

Placement of DPRK Officials in ECCA

With the joint partnership of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA), three officials of The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Ms. Kim Phil Sun (Senior Officer, Education Commission and Head of Delegates), Ms. O Hye Sim (Section Chief of Science Research, Vice Professor, Kim Chol Ju University) and Dr. Pak Kwang Chol (Researcher, Academy of Educational Science) were placed in the ECCA office in Kathmandu, Nepal from April 9 – May 29, 2011. Additionally, two senior officials Ms. An Song Suk and Ms. Ri Hye Ryon from DPRK visited ECCA from April 26 – May 6, 2011.



The main objectives were

- To review the environmental awareness and conservation materials and products used by the government and non governmental agencies in Nepal;
- To review the environmental curriculum and publications used in the schools and universities in Nepal;
- To review the proceedings as well as ongoing awareness raising training and workshop programs in the schools and communities in Nepal;
- To design environmental conservation and awareness training programs for communities of DPRK;
- To select a few effective environmental awareness products used in Nepal and tailor these products for DPRK;
- To compile environmental curriculum and publications and recommend a few curricula suitable for the DPRK schools;
- To prepare detailed implementation plan with background documents for Environmental Education and Awareness (EEA) component's

During the period, they had interactions, trainings and exposure visit for the better understanding of Nepal's environment, education and conservation activities. They were facilitated by Dr. Badri Dev Pande, Mr. Ukesh Bhujju, Dr. Rabindra Shrestha, Mr. Neeraj Nepali, Mr. Prachet Shrestha, Mr. Sidhi Bajracharya, Mr. Ram Subedi and Mr. Yogendra Chitrakar.

Besides, there was meeting with ICIMOD officials, visit to ICIMOD Demonstration Site, field visit to Pokhara, ACAP, Chitwan National Park, different World Heritage sites and meetings with Nepalese Ministry of Education, Universities, Colleges, schools and different national and international organizations.

Conservation Education in Humla

Humla, also known as the valley behind the mountains, lacks the knowledge and education on different aspects of environment conservation, health and sanitation. Hence, with an objective to increase the awareness level in terms of environment conservation and motivate the people in various health and sanitation issues, different training programs for teachers and students had been organized in Humla in the month of April 2011. The program was implemented in coordination with Humla Development Initiative (HDI) and National Institute of Development Studies (NIDS).

The five days training program on "Training for Trainers" for the teachers of 8 different schools was organized at Langdu VDC of Humla on the theme of "Environment Conservation, Health & Sanitation". The training program focused in different aspects towards the need for environment conservation and solid waste management, which could be done at the local level to solve the existing problems at the local level. The sessions facilitated in different topics like, effective communication, leadership development, effective teaching methodologies etc. It supported the participants to understand and perceive the issues of our community in differently than before. Various games played during the training program, demonstrated and understand the participants to tackle the issues in our community which has been defined as the problems. By the end of the training program, the participants had prepared an action plan with different activities to be implemented in their community to solve the problems persisted in their School and Community.



Similarly, five days training program on "ECCA Camp" for the students of two schools was magnified located at Simikot, Humla. The main objective behind organizing the training program was to mobilize the student for environment conservation and tackle the health and sanitation issues at the local level. The role of students towards environment conservation as well as to increase the awareness level of community in different health and sanitation issues were also discussed during the program. By the end of the training program, nature club was established in both the schools. The students also prepared an action plan including different activities to be performed in their school and at the community level. The students were enthusiastic towards performing different programs through nature club towards environment conservation.

Initiation of School Environment Improvement Program in Mirge VDC, Dolkha



With the primary objective to implement, the concept of School Environment Improvement Program in Mirge VDC of Dolkha District, a three-day's Visioning Workshop for the teachers and four day's ECCA Camp for the students were successfully organized in the month of June 2011. The visioning workshop was organized at Charikot from June 3-5, 2011 and the ECCA Camp was organized at Kalidhunga School from June 8-11 2011.

As an initiation of the project, two schools – Shree Kalidhunga Higher Secondary School and Shree Majhgau Lower Secondary School were chosen among eight existing schools of Mirge VDC. The teachers and members of school management committee from both the schools and a member from the village development committee was invited in the visioning workshop organized at Charikot. Mr. Sidhi Bajracharya, Mr. Angel Chitrakar and Mr. Sambhu Maharjan, facilitated the workshop to develop a vision for the school that could be achieved within the next five years. The concept of working in team, the need and importance of effective communication and

the basic indicator of school environment were discussed during the workshop. The facilitation and the active participation from the participants had prepared a vision for both the school by the end of the workshop.

As the second step towards the implementation of the concept of School Environment Improvement Program in Mirge VDC, ECCA Camp was also organized for the students of both schools. During the training program, the students were trained to operate nature club in the school as well as to organize and conduct different environmental, skill development and social programs from their club. The active participation of all the students in the program was kept alive through establishing a nature club in both the schools so as to create a platform for the students to organize different programs. The action plan with different environmental and skill development program for the students, prepared by the students to be implemented through the nature club for the next 9 months at the end of the training program. It will motivate the students to activate the nature club in the school.



The initiation of this program in Mirge VDC has been done through the support of Mr. Jack Williamson from Australia. The fund raising for the implementation of this program is done through the web portal of **Global Giving** (<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/mirge-school-environment-improvement-program/>). We would also like to request you to visit the web page and spread the words for fundraising and help us towards implementation of the project.

Door to Door – Campaign



The condition of water in valley is very poor and purification must be done before using it. People are facing different problems related to water. Specially, during monsoon, people are affected by water borne diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid, jaundice etc.

Door to Door Campaign has been organized in different schools with the help of Nature club students, to aware the surrounding community of the schools about safe drinking water.

The main objective of the campaign is to sensitize people about the condition of water in their community which is not safe to drink. They need to purify water in order to stay healthy.

The best way to purify water is the local product WATASOL (chlorine solution) which is produced in the schools. The groups of students were mobilized to convey this message from door to door.

The students set out with materials like fliers, posters, flipchart, WATASOL bottles, Coliform test vial samples and WATA bag. They shared their possible knowledge about water and WATASOL to the local people. This kind of program was firstly started in Ramhiti Slum Area which seemed quiet effective in awakening people about need of safe drinking water. The people were impressed with the efforts of children for such an important issue that they have been ignoring. ECCA tried to replicate same campaign to other places too. ECCA have completed this campaign in 2 slum areas and 11 schools. All of such campaigns have been successful and effective.



SRBDN Forum for Understanding Responsible Tourism Business

Responsible business practices currently have been regarded as one of the important aspects for sustainability of businesses. Tourism sector has been one of the important sectors contributing for Nepalese economy. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, the contribution of the Travel & Tourism economy to employment is expected to rise from 614,000 jobs in 2010, 5.8% of total employment to 914,000 jobs, 6.4% of total employment by 2020. Similarly the contribution of Travel & Tourism to Gross Domestic Product is expected to rise from 7.4% in 2010 to 8.1% by 2020 in Nepal.

As, a bigger and ambitious tourism plan 'Visit Nepal Tourism Year 2011' has been organized to increase tourist arrival and ultimately will generate jobs for poverty reduction. In this regards, responsible and sustainable practices have a big role for creating attraction for international tourists along with natural scenery, high mountains, incomparable cultural heritage and numerous specialities which will help in sustaining tourism businesses for the long run.

With the theme as "Understanding Responsible Business", 25th and 26th SRBDN forum were held at Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NATHM) and White House School of Hotel Management January 9, 2011 and March 28, 2011 respectively. The program was attended by total 100 students currently studying hotel management at the above mentioned colleges. The core objectives of the forum were to develop the understanding of responsible business for Hotel Management students. Similarly, facilitation for the discussions on current relevant issues, queries of hotel management students regarding implications of responsible business was also the major aim of the forum. Sharing on how the concept of responsible business can help for attaining sustainability in their business was also the main concern of the program.

The responses collected regarding the program showed the participants appreciation for the programs. They also provided some feedback to make similar programs more effective in days to come. The participants further wanted to know more about responsible business in detail and requested for similar kinds of program in other educational institutions as well. The program was facilitated by Mr. Neeraj Nepali (Director- EI) and Mr. Mochan Bhattarai (Coordinator-SRBDN)



WATASOL Approach



Water has become a serious problem for the people of Kathmandu Valley both in terms of quantity and quality. Water is the key to a person's survival because without water survival is simply not an option. Current water demand of the city has increase tremendously because of the rapid growth of population, urbanization and industrialization.

Groundwater source that accounts for around 50 percent of total drinking water supply is being over extracted resulting in depletion of already diminishing water resources. More than 30 percent of the people in Kathmandu Valley depend on groundwater. Experts are warning that more than 80 percent of groundwater used for drinking purposes in Kathmandu contains high level of bacteria and other harmful microbes.

Another source of drinking water is jar water. Using water available in 'sealed' jar in the market for drinking purpose may not be as safe as you think. Studies show more than 90% of water available in 'sealed' jars contain bacteria harmful to human health.



Drinking water quality assessment in Kathmandu valley has always been crucial with reference to public health importance. A study was conducted to evaluate the quality of drinking water of the valley. A total of 132 drinking water samples were randomly collected from 49 tube wells, 57 wells, 17 taps and 9 stone spouts in different places of Kathmandu valley. The samples were analyzed for microbiological parameters. Total plate and col form count revealed that 82.6% and 92.4% of drinking water samples found to cross the WHO guideline value for drinking water. During the study, different types of microbes were identified such as Escherichia coli, Enterobacter spp, Citrobacter spp, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Klebsiella spp, Shigella spp, Salmonella typhi, Proteus vulgaris, Serratia spp and Vibrio cholerae

Diseases caused by contaminated water are among the ten most prevalent water borne diseases in Nepal (DoHS, 1998). Diarrhoea, which is caused by poor sanitation, hygiene and water quality, is one of the most prevalent water borne disease in Nepal. According to UNICEF, inadequate and dirty water, poor sanitation, and improper hygiene are the main causes of diarrhoea, which each year kills at least 1.2 million children under five. The fact sheet released by Water Partners International depicts that 88 % of the whole diseases are the waterborne diseases. 3836 children are dying every day due to diarrhoea. According to Asian Development Bank (ADB) report sanitation-related diseases account for 72 per cent of total ailments and diarrhoea continues to be one of the leading causes of childhood deaths in Nepal. Other common illnesses are dysentery, coughs and skin diseases. Improvements in sanitation can lead to an almost 40% reduction in illnesses caused by diarrhoea.

Therefore an instant action for the safe drinking water supply is the most in the present context. However, water has to be purified in order to drink otherwise bacteria in the water can be harmful to your organs if drunk in normal consumption. There are lots of techniques developed for the purification of drinking water. But the simplest, cheapest and effective method is water chlorination.

WATASOL (chlorine solution or sodium hypochlorite) is a chemical compound that destroys and inactivates micro-organisms and pathogens in water. Therefore, the use of WATASOL helps to remove the sources of water-borne illnesses and diseases.

It can be used for:

- Treatment of drinking water
- Disinfection of materials or sensitive surfaces (in the contexts of food preparation, home floors, premises, latrines, cooking equipments (dishes, crockery, work surfaces),).
- Disinfection of wounds

WATASOL is the best disinfectant because,

- It can be locally produced using salt, water and electricity
- It can be easily distributed in small bottles
- It is easy to use by rural and urban poor
- It is very effective Disinfectant - destroys most of the pathogens in minutes
- It costs very less – affordable even by the poor

ECCA has been promoting Safe Drinking Water Campaign in Nepal since 2008 by using Antenna's WATA electro-chlorinators. ECCA has tested several Mini-WATAs through schools and Standard WATA through community drinking water systems and through Entrepreneurs.

The nature club members, teacher and school keeper have been given training on making of chlorine solution using Mini-WATA. The school makes a 1 or 1.5 or 2 liters of chlorine solution per day using one Mini-WATA. The school uses about 250 ml to 300 ml for purifying water to provide students in school. The remaining chlorine solution are provided to the students and teachers in 50 ml, 200ml and 1000ml bottles to take back home for the family.

Similarly a youth based organization or water distribution and management committee members in community or women's group have been trained on using Standard WATA device. The community can prepare 8 to 20 liters of chlorine solution using one WATA depending on the need of the community. The chlorine solution are packed in 50 ml, 200ml and 1000ml bottles and sold. The refill of the bottle 50ml, 200ml and 1000ml is charged Rs 10, Rs 20 and Rs 60 respectively.

World Water Day Celebration

The World Water Day is celebrated on 22 March every year to grab the attention of the World about the importance of water resources and advocacy for sustainable management of water resources. On March 22nd, 2011 the World Water Day was also marked by ECCA by organizing Water Walk and Documentary show. Water walk was started from Patan Dhoka with the theme of World Water Day 2011–Water for cities and visited to the different water spouts and ponds of Lalitpur area. The program was participated by ECCA counselors, volunteers and Nature Club students, which was led by Mr. Sidhi Bajracharya, Program Officer, ECCA. He gave brief information about the origin of water spouts and pond, and also focused on the importance of sustainable management of such water resources. He also explained the brief history and myths related to those water resources.



After the Water Walk, the participants were brought to the Wise-use House, ECCA for a documentary show. The aim of documentary show was to raise awareness about of water resources in the process of urbanization and sustainable development of cities. Demands for water supply and drainage for urban areas have become a critical issue due to water depletion, lower river water levels, many lakes, ponds, and canals being filled. To address the issue a documentary on river pollution was showed to participants.

Nature Camp 2011

Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA) organized four day Nature camp for private school children, which were held on April 10-13, 2011 at ERC (Environmental Research Center), Sipadol, Bhaktapur. The camp was organized in order to inspire and motivate the students to conduct activity for the capacity building, for improving school environment and to make them participate in community awareness activities to promote good and healthy environment. During the camp, participants were exposed to different topics on environment, personality development, safe drinking water and solid waste issues of their respective area. Environmental games were also played to convey the important message about the environment and life skills.

The camp was focused in preparing student group for to conduct activities inside the school and community and to improve skills for conserving surrounding environment as well as to share the skills they have with each other. The objectives can be specified as follows:

- To generate a sense of awareness amongst them on environment and their role to improve the school and community environment.
- To change the personal behavior regarding school and community environment by changing their attitude.
- To enhance their capacity, team work through game and presentation in group.
- To encourage students to take part in different activities of schools and initiate the program.

Sessions were conducted for the entire group. In the session, various topics were discussed through informal method. The informal teaching was interesting and enjoyable for the participants. Following were the topics covered in the sessions:

1. Team Work
2. Life skills
3. Solid Waste Management
4. Primary Environment Care (PEC)
5. Creative Waste From waste
6. Paper re-cycling
7. 3D model from waste
8. School Environment
9. Heritage Walk
10. Village Tour
11. Nature Hike



This camp motivated the campers to work in team, develop leadership, capable to deal with people, good communication and improve knowledge about school environment, school beautification, waste management and water purification.

Haat Bazaar for supporting a child



A fund raising event for Support a Child Campaign was organized at ECCA premises on April 30, 2011 Saturday. The event was named Haat Bazaar which included documentary show, fun games, food stalls and flea market.

The flea market was placed in order to promote the concept of Re-use. The second hand goods like books, clothes, accessories, shoes, stationeries, showpieces etc were kept for sale and visitors also brought their unused things. The things made out of recycled plastic were also kept on sale which attracted many visitors.

The documentary show screened 3 different documentaries in 4 different shifts. There were documentaries related to water resource conservation, issues of street children and about natural resources of Nepal. These all documentaries were very awakening and interesting. The ticket for documentary and 2 game stalls was sold which collected remarkable fund. And in between, different fun activities were done to entertain visitors like painting auction. And in between, different fun activities were done to entertain visitors like painting auction.

About 150 people attended the event and supported the campaign by donating, purchasing goods, having fun with games. They also enjoyed varieties of food served by the stall keepers. Every single penny spent by the visitors that day contributed 15% to 25% to the campaign. One of the visitors, Ms. Bandana Sharma, donated Rs 5000 as the scholarship to a child which was very motivating for the campaign. The event was somehow good but lots of things are to be taken care for better outcome and impact.

Available here !!!



Hall and space for workshop, talk programme, training seminar etc.

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To
