. The training utilised power point presentations and a photo gallery.

Zoo Outreach Organisation packets were distributed and then an interactive activity was conducted by Ms. Raavi Murarka using the following method. He distributed packets from Zoo Outreach Organisation to all participants. He used the poster to illustrate the topics forest cover and one third of the earth's land and how it plays a key role in our battle against climate change, releasing oxygen into the atmosphere while storing carbon dioxide. Over 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihood. Forests are the most biologically diverse ecosystems on land and are home to more than half of the terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. We are lucky to have a national park in the heart of Mumbai

The ABC brochure to cover these main points: it takes only a few simple steps to easily green your daily routine and make good eco-behaviour a habit, such as

- . a cloth bag along when you go grocery shopping;
- . don't run water when brushing your teeth, saving 3 gallons of water every day;
- . print only when absolutely necessary and on both sides of the paper only;
- . Reduce! Reuse! and Recycle!;
- . when you feel like reading, borrow books, newspapers, magazines from friends or library

The writer taught five kingdoms of life stressing all living organisms are assigned to a particular kingdom according to certain characteristics. They are Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plantae and Animalia. In pledge session participants wore the glasses, held the placard and promised to be an "environment doctor" saving my earth from global warming. Another pledge was to save biodiversity and beat the heat by living more simply.



Students reading the WED ABC brochure and learning to live more simply



Eco ambassador students taking pledge to save earth from global warming

Other things to do were

- to use the stickers provided where they have great visibility there by showing people how you support this cause and so should they.
- to conduct a drama through the use of the photo gallery
- to go over the pamphlet inform that you have a lot of material to read and live more simply and be greener by reducing your carbon footprint.

- to be the greenhouse guardian of Mumbai and make it greener.
- to use the inputs from these pamphlets for your school sessions for the green ideas project for the younger students who will conduct the session and give us a report

The 15 students who will make three groups will now train 7 more groups of school students who will further reach out to 10 more schools by December 2011. They have been given a report format for their own use and for the



Swainson HS School students wearing amphibian masks during the seminar



Students taking oath to protect amphibians



Students are explained about the endangered animals appeared on the WED poster

trained students separately. One more report will be sent in the end of December regarding the final work.

Submitted by: Shikha Shisodia, Projects Manager, Oasis, Mumbai. Email: info@oasisngo.org

Seminar on Amphibian Conservation

Environment Information Dissemination Center of Florence Swainson School organized a seminar on Amphibian Conservation and Global Warming in connection with WED celebration August 1. The gathering was welcomed and the objectives explained with emphasis on the need for environmental awareness. The St. John's College Principal opined that this decade has been declared as "decade of innovation" which student should implement to solve environmental problems concentrating on research and attempt new innovations. Associate Professor in Zoology delivered an illustrated talk on "Amphibian Conservation explaining the systematic position, morphology and ecological role of amphibians in the ecosystem. The need for the conservation and role of individual in amphibian conservation was highlighted. The attractive amphibian packets supplied free by the Zoo Outreach Organisation were effective resource material for the programme. During a talk on global warming, its impact on biodiversity and human health was stressed. Afterwards, participants visited EIDC sponsored by the Department of Environment, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. The programme was jointly organized by YMCA, Tirunelveli and Nature Club of St. John's College, Palayamkottai. **Submitted by A. Selvin Samuel, St. John's College, Palayamkottai. Email: selvinsml@yahoo.com**

World Environment Day celebrated at Madurai schools

In continuation of the Hoolock Gibbon awareness programme conducted in February 2011, the World Environment Day was celebrated on 27 June at Sri Aurobindo Mira, MHSS. Nearly 60 students participated. The WED posters, ABCs and the badge were the centre of attraction. The participants shared about the types of forest around the globe and in India. One of the students explained about the logo

to all the participants with the co-coordinators guidance. The various uses of the forest and the need to protect the forest and specially the wild animals were discussed. The endangered species of India were clearly dealt with. In order to bring a clear-cut idea, the 'tree as ecosystem' was dealt with highlighting the uses of the tree during its life time as well as after its death. Role plays were conducted after distributing the free educational packets received from ZOO, India. During the lunch time the participants enacted a play near the entrance with was witnessed by the students and the parents. Role play on elephant, monkey, bat and butterfly attracted the students. With the materials received all the participants were able to answer on the theme Forests-Nature at your services besides endangered species in India. The days programme was published in Dinamalar. **Submitted by Ms. Jessie Jeyakaran, Chennai.**



Students performing mini skit on amphibian conservation

The World Environment Day was celebrated in O.C.P.M. School, Madurai with the theme Forests - Nature at your service, on 18 July 2011. Nearly 6000 students witnessed the days programme. The enlarged posters of WED theme, logo, frog, and elephant were of centre of attraction. The thematic song sung by the chair has lit the lamp. A speaker elaborated the types of forests around the world, percentage of the disappearance, the present day crisis etc. and encouraged the students to visit the Alagarkoil hills located in Madurai to get clear ideas. The writer described UNEP, ZOO, WILD and Biodiversity hot spots and zoos. Guidelines were given based on WED ABC's. As the campus consists of many types of trees, a project conducted in 1990s on the topic - know your environment - was shared and highlighted its uses. Students committed to carry out a survey of trees in the campus. NSS, Red Cross and the Guide will conduct a survey census of trees during their camp in the nearby villages. The Correspondent planted a neem tree in the campus and that was followed by the tree plantation. Mrs. Nirmala, NSS, Co-coordinator proposed vote of thanks. The days programme was recorded by 6 local channels and telecasted thrice on the same day as well as on the next day. **Submitted by Ms. Jessie Jeyakaran, Chennai.**



Junior Red Cross students going through the ZOO's education kits



Rev. Dr. J. Thasayan, Correspondent planting a sapling at school campus

**Biodiversity Day 2011
celebrated at Kanyakumari
District, Tamil Nadu**

Keeping the slogan 'Together we can make a difference' in mind, this year's Biodiversity day was celebrated in the church in Oyaravilai village in Kanyakumari Dist. This village is of fertile land with best suited natural resources. The importance of Biodiversity and its present condition were explained on the previous day to the inhabitants of the village with materials supplied by ZOO. The kids collected various types of leaves from their home. As the village is very near to Kanyakumari, they were able to identify ocean species and showed much interest in Marine Biodiversity. Old and the middle aged were recollecting the types of birds near in the village and their appearance with sound in various localities. The materials supplied by ZOO Bats, Primates, Monkey manners, Frogs, Daily Liife Wildlife, Ele-kit etc. attracted the children. **Submitted by Jessie Jeyakaran, Chennai.**



Devakadotcham, Bishop of Kanyakumari blessed and distributed seeds to families



ZOO education kits are displayed during the Biodiversity day at Oyaravilai Church