

Gobar Times Green School Awards Festival 2009

Date: 20th February 2010

Venue: Awards - Stein Auditorium, /Festival – Lotus Pond Lawns, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003.

Report by
ENVIS Centre Sikkim
FEWMD

The Gobar Times Green School Festival was organized by Centre for Science and Environment, Environment Educators Unit, New Delhi. The fest started with full enthusiasm with students who gathered in the Lotus Pond Lawns at the Indian Habitat Centre to put up Eco Stalls: Water, Air, Energy, Land and Waste representing their respective schools. The students gathered up at the lawn was busy with their own activities that of painting competition, film shows and skits. The activities gave away the message of conserving our natural resource and increase our responsibility towards the environment.



The Eco stalls: Water, Air, Energy, Land and Wastes were set up by the schools that have done extremely well in the respective categories/chapters. These schools had made a drastic change in the chapter displayed in the eco-stalls and has eventually brought about an improvement in their performance from past to the present and gradual turnover to becoming the Change makers for the year 2009.

The chapter on Land, displayed by Anubhuti School, Jalgaon Maharashtra was commendable. The concept of plantation method used was similar to Smriti Van Concept that is practiced in Sikkim; each



student plants a tree and names it in their name, so that the students have some sentiments attached to the tree. This method was so applied to bring students closer to the natural environment they live in. The students too kept track of the total plants that survived.



The Waste Chapter done by the Salwan Public School, Gurgaon Haryana displayed the detail process of recycling of waste materials disposed in the class room. The students have done a remarkable job by recycling paper waste and converting it to different useful products.

The Energy chapter done by St George's School, Alaknanda Delhi was outstanding scoring full points in the energy category. The school students and the teachers had put in a lot of effort in inspiring students to either walk, use bicycle or use school buses instead of private vehicles thus reducing the vehicles commuting to Schools. Basic initiatives like switching off the lights, computers when not in used were practiced and followed by the students, teachers, administrative staff judiciously.



In the Water category, Evergreen Public School, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi displayed the future model to safeguard the Yamuna Nadi from being polluted. They had done an extremely good job of constructing a model of Yamuna Nadi past and future initiatives to safeguard the river.

The enthusiasm of the students in the Gobar Times Green School Festival was brilliant and incredible. When asked the students about how the green school activities were conducted; the students did it as a part of their summer project or as a daily activity in schools.



The award function began at around four in the evening. Chief Minister Mrs Sheila Dikshit, Mrs Sharmila Tagore had presided as the Guest of Honor. The inaugural speech was given by Ms Sunita Narain, Director CSE who spoke about the aim and objectives of the Green School Programme thus giving a more elaborate view of what the Green School manual proposes to do. She focused on water scarcity that is affecting in most of the places, which should be realized and a shift towards conservation of the water resources through tapping of water resources and rain water harvesting should be motivated. The whole phenomena of Reduce Reuse Recycle should be followed. Stressing on air pollution; the main factors promoting air pollution are cars, industries, factories. The comfort of our day to day life has become hazardous to the environment, the comfort of cars has made commuting easy but more cars means more pollution and this has certainly increased the ecological footprint. Therefore it's now the time to understand the motive to reduce the ecological footprint and make a habit of using public use of transport in our day to day lives. Towards the end focusing on the green school programme activities she spelt out the need to change at every level, the urban school should make an initiative to reduce garbage and pollution level as a whole and a message to rural schools was to be self independent and not look at urban schools and try and copy the comforts of the urban schools.

Mrs Sheila Dikshit Chief Minister Delhi was there to give away the awards to top ten Delhi Schools. Her presence in the award ceremony was a symbol of motivation to the Schools students and teachers to even fare better in their performance in the coming years. Mrs Dikshit emphasized on the increase in needs and demands of development. However for those demands of development the natural resources have been taken for granted. Therefore, it is now the time to use our natural resources sensibly. For this to be followed change towards the nature is required and the change moreover should not only be student oriented but towards parents and community at large. She listed down a lot of initiatives to be taken in Delhi like the construction of cycling/walking tracks which would reduce the use of private vehicles. This would eventually reflect on sustainable development of our country.

Mrs Sheila Dikshit gave away awards to top ten Delhi schools that had done extremely well in the Green School Programme -2009 within Delhi.



Mrs Sharmila Tagore then gave away awards to top ten National schools. The top ten winning schools for the National Awards 2009 are:-



New Schools: The Top Three

1. DAV Public School, Thermal Colony, Panipat, (Haryana)
2. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Prakasam (Andhra Pradesh)
3. Sat Paul Mittal School, Ludhiana (Punjab)

New Schools: The Other Winners

4. Government Girl's High School, Dakha, Ludhiana (Punjab)
5. Ambuja Vidya Niketan, Ambujanagar (Gujarat)
6. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Adilabad (Andhra Pradesh)
7. Bishop Cotton Boy's School, St Mark's Road, Bangalore (Karnataka)
8. The Ashok Leyland School, Hossur (Tamil Nadu)
9. Birla High School (Girl's), Moira Street, Kolkata (West Bengal)
10. **Government Secondary School, Reshi (Sikkim)**

The presence of Bollywood celebrity added glamour to the occasion; the students cheered to their victory. Mrs Tagore congratulated all the winning schools at State & National level and to the Change makers of the year 2009. She motivated the students to keep going the good work and urged them to carry such positive works ahead.

The ceremony ended on victorious mood. On another note this event was special for Sikkim Schools since Reshi Secondary School, West Sikkim emerged itself as one of the top ten National Winner-2009. In addition to that **Linkey Government Secondary School** and **Namcheybong Government Secondary School** got an award for the **best performance** in category of **Air** and **Energy** respectively.