

Environmental Education Reports from around South Asia

APOWA celebrates World Environment Day

As the World's population grows, improving living standards without destroying the environment is a global challenge. In this connection APOWA has taken various steps for conservation and effective environment management. This year we observed the day in a different manner. The day began with volunteers and eco club students planting saplings and later participating in various competitions with eco club/karuna club students. Essay, eloquence, rakhi tying, mask wearing, painting activities etc were organized by APOWA. The one day programme was formally inaugurated by advocate Bijaya Kumar Rout. A day long programme started with rakhi tying among eco-club students and other participants with a promise to protect the animal kingdom and its habitat. Rakhi along with learning materials for the day was provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. An essay competition on the topic 'Need of Environment Conservation' was organized. Participants wore masks to illustrate their dedication to nature; every one embraced a tree as protector.

In upper session a meeting was arranged with the President Bijaya Kumar Rout emphasized on environmental conservation. Chief Guest Sri Manoj Kumar Satpathy, Eco Guide said that making children understand environment and its problems should be our first duty. Sri Bijaya Kumar Kabi said that the present environmental condition is critical. Eco club students, volunteers, youths and villagers attended the function. Chief guest distributed the prizes among winners. A documentary film on environment — TREE IS LIFE, SAVE IT — was shown to participants.

Submitted by: B. K. Kabi, Director, APOWA, Hatapana, P.O. Kadaliban, Chaudkulat, Kendrapara, Orissa,

Coimbatore Zoological Park Society: Plants for Life and Desert Dry lands

On 5 June 2006 the Coimbatore Zoological Park Society coordinated an event celebrating World Environment Day at the PSG Institute of Medical Science and Research (PSGIMSR), Coimbatore with all PSG Institution Heads and students participated.

The first event was tree planting. The World Environment Day themes selected for 2006 is "Deserts and Desertification" and the slogan is "Don't Desert Dry Lands". The slogan emphasizes the importance of protecting dry lands, which cover more than 41% of the planet's surface. A total of 50 participants took part in the event and planted the saplings in the Parking area of the PSGIMSR. Coimbatore Zoological Park Society provided sapling from its conservation collection. The opportunity was utilized to expose the plants diversity of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) and the aims of conserving plants. On the auspicious day PSG Eco Club was formally inaugurated in the various institutions of PSG Trust.

The second event was entitled "Plants for the Planet" Emphasizing the WED theme "Deserts and Desertification" and an awareness programme about the need for the conservation of plants diversity to the school students and teachers on the eve of World Environment Day celebrations. A total of 50 students and 4 teachers from Sarvajana School, Peelamedu, Coimbatore took part in the event. Brief

presentation about the importance of plants conservation delivered by B. Rathinasabapathy and R. Manickam, staff of the Coimbatore Zoological Park Society. Plants for Life resource materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organization was briefed to students. The different tree barks posters were rolled around the students, and they explained the importance of each tree in our life. Other materials such as mask and rakhi were used to find their partners. The games certainly stimulated the interest among students to learn more about wildlife.

We express our sincere thanks to BGCI, Chester Zoo and Zoo Outreach Organization for providing educational materials. Our thanks also to the Managing Trustee of the PSG Trust for his keen interest and encouragement.

Submitted by B. Rathinasabapathy & R. Manickam, Coimbatore Zoological Park Society, Annaikatti, TN.

WED with Agumbe Rainforest Research Station

World Environment Day 2006 focused on bears with a programme entitled "Dare to care for bears". This programme was conducted for SVS High School students for two hours. Students from the school participated.

The World Environment day was observed for the second time in SVS School, Agumbe on the 10th of June 2006. Forty students from Class 8th participated in the 2-hour program. The theme for the day was Caring for Bears. The session started off by discussing about what forests meant to each one, gradually introducing them to bears. It was an interactive session during which one of the students expressed his dislike for bears because he always thought that they were not good animals. I realized that notions such as these were inculcated from stories that talk about fox being cunning, crocodile shedding tears, pigs being dirty etc. I addressed this issue by explaining that no animal was bad or dirty, instead it was man who is destructive. Animal characters in stories that they listen are best fictional and are not facts. The children were convinced that animals only did things for their need and not for their greed unlike man, who unhesitatingly destructs his own environment in the name of development.

Soon after their misconceptions were cleared they were more open to learn about bears. The ZOO Packets were distributed to the students and the complete booklet was discussed with them. The number of species found in India, their importance in nature, the threats and troubles that they are facing from man, about bear dancers and what each one present in that class could do to help save and protect them was explained with examples. The kids enthusiastically stuck stickers in their books, tied rakhis pledging to protect the environment in all the ways they could. Many students also revealed that they were told by their grandparents and parents about the spotting of bears in the wild in and around Agumbe. They had more to tell their parents when they got back home that day. I express my thanks to the Zoo Outreach Organization for their innovative educational packets so wonderfully designed for making learning fun for the kids. The aim of creating awareness and initiating action would have been a step harder but for the support I have received from you. Thank you. **Submitted by P. Gowri Shankar, Conservation Officer, Agumbe Rainforest Research Station, arrrs.india@gmail.com**

"World Environment Day 2006"- celebrated at Pearly Dew Secondary School, Jaiaw Laitdom, Shillong, Meghalaya

A fun-loaded education programme was sponsored by the Convener, National Academy of Sciences India, North-East Region Local Chapter Prof. (Mrs.) V. Tandon, Department of Zoology, NEHU, Shillong, on the World Environment Day 2006 and organized by Pearly Dew Secondary School, Jaiaw Laitdom, Shillong on the 5th June 2006 at the school premises. The participants in the one-day long "World Environment Day 2006" programme were the pupils of classes IV - IX and the resource persons included Mrs. I Kharsati Headmistress of the School and several teachers, namely Mrs. B. Lyngdoh, Miss F. Nongkynrih, Mr. F. Nongkynrih, Mrs B.A. Lyngdoh, Miss F. Jyrwa, besides Prof.(Mrs) R.N.K.Hooroo from the Department of Zoology, NEHU, Shillong being the facilitator for the whole event.

The wildlife materials distributed to the target groups were made available through kind courtesy of Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore and the materials included (i) Bats and Rats; (ii) Daily life Wildlife Conservation and Welfare; (iii) Bears on The Road Not in the Forest. Overall the education programme created a great interest and curiosity among the pupils; they were eager to learn more about the ways and means of conservation and welfare of wildlife. Being in a town, they hardly come across wild animals. The day was full of fun and frolic and turned out to be a learning-while- playing process, with the students greatly enjoying the animal masks, friendship bands and quizzes. The programme created awareness in the young minds and it is hoped that it will go a long way to help them understand why all over the world people are trying their best to conserve the wild life.

The Headmistress, Staff and Students of Pearly Dew Secondary School happily acknowledged the sponsors, Chester Zoo, U.K; Universities Federation for Animal welfare, U.K; Chester Zoo, U.K., Alertis, Netherlands, of the educational materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organization and NASI N.E. Region Local chapter for the materials supplied and for choosing their School as the venue. **Submitted by: Prof. Mrs. Veena Tandon, Department of Zoology, NE Hill Univerisity, Shillong H.P**

Chittagong Zoo Celebrates Lion Club birthday

On 16 June 2006, the Chittagong Zoo celebrated the first birth anniversary of its three lion cubs named Nova, Borsha and Lucky.. It was a day - long programme in the zoo yard and the news of the programme was broadcasted by all national electronic and print media of Bangladesh.. This type of programme was first ever held in the history of zoo animals in Bangladesh. The programme was started by the slicing of cake which was made by bovine liver, releasing of balloons and the whole zoo was decorated with beautiful balloons and the improved diet was supplied to



the rest of animals in the zoo... All the visitors were engaged with this programme activity and were happy to see this.

Submitted by Dr. M.M. Morshed chowdhury, Veterinary Officer, Chittagong Zoo, Bangladesh.
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A short Education programme on Daily Life Wildlife Welfare

A two hour education programme was organized at St. Paul's Primary School, Saibaba Colony, Coimbatore on, 25th July 2006 and the theme of the programme was "Daily Life Wildlife and its Welfare". About 100 children of age group 9 and 10 attended the programme. The programme was also attended by the Principal Mrs. Delsia Robert with her fellow teachers. The children welcomed the educators, the authors of this reports. Daniel, while introducing the theme of the day's programme thanked the Chester zoo who sponsored the education materials that was issued to the children at the beginning of the programme.

After introducing the contents of the packet, he explained in detail about daily life wildlife and the need for them to be cared. While making the group to understand that all life in this universe is interlinked and interdependent, he made them sing a Tamil Folk lore to understand it. The facts and terms such as wildlife, daily life wildlife, the difference between domestic and wild forms, the welfare of animals, human welfare, causes that concern wildlife decline, habitat loss, cruelty to wildlife in our daily life, daily life mistakes, appreciating daily life and its welfare were taught through demonstrations, games and activities.

Marimuthu while explaining the fact about the daily life welfare highlighted more on the nocturnal daily life wildlife which we normally do not notice. He explained the classification of the bats and explained the special features of insectivorous and frugivorous bats and their role in the ecosystem. He explained how man is benefited out of these unnoticed daily life forms.

To understand the basic elements of life 'Oh deer" game was played and all children played the game with great interest. To make them understand that the living space for the animals is declining the popular game 'dancing game' was played.

In order to kindle creativity among children, a story was developed by them with daily life wildlife as the theme. The children participated with great interest and developed the story.

To make them develop the culture of appreciating and their interest towards daily life welfare they were asked to check their habits and the mistakes that they do in daily life that harm the wildlife around us. They were asked to cultivate investigation by doing some observations on the daily life wildlife what they see around them rather than careless habits like killing and concluding all wildlife as pests of human. They were instructed that the daily life wildlife can be watched in their own home like a naturalist study wildlife in the wild. At the end they were requested to carry this message about conservation of daily life wildlife to their home and educate all the members of the family. The children involved in all activities with great interest and enthusiasm. The school thanked Zoo Outreach Organisation for planning a programme of this kind which

is new to their children. The children were proud to carry the daily life wildlife welfare packet with them to their home and of course with a decision in their mind to save the neglected group of wildlife which support survival of humans. **Submitted by B.A. Daniel and R. Marimuthu, Zoo Outreach Organisation**

Education News of the Central Zoo / KMTNC

World Environment Day

The KMTNC, Central Zoo celebrated the World Environment Day 2006 in coordination with Lalitpur Sub Metropolitan City by holding an environmental rally. The theme for 2006 WED is **Deserts and Desertification** followed by the slogan **Don't Desert Dry lands!** The slogan emphasizes the importance of protecting dry lands, which cover more than 40% of the planet's surface. The 5 member Friends of the Zoo (FOZ) Teachers' committee coordinated the whole event. A total of 1000 students under (FOZ) networking membership from 23 schools participated in the rally, holding placards with environmental messages. The rally moved through the streets of Lalitpur covering a walk of 70 minutes. The rally was attended by the representatives from the Nepal Pollution Control & Environment Management Centre (NEPCEMAC) and was followed by the women community of 22 wards of Lalitpur district.

A prize distribution ceremony was inaugurated by FOZ member Sailesha Aryal of grade 5 of Glen Buds School, Lazimpat. The Chair person FOZ Teachers' committee, Mr. Pramod Dhungel, welcomed the mass addressing them to be careful in the actions which each of us must take, to our common task of preserving all life on earth in a mood of sober resolution and quiet confidence. The prizes were distributed by the 5 member of FOZ Teachers' Committee to the winners of various annual educational activities of the Zoo. The three best FOZ clubs of this year were Bright Future School, Naikap, Shikhar Boarding School, Jawalakhel and Shridiwa International School, Naxal.

Solid Waste Management Training

The existing problem of solid waste is one of the major problems, among others. At present there are various organizations which are engaged in the management of solid waste and have been providing service for collection from designated area households. As we all know that students are the future of tomorrow so, the training on Solid Waste Management was organized for the Friends of the Zoo Members on May 11, 2006. The student got the chance to learn about the different types of waste and ways to manage the household wastes and school waste through different composting methods. Raj Thapa of Bright Future Secondary school was awarded for submitting the best report regarding the implementation of the waste management in the school and home.

Bird Identification Technique Training - So near though so far !, birds are the nearest wildlife to human beings, but we hardly care about them. So, to make the students aware of their importance the bird identification training was organized for FOZ members on May 18, 2006 to Grade 7 to 10 students. A total of 74 FOZ members from 34 different schools participated in the program. Sabina Kaucha of Siddharthat Vanasthali School bagged the award for submitting the best report.

Summer Camp

Why do they do that? An adaptation was the main feature for the FOZ members of this summer. The Friends of the Zoo members were invited to attend the two days summer camp at the Zoo, May 25-26, 2006, which included a lesson on the animal adaptations followed by simulation games. An outdoor visit to the Natural History Museum to gain knowledge about fossils and animals was very much valued by the students. The camp was attended by the 38 FOZ from 16 different schools. The best report was awarded to Sanjeeta Budhathoki of Gyan Shikha boarding school on World Environment Day.

Endangered species project

In Nepal there are 38 endangered protected animals in totality of birds, mammals, and reptiles (IUCN Red List). So to make the students aware about the importance of wild animals, a project work was given to the FOZ members to write about one animal out of the protected list. Altogether 45 students from different school submitted the report, out of which Alisha Ang Dembe of V.S. Niketan School got the First Prize, Ashutosh Jung Raymajhi of Shridiwa International School and Porcia Manadhar of Shuvataru School received second and third prize respectively.

Global partnership

As part of an Educational Exchange Program this year 6 teachers and 6 students of three FOZ member schools viz St. Xavier's School, Shuvataru School, and Neptune School visited United Kingdom from 28 March to 16 April 2006. This is a continuation of DFID funded FOZ program run in collaboration with three schools of United Kingdom viz. Hendon School, King Alfred School, and Whitefield School who are the partners in a Global Schools Partnership program. During the visit Nepali team exchanged ideas and experiences regarding environmental and cultural issues with their U.K counterparts. The team also represented Nepal in UN mock session on eco-technology held at King Alfred school. The students visited different schools sharing the eco cultural dances and dramas.

Teaching with Animals - what's new at the zoo

Alexandrine parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* kept at display in bird section hatched two chicks on March 24th, 2006.

The **Jungle cat** *Felis chaus* have given birth to a pair of kittens on April 16, 2006.

A female **Peafowl** *Pavo cristatus* was collected from Balaju, Kathmandu on April 16, 2006.

An orphan baby male **Common monitor** lizard *Varanus bengalensis* arrived at the zoo from lamjung district and a baby orphan female Common Monitor Lizard was collected from Lalitpur.

A pair of **Satyr Tragopan** *Tragopan satyra* has been collected from Pokhara on June 7, 2006.

A 22 year old **Elongated Tortoise** *Indotestudo elongata* arrived at the zoo as gift from local resident of Thacho VDC. His family has been raising the tortoise as a pet since last 20 years. **Submitted by Rachana Shah, Education Officer, KMTNC Central Zoo, Kathmandu, Nepal. Email : <rshah@centralzoo.com.np>**