

Charles F. Bolden, Jr. NASA Administrator visits in Nepal First Water Classroom

On October 5th 2010, Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Jr. NASA Administrator, with different American Embassy Officials and foreign delegates visited the Water Classroom in Shree Yashodhara Baudha Secondary School, which is one of the GLOBE School.



During that day, Honorable Madhavi Shakya (Guruma), Founder of school welcomed all dignitaries guest by Buddhist garlands. Mr. Sanjay Shakya, Science teacher, Coordinator for water classroom welcomed all guest on behalf of school. Mr. Binod Shrestha, GLOBE Coordinator explained about ECCA Nepal and GLOBE program in Nepal.

Mr. Yogendra Chitrakar, Director of ECCA Nepal explained about water classroom how it was established with support of UNHABITAT, Ministry of Education and ECCA Nepal through the project on "Human Values-based Water Sanitation Hygiene and Education Programme". He explained that the water classroom helps students to understand the value of water from social, cultural, religious, economic, natural and



scientific aspects. He added that it helped to add on value on improving school environment and become one stop learning center on water for all Nepalese schools.

The school students has explained about the water classroom that comprises the models of watershed and ground water recharge system, water cycle board, hydraulic water turbine and 3-Dimensional landscape of natural surface water system, creative wall information board and reading corner. Apart from it, a rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge system and a bio-sand filter has also been set up at the school premises shown to him by students.



During his visit to water Classroom in Yasodhara Baudha Secondary School, NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr., presented books to the Principal Ms. Ramila Shakya and interacted with more than 100 students and teachers. He shared his experiences as an astronaut with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and stressed the importance of working hard in school in order to achieve personal and professional goals, and not being afraid of failure or asking questions with teachers until they were satisfied with the answers. When asked by a student about the possibility of him becoming an astronaut, Bolden replied that he too came from a modest background and nothing was impossible through hard work and determination. He demonstrated the students how to enter a space shuttle in very encouraging way.

- YOGENDRA CHITRAKAR

Honorary Member of ECCA: Taksvarkki ry, Finland



On October 1, 2010, Taksvarkki ry, Finland (Operations a Day's Work Finland, www.taksvarkki.fi) has been facilitated with Honorary Membership of ECCA. Mr. Prachet K. Shrestha, Chairman of ECCA had handed over the facilitation plank to Mr. Lauri Peltonen, Executive Director of Taksvarkki ry.

Operation a Day's work Finland is a young people's own development cooperation organization with an objective to help children and young people in the developing countries through improving their living conditions and promoting their human rights. It also encourages Finnish young people towards global collective responsibility.

Since 2005, Taksvarkki ry Finland has been supporting ECCA for the implementation of School Environment Education and Conservation program in different districts of Nepal.

- ANGEL CHITRAKAR

Social Harmonization through Common Vision



Development Committee member, political leaders etc. Visioning workshop was organized at the Resource Center of Shanti Bhagwati Higher Secondary School, Letang Morang from September 19-21, 2010. The workshop was mainly focused on the sustainable development of Letang. Altogether Forty two participants had participated in the workshop.

The main objectives of the workshop are to bring more energy and support to the development of ECCA's activities and projects by:

- Identifying practical strategies and actions that can be initiate and will assist individual projects and ECCA's collective efforts in Letang.
- Connectivity of Nature Club's activities in Letang.
- To give some tips about managing vision.

The three days workshop were designed to elicit and facilitate the sharing of ECCA's experience, understanding and insight regarding what we can and should do. Workshop processes

included individual, small group and large group processes, supplemented with selected short presentations and background material.

During workshop an exercise on visioning of Letang in September 20, 2010 and personal commitments for the development of Letang was also done. The visioning workshop explored and discovered what is the role of local people of Letang and what should they be doing to foster development in Letang Community in accordance. The visioning workshop was concluded with the common vision for Letang **"Sundar Shanta Samridha Letang"**.

The workshop was successful to show how to define one's vision and its success image, the visioning techniques, some tips about managing vision and strategic planning for the completion of the visioning. By the end, the participants know how to implement their vision in their subconscious mind. As a result, they can transport into their success story.

- SUSHILA KHADGI

The local dwellers are the main pillars for the development of Letang (Morang). They are responsible for successful implementation and sustainability of the program. So, the visioning workshop is an effective approach to access their personal inspiration, commitments and group intentions so that they can feel responsibility towards the community, their role in the sustainable development of Letang.

Visioning workshop is basically targeted for the counselors, teachers, principals, members of school management committee, Village

Solar Lamp Multiple Charging Station for Better School Enrollment and Attendance in the context of Nepal



while studying and during preparing food), contribute to global warming, can cause accidents and fire hazards.

The aim of ECCA is to displace kerosene wicked lamps by White Light Emitting Diodes based **"Solar Tuki"**. It consists of one 2.5Watt solar panel and two units of 0.4Watt lamps with built-in rechargeable batteries. The lamp unit also has a 3 volt outlet for connecting a FM/AM radio. Once charged (for 3 hours), the lamp works continuously for ten hours.

ECCA has piloted a multiple charging station at a school (where 48 pcs. lamp units brought by the students are charged at once from a large size solar panel). This way, people will have to buy only the solar tuki lamp - which means, it would not be necessary for each consumer to buy the costlier solar panel. Minimum charge could be taken for charging of the lamp - this money could then be used for paying salary of the care taker and for future repair maintenance works.

As the charging station is located in the school, students need to come to school for charging the lamp; thereby increasing the enrollment as

well as attendance of the students. It helps to achieve the national campaign "Education for all" and Millennium Development Goal.

The solar tuki is provided through micro-credit approach - the money which the poor villagers would have to pay for kerosene will now be saved and will be used to pay back for their solar tuki. After being able to pay the full amount within 12 months, there would not be any cost involved.

ECCA has made a vision to mobilize youths to promote solar lamps by developing their capacity (repair maintenance training, social entrepreneurship skill). For the promotion of solar tuki, ECCA won the 2005 Development Marketplace World Bank Washington DC. The solar tuki has provided better quality light, improved health (because of no indoor pollution), improved education of children, access to information (radio), charging facility for the mobile phone, reduced fire hazards and ultimately enhanced the livelihood of the rural poor.

- YOGENDRA CHITRAKAR

In Nepal, 2.4 million households are to this day compelled to use kerosene based wicked lamps for household lighting, as they do not have access to electricity. The kerosene is also not cheap and is very difficult to get. Since kerosene has to be imported, on macro level, Nepal government has to spend its limited foreign currency reserve in its import. On the micro level, the burning of kerosene is neither cost effective nor environment friendly. It gives an inferior light, produces lot of smoke and releases carbondioxide affecting eyes and lungs (specially those of children and women because they sit close to it in the evenings

Youths in Evaluation of School Environment Improvement Project



Operation a Day's Work (ODW's, Finland) and ECCA Nepal are both promoting the role of children and youth as the change agents in the society. The evaluation team consists of two Finnish University students, Marianna Wallin and Elina Mähönen and two Nepalese University students Pratibha Duwal and Sajan Neupane and worked together in Nepal in September-October 2010. The evaluators are all studying Environment or Development studies and have experience working for different NGOs.

Children are important regarding the future of Nepal. As 50% of the total population is under 18 years old, the impact of the youth on the future of the country is without a doubt important. Children are the effective change agents on behavior in their families, friends and communities. Children can therefore become successful social entrepreneurs – people who can foster positive influences for the betterment of their society.

Regarding the evaluation on the School environment project, the idea of using young people as evaluators is praiseworthy. This was a great opportunity for young people to develop their skills and learning in a holistic perspective. Moreover, the evaluation was carried out in order to find out the needs and future possibilities of the project schools. The main output we found during the evaluation was that Nature Clubs are a good platform to encourage participation, personal development and provide children with a safe place to express themselves. The students and teachers are empowering themselves and their positive attitude and behavior can be seen as a stepping stone to change the

community. Many programs such as Nature club interaction, nature club workshops and networks are there to strengthen the Nature clubs' operation. However students are facing various difficulties in order to run the club smoothly and sustainably. They have different sources of fund raising but yet all Nature clubs are holding forward for an effective plan on the sustainability of their activities.

Nutrition is a challenge at the project schools. Most parents of the children are of low economic background and the children do not always receive a meal before going to school. So, the empowering the parents and raising awareness is a prior important for having a good environment at home.

When the project phases out the Nature clubs will be sustained, with effective monitoring from counselor, as well as ECCA is running different campaign like Plant a tree campaign, Light for all, Support a child, and Safe drinking water which will be backstopped for the future sustainability of the Nature club and the childrens.

In general the evaluation team finds the project successful, though there are still some challenges. However, the project has managed well to reach its target groups, children and youth as well as teachers in the project schools and indirectly also the families of the students and the communities where the schools are situated. Although it is very challenging to change common habits and attitudes in the community level and impacts at the community level are difficult to assess, some impacts were already noticeable and the evaluation team feels that there are all the possibilities and requirements for impacts to spread among the families and communities. The project has managed well to reflect the fundamental principles of Operation a Day's Work (ODW's, Finland) and ECCA Nepal as empowerment of the youth and children have a central role in both ODW's and ECCA's visions and methodology.

- PRATIBHA DUWAL

Inter School Street Drama Competition

With the theme on “Importance of WATASOL in water purification”, a three days street drama competition was organized by ECCA in support of Antenna Technology – Switzerland from 6th to 8th September, 2010 at Mangalbazar, Patan Durbar Square, Lalitpur. The program was organized with an objective to spread awareness about the role of WATASOL (Chlorine Solution) in water disinfection. Students from 12 different schools of Lalitpur had actively participated in the competition and had performed their acts as per the theme of the competition in 3 consecutive days. 12 to 15 students from each school had performed in the act play for 20 to 25 minutes of time.

Mr. Pradeep Amatya (Environment Section Chief, LSMC), Ms. Sunita Rajbhandari (Film Director/Actor) and Ms. Sushila Khadgi (Program Officer, ECCA) has judged the act play of all the competitors in different aspect like message spread through act, performance of the students and the story focusing on the use of WATASOL in purification of water.



Among 12 schools, Shree Harisiddhi Secondary School of Harisiddhi had achieved 1st place, Shree Saraswoti Secondary School of Thecho stood in 2nd place and Udaya Kharka Secondary School of Chapagaon achieved 3rd place in the competition. The winners were awarded with different prizes supported by Antenna Technology – Switzerland, ECCA, LSMC and other organization on the final day.

- SUSHILA KHADGI

Appreciative Leadership and Conservation Counseling

Youth is synonymous to Strength and Enthusiasm. They are energetic, action-oriented, inquisitive and impatient. However, they need motivation and right direction. They have become an integral part of development in any country. Moreover, Young people are receptive to new ideas and are responsible for all that is happening around them. Youth are also the main workforce for ECCA. The training is socialization and capacity development training for youth from different background in order to prepare the youth leaders for conservation and sustainable development. This program fulfills the Expert-Youth Interface of ECCA methodology. They are responsible for the successful implementation of any program in ECCA.

Success depends on performance and behavior of people. To gain success in different circumstances of life, appreciative leadership skill is important in a person's life.



Appreciative inquiry is the discovery for the best in people, their organizations, and the relevant world around them. It is an art and practice of asking the unconditional positive questions that strengthen a system's capacity to apprehend anticipate and heighten positive potential. Instead of negative, criticism and spiraling diagnosis, there is discovery, dream, design and destiny. It works from accounts of the "positive change core". A good leader

should be able to appreciate him as well as his team members. According to Peter Ducker "The task of leadership is to create an alignment of strengths, making our weaknesses irrelevant"

For the capacity development of youths, ECCA –Nepal had Organized 3 days "Youth Development Training" on "Appreciative Leadership and Conservation Counseling" from October 7-9, 2010 in ECCA Hall, Jwagal, and Lalitpur. The main objective of the training was to build a team of self-motivated youths for environment conservation. 19 volunteers from different field of study from different colleges had taken part in the training. Experts of different fields had facilitated the session in order to capacitate the youths. The methodology used in the training was presentation of experts, group work, discussion, games, brainstorming, and presentation of group work by participants.

- ANUP K.C

Need of Socially Responsible Practices in Tourism Sector

Socially Responsible Business Development Network (SRBDN) conducted its 24th SRBDN Forum on 29th July 2010 with the theme of "Need of Socially Responsible practices in Tourism Sector" at Nepal Tourism Board. The main objective of the forum was to share ideas on why socially responsible practices are needed in the tourism sector and the issues that could be addressed. Mr Bhuwan Sharma from the Last Resort and Mr. Chandra Prasad Kachhipati representing Sana Hastakala were presented as the resource person's for the event.

Mr Bhuwan Sharma, during his presentation shared the benefits of responsible practices by the activities of The Last Resort. He briefed on how philanthropic activities of The Last Resort were gradually converted into SR practices. Furthermore, he shared the obstacles faced during the transformation of their work. Their learning during the implementation of the activities was incorporated in their following new programs. He concluded with the remark

that benefits of SR practices are felt directly by the company in various aspects as personal satisfaction, creation of harmony with local people, enhancing economic benefits to local as well as the business and safeguarding adverse impact in environment and society of the business locality.

Mr. Chandra Prasad Kachhipati started his presentation by sharing briefly about history of Sana Hastakala and Free Trade Movement in Nepal. Mr Kachhipati gave a picture of a responsible business by sharing activities which has been done by Sana Hastakala. Skill development programs, health service facilities, recognitions, field visits, promotional activities as well as small working capital for starting entrepreneurial work, were the main activities being done by Sana Hastakala. He concluded that these activities have been very useful for making business expand and create harmonious relation with the stakeholders.



Mr. Mochan Bhattarai, SRBDN Coordinator, concluded the program by expressing vote of thanks to the participants and speakers for their active participation in the program. Similarly, he thanked NTB for providing venue for organizing the program.

- MOCHAN BHATTARAI



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

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