

## ***COUNTDOWN 2010 -- Save Biodiversity Programmes in Chennai and Madurai, Tamil Nadu***

### **For Eco – Task Force, Capron Hall Girl's Higher Secondary School, Madurai**

Besides their regular class time, students of Capron Hall Girls Higher Secondary School have entered into activities of COUNTDOWN 2010 – Save Biodiversity by observing and identifying natural

Activities material was translated into Tamil and distributed to all. 'Bat bookmark' and South Asian Bats colouring books were distributed. Students participated in a drawing and cultural programme.



objects and developing an understanding of interdependence of all organisms and the need for conserving them. With the knowledge gained from the ZOO programme, 'Frogs Rock' they also taught friends, parents, teachers and neighbours. They made a request to help in save amphibians in hostels, temple and churches. They created awareness to the National Green Corp. in charge teachers. Following up this year long programme, 10 students were made members of Eco-Task Force or level II of COUNTDOWN 2010 Local on 13 July 09, because they won the II prize in District level competition for the model 'Frog in its Habitat'. In order to go into the matter depth the Amphibian Ark Art colouring books were distributed with explanation. Learning about 2 frogs per month, painting, sharing and displaying the same in the campus is the strategy.



### **Rani Meyyammai Girls Higher Secondary School, Chennai**

This programme was an opportunity to students and staff of Rani Meyyammai GHSS to learn more about the International initiatives going around the globe and about Zoo Outreach Organisation, SANIZE and IZE. After relating some historic activities of IUCN since 1972, the COUNT DOWN 2010 Save Biodiversity was explained in the morning assembly. Students and teachers underwent training on Amphibian Ark and Bat Conservation. Free educational packets from Zoo Outreach Organisation were distributed and global numbers of amphibian species, reason for extinction and role of students to save them were explained. They were taught using techniques role play, race and students initiation. Being the first time of this type of programme, the BAT

'Trees as an Ecosystems' theme was used by standing around the tree and instructed in how to follow up eco-study at seasonal changes.

### **YMCA Kamak High School for the Deaf, Madurai COUNTDOWN 2010 – Save Biodiversity**

Life, isn't it marvelous? Without birds, the insects would overwhelm the world. Without insects, many of the birds would starve. Without the fish the seagull could not live. Without seagulls, the seashore would be heaped with dead things. Likewise the terrestrial ecosystem is balanced. Really it's a wonderful world. In order to maintain its beauty and man's need and health, one must save Biodiversity. Every individual on this earth has a role to play. Keeping this in mind COUNTDOWN 2010 – Save Biodiversity programme was



conducted for seventeen students from Std VIII and 2 specially trained teachers. The educational booklets on Frog, Bat and Monkey Manners were supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation were distributed. Explanation, cultural programme and role play were used to make the points. Special big posters theming man/monkey confrontation, bats' and amphibians' important role were distributed to the school. Students demonstrated the posters enthusiastically and decided to approach the general public with posters, often.

**Submitted by Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran, IZE member, 4A/1 A.V.M. Avenue, II Main Road, Virugambakkam, Chennai - 600 092, Tamil Nadu. Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**



#### **R.K.M. Saradha Vidyalaya Model Higher Secondary School, T. Nagar, Chennai**

Our school arranged a programme for the NGC group and Frogs Rock members. Twenty aspirant wards from NGC were selected to form "Eco Task Force". Headmistress, Smt. R.M. Namagiri appreciated the various activities carried out during the last academic year (2008-09) by the Frogs Rock members and promised us to extend her full support for this year. The writer, a member of IZE, explained about the importance of human-animal co-existence especially with animals like elephants, monkeys, etc. She illustrated water conservation, climate change, agriculture by bio-manure etc. She gave us tips on energy conservation, preparing bio-



manure and developing eco-garden in our school. She also explained how water could be utilized economically by an individual at home and school. It was very informative.

Mr. S. Srinivasan one of the member of EXNORA International was the chief guest for the programme, distributed the booklets for the ECO TASK FORCE members. Our teachers co-ordinator Mrs. Kannaki Prabakaran read the report of the various activities conducted in our school for the Frogs Rock members, for the year 2008-09. This programme was followed by many follow up



activities like role play, drawing, mono-acting, learning through charts etc. We hope that this programme conducted for us by all means will enthuse us to conserve the animals and the nature. **Submitted by Jessie Jayakaran on behalf of R.M. Namagiri, Headmistress, R.K.M. Saradha Vidyalaya Model Higher Secondary School, T. Nagar, Chennai.**