

ZOO Outreach Organization observes all UNEP Days

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United Nations Environment Program *UNEP* celebrates ten international days pertaining to Environment and UNEP itself or other UN bodies organize them. They are World Wetlands Day (2 Feb), International Day for Forests (21 March), World Water Day (22 March), Earth Day (22 April), International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May), World Environment Day (5 June), World Day to Combat Desertification (17 June), International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer (16 Sep), World Food Day (16 Oct) and International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (6 Nov). There are other UN designated days too. Zoo Outreach Organization observes all these days by conducting awareness programmes according to the theme of the day as the theme changes every year. ZOO observed all the UNEP days from Feb-May 2014 and in the month of June, we observed the following days.

World Environment Day-5 June

On June 5, the World Environment Day was celebrated at Sangamam Matriculation School, Kannappan Nagar Coimbatore. About 250 children aged between 11-14, teachers and the management participated. A talk based on this year's theme **"Raise your voice-not the sea level"** given. This central ideal of the talk was climate change, its impacts on sea level rise, and the reasons and how students change their behavioural attitude to live more simply to save resources and cut short the CO2 emissions. Later, a tree plantation occasion was held. Videos on 'Biodiversity is Us' and climate change were screened. Mr. S. Franklin Manivannan of Anbu Charities, Rathinaburi and its volunteers coordinated the programme.

In the afternoon another programme was conducted at the VOC Park Mini Zoo in which 70 students aged 14-15 from Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Chinnavedampatti participated. A talk on climate change was given and followed by using ZOO materials on Freshwater Biodiversity, they were taught about Western Ghats and its biodiversity. Later they were provided with a sapling to take away and plant at their home garden. Dr. N. Asokan, Director of the zoo coordinated it.

World Day to Combat Desertification-17 June

The programme was held at the VOC Park Mini zoo and 27 students aged 13-14 and 3 teachers from Anuppalayam and Peelamedu corporation schools participated. This year's slogan was 'Land Belongs to the Future-Let's Climate Proof it' and the theme was **Ecosystem-based climate adaptation**. The students were educated about why this day is celebrated, what is desertification, how does the



WG Freshwater biodiversity education programme for Corporation school students at VOC park



Maharishi Vidya Mandir students with FWB masks



Tree plantation at Sangamam Matriculation School

desertification affects us, what is an ecosystem, what are dry land ecosystem and its importance, what is adaptation and last about the ecosystem based

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JK College of nursing students attended the World Ocean Day programme

climate change adaptation. Later, ZOO's FW Biodiversity kit was used to understand the Western Ghats FW biodiversity and its functions to the people. Dr. N. Asokan, Director, VOC Zoo and Mr. N. Balusamy, Headmaster, Corporation HSS, Peelamedu and NGC Coordinator, Coimbatore district arranged the program.

World Ocean Day, 08 June

World Oceans Day is the official UN-designated international day celebrated since 2008 and The Ocean Project & World Ocean Network coordinates it. It is celebrated to know the importance of oceans in our lives and how we can protect it. The 2013/2014 two-year themes is **"Together we have the power to protect the ocean!"** To mark this day in Coimbatore, an awareness programme was held at the VOC Park Mini Zoo. Thirty-nine graduate nursing students and 4 lecturers from J.K. College of Nursing, Coimbatore attended. They were told about the history, importance of the day, the 5 oceans around the globe and its areas, ocean services to mankind such as energy protection, oxygen supply, fisheries and aquaculture, marine biotechnology-pharmaceuticals, other chemicals, genetic resources, non consumptive uses-clean water, endangered species, marine reserves, habitats, ecotourism, offshore oil, recreation and tourism and transportation. They were also told about the problems they face due to over fishing, coastal pollution, habitat destruction, global warming and acidification. **Submitted by: Marimuthu R. Email: marimuthu@zooreach.org**

Other Education Reports

World Environment Day at National Zoological Park, New Delhi

On 5 June we celebrated World Environment Day with local NGO Eco Roots Foundations. The students were taken around the zoo. They enjoyed the zoo visit and they felt that they saw many wild animals, after that



Children engaging in tree plantation at NZP



Mr. Amitabh Agnihotri, Director explaining about the nest box

they assembled at the zoo Education Centre for watching wildlife movies. Then Mr. Amitabh Agnihotri, Director, Curator R.A.Khan Edn. Asst. Saurabh Vashisth hung artificial nests for the free ranging birds at different places in the zoo in the presence of students. Tree planting was held too.

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World Environment Day seminar at M.S. University, Tirunelveli

National Green Corps, Department of Environment-TN and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Tirunelveli jointly organized World Environment Day seminar on 28 June at the V.O.C. auditorium. Three hundred students from 60 schools and others participated in this event. HR & CE minister Mr. Chendur Pandian, Dr. M. Karnakaran, IAS, District Collector, Prof.Dr. A.K. Kumaraguru, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Vijayalakshmi, NGC Coordinator, local MP's, MLA's and others participated.

As part of the seminar, NGC units of different schools displayed their exhibits. As a state awardee on environmental education, I was invited to set up an exhibit. In this exhibit, I displayed Zoo Outreach Organisation's various education packets, posters such as amphibian, vultures, daily life wildlife, pollinators, bats, tigers, and human elephant



NGC students visiting the booth

coexistence. In addition to this I kept models related to conserve water, rain water harvesting, eco friendly products alternate to plastics. The NGC students visited the booths were explained about conservation of birds, provide water and grain in summer for birds, not to harm daily life wildlife and be kind to animals always and care about their welfare. The chief guests and others were also amazed to know the fact about vultures, amphibian's role in ecosystem and they appreciated ZOO's education kits. **Submitted by: Mrs. Rani Kirubairaj, Teacher (Rtd). Email: ranijoel12@gmail.com**

National Green Corps Coimbatore celebrates 64 Van Mahotsav week (மரங்கள் திருவிழா வாரம்)

Van Mahotsav is an annual tree-planting festival in India, celebrated in the first week of July. It means "the festival of trees". This was initiated in 1950 to expect every citizen of India has to plant tree sapling during this week. Moreover educate the need of planting and tending of trees, as trees are one of the best ways to prevent global warming and reduce pollution. To mark this week a programme was arranged by National Green Corps, Coimbatore district at Thyagi N.G.R. Memorial Higher Secondary School, Varadharajapuram, Coimbatore on 02 July. About 500 students and teachers participated. Mr. G. Sadasivam, Headmaster welcomed the chief guest and others.

Mrs. A. Gnana Gowri, Chief Education Officer was the chief guest and R. Marimuthu, Education Officer, Zoo Outreach Organisation was invited guest. She talked to the students about the tree planting and rain water harvesting. Mr. Marimuthu interacting with the students about the importance of the day, the uses of trees, asked them to plant trees and save them and answered the questions they asked. Later the CEO planted saplings at the school campus. Three schools were selected for on the basis of their environmental education activities. They are Corporation Higher Secondary School, Peelamedu, Government Higher Secondary School, Madukkarai



Mrs. A. Gnana Gowri, CEO planting a sapling



Students rally in progress

and SBOA Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chokkampudur. They were awarded with cash prize and books. They also displayed their best drawings and photos on environmental conservation. Then the CEO and others flagged off students rally. The students holding the placards which has the message on the importance of tree planting and rain water harvesting and went around nearby streets by shouting slogans and distributing bit notices. Mr. N. Balusamy, NGC District Coordinator arranged this event. **Submitted by: Mr. N. Balusamy, Headmaster, Corporation HSS, Peelamedu, Coimbatore. Email: balu.pgast@gmail.com**

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