

# AsianVoices

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Dear readers,

Welcome back to another edition of much awaited Asian Voice! We hope everyone is in the pink of health and some branches busy evaluating their summer workcamps, balancing work and enjoying life to the fullest!

In these issue of AV, we would like to focus on Mother Nature! What some branches in the region do to commemorate Earth Day 2011 or even any activities that relate to mother earth. We hope everyone will enjoy this issue as much as we did.

By the way, we found this wonderful tips from New York Earth Day tips. Enjoy!



Celebrating Earth Day in the National Zoo through the act of "gotong-royong".  
"Gotong-royong"; cooperation among many people to attain a shared goal.

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# New York State Earth Day Tips

50 ways to help our environment!

## AT HOME!

### In the kitchen...

- ✓ Set the refrigerator temperature between 38°F and 42°F.
- ✓ Set the freezer temperature between 0°F and 5°F.
- ✓ Microwave whenever you can.
- ✓ Don't wash dishes with the water running.

### In the dining room...

- ☒ Use napkin rings and cloth napkins.
- ☒ Set washable plates, cups and silverware.
- ☒ Serve condiments from recyclable containers.
- ☒ Provide personal glasses for soft drinks.

### In the laundry...

- ★ Wash and dry only full loads.
- ★ Wash with warm water instead of hot.
- ★ Rinse with cold water instead of warm.
- ★ Hang wash out to dry.

### In the bathroom...

- ⚙ Shut off the sink while brushing your teeth.
- ⚙ Shut off the shower while soaping or scrubbing.
- ⚙ Install a low-flow shower head.
- ⚙ Reduce the volume of water in your toilet tank.

### In the living room...

- ❖ Switch off unnecessary lights.
- ❖ Dress warm: don't turn up the furnace.
- ❖ Dress cool: don't turn on the air conditioner.
- ❖ Raise shades on winter days; lower them in summer.
- ❖ Reverse your fans for summer and winter operations as recommended.

### In the yard...

- ❖ Compost leaves and grass clippings.
- ❖ Avoid pesticides,, use nontoxic alternatives.
- ❖ Apply only as much fertilizer as the lawn needs,
- ❖ Water the grass early in the morning.

### In the garage...

- ⚙ Recycle motor oil, antifreeze and car batteries



## AWAY FROM HOME!

### In the car...

- ⚙ Drive at the speed limit.
- ⚙ Avoid sudden starts or stops.
- ⚙ Don't top off the fuel tank.
- ⚙ Check the tire pressure monthly.
- ⚙ Change air and oil filters regularly.

### At the store . . .

- ✂ Don't buy over packaged items.
- ✂ Choose products in reusable and/or recyclable containers.
- ✂ Buy concentrated cleaners and detergents.
- ✂ Return empty bottles and cans for deposit.
- ✂ Bring your own stringbag or cloth tote.

### At work...

- ⚙ Send electronic copy whenever possible.
- ⚙ Copy reports and memos on both sides.
- ⚙ Circulate rather than copy paperwork.
- ⚙ Reuse tubes and envelopes for mailing.
- ⚙ Recycle paper.

### At play...

- ⚙ Carry out what you carry in.
- ⚙ Hike, row, sail, ski or paddle - don't motor.

- ⚙ Build campfires with care.
- ⚙ Observe, don't disturb wildlife and plant life.
- ⚙ Share books, cassettes, magazines and videotapes with friends, hospitals and prisons.

### At school . . .

- ⚙ Copy bulletins and exams on two sides, make notes and drafts on scrap paper.
- ⚙ Reuse textbooks and school supplies.
- ⚙ Serve reusable trays, dishes and silverware.

# Loving Mother Project

Key Words: Mother, Peace, Solidarity and Environment

By: SCI Sri Lanka

## Mother and Loving Mother!

## Is there a difference?

## Peace & Environment!

## Are these two distinct fields which have nothing to do with one another?

## And finally Mother, Loving Mother, Peace, Solidarity and Environment – Is there any relationship?

About two years ago, we conducted a one day seminar on “Composting Kitchen Waste” in a rural area in Kandy. The seminar hall was fully packed and more than 95% of the participants were women which is a quite common sight in the Buddhist and Hindu temples, near school gates etc. in our country. We put forward a few questions to the audience.

Who is the first teacher of your children? There was a big noise “WE”. Yes it is so.

Have you ever taught at least a single word to your children on the importance of environment protection? We observed a dead silence in the hall.

A seed of a yet another project was sown in our minds. After a few months of research work - surveys..., discussions..., meetings... a project proposal called “Loving Mother” was ready for fund raising! As all of us know very well, raising funds at least to meet the basic requirements is not so easy. We started looking for friends abroad. Aha! In one morning when I opened my e mail box I found that our great friend Tom Ryder of IVS/Ireland had come in rescue. We were very happy...! Our efforts.... Time and energy had not gone waste! Thanks Tom... Thanks Geoff We will guarantee a big return to your courtesy.

### AIM:

The aim of the proposed project is to build capacity, awareness and education of young mothers to improve their competence, commitment and environment sensitiveness to play a more proactive eco friendly mothers' role in guiding and strengthening their children from early childhood.

### OBJECTIVES:

- 1 Sensitize, motivate, educate and strengthen skills of 200 young mothers living in the project area on their role as a first teacher of their children to enable them to develop eco friendly habits from early childhood.
- 2 Raise awareness of 200 young mothers, 5000 school children and 5000 adults on global warming and associated climate changes and our contribution to mitigate them.
3. Introducing modifications to the traditional kitchen and kitchen's practices to reduce direct and indirect contribution for the emission of green house gases.
- 4 Reduce emission of Methane from kitchen waste dumped along roadsides and waterways by introducing the proposed concept of “Composting Cycle” to produce bio foods for the family from bio degradable portion .
5. Promote social harmony among 3 different ethnic communities through offering opportunity to mix up at the environment protection activities which are common to all irrespective of the ethnicity. We have conducted several seminars and found that it is very popular among rural mothers.





# Volunteering in Sri Lanka

By: Sandra Brömster, Volunteer from Stockholm, Sweden

When I first decided to volunteer I started to look around at different organisations. I was shocked, 'cause most of them were really expensive. Then I found IAL – it was perfect! This organisation got me in contact with SCI SL (Service Civil International Sri Lanka) and here my journey starts! I served for three months beginning 1st of February 2011.

My main project was to educate preschool teachers. I visited around 15 different preschools and held workshops in three different areas of Sri Lanka where nearly 100 teachers participated. Except this, I also volunteered at the Evergreen Academy, a school for children aged 3-15. The school teaches in English so even though the language barrier can be hard sometimes it always works out well.

I also taught English in a new project in Akkaraipattu, this project is driven by a different organisation but SCI SL sends volunteers to this project as well. Akkaraipattu is on the east coast and is still affected by the war. Tamil people and muslims are not seen together, it's a very segregated area.

therefore a brighter future. To teach tamil and muslim children in the same group will hopefully lead this generation to peace. Also in the workshops I held for the teachers a mixture of people with different religions participated and did activities together.



The workshops had focus on how to interact with the student, how to learn through play and activities and how to do so with a limited access to teaching materials (how you can make your own teaching materials). The project was very much appreciated and SCI SL will continue this project in Mutur this autumn.

Mutur is one of the areas where I held my workshops. In Mutur the need is great. The people here were affected badly by both the tsunami, the war and now even the flood. Today many of them live just without anything. They don't even have drinking water. Water is for the moment provided by an organisation called 3CD and temporary houses are built by SCI SL with the financial support provided by the Italian Branch of the SCI.



The projects basic thought and goal is to make peace through education. Children – both tamils and muslims – that not can afford to go to the expensive schools will be taught English here for free. English is very important in Sri Lanka, partly cause Sri Lanka has different languages and also because they teach in English at the University. If you know English you also get a better chance to a "good" job and



But there is so much that has to be done here. The people are in great need and all help is welcome. In this area it's now around 100 preschools that need toys, teaching materials and education for the teachers. SCI SL is now starting a project to help this pre schools, but they need all support they can get.

I feel that all the organisations I've been in contact with do a very important job. SCI SL have helped me for this journey and been a great support.

**I would definitely recommend this organisation to everyone! For me this journey has meant a great deal. I've grown so much as a person and I definitely learnt something new each day.**

**I got to meet amazing people, learn about different cultures and about myself, develop an understanding about other people's living conditions and best of all – felt that I could do something to help them.**

**I truly feel that I've made a difference through my projects, but I also feel that I would have stayed longer. There is so much to do and I really love both the country and the people I met there. I will definitely go back when**

**I have the possibility, but for now I can only hope that this report encourages others to do what they can to make a difference in these peoples lives. To volunteer at SCI SL is absolutely the best thing I've ever did.**

As a volunteer I stayed at different places, 'cause I was travelling around when I held my workshops. I stayed at SCI SL centre in near Kandy for a while, I stayed with a family when I was working at Evergreen Academy, my own place in Akkaraipattu, at a school in Trincomale and at 3CD centre in Mutur. All places felt secure and even tough the conditions you are living in is very simple it's also very warm and nice. Food is provided and you can always turn to SCI SL if you want to stay in a different place.

As a conclusion I just want to encourage everyone to help – no one can do everything, but everyone can do something. To volunteer is a great way to help, and it's also a very giving thing to do. SCI SL will help you with all the preparations and will answer all your questions. And if I can help you with anything I will for sure. Many people are in need, and you can do an impact on there lives. Go and make our world to a better place!

**Thanks to SCI SL for this great experience!**

# Asia-Pacific Peace Education Seminar

By: Rita Sofea, Australia

IVP had some great successes as well as challenges during the last 12 months.

A great effort went into organising the Asia-Pacific Peace Education Seminar (APPES). The highlight of APPES was meeting face to face with our SCI Asia counterparts and making stronger connection the SCI movement. After the seminar, I was disappointed that the seminar did not bring the hoped for renewal of interest and flood of volunteers.

IVP is also part of Network for Volunteer Development in Asia (NVDA) and we have been improving our interaction with this network although unfortunately we were not able to send any delegates to NDVA meetings or seminars.

In July 2010 we launched our fabulous new website, designed by Hamish and Nicole, which brought IVP into the 21st century. The website has a link to the new SCI database, or OPS. We have not found the OPS to be user-friendly and are trying to work through the obstacles.

We renewed our Authority to Fundraise and reconfirmed our Tax Exempt Charity Status. A lot of effort was put into an application for Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGRS) but the final application is still pending.

An application to Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) was successful, giving us funds for much needed equipment, upgrading our First Aid kit, a new whiteboard and a data projector for future seminars, infor-

mation nights and presentations.

In January we had a visit from Paolo Bozzoni, a long-term SCI activist from Italy. A small group of IVP members attended Paolo's multi-media interactive presentation of The First SCI workcamp, and found it informative and engaging.

We decreased our environmental footprint when we began to purchase office paper from SCRAP who supply paper made with 80% sugar cane fibre. A fan was installed in the chimney to help move the warm air out of the building, making the office much more pleasant in the summer months.

The main problem was the lack of volunteers in the office and on the committee. We advertised for volunteers through various state run volunteer agencies and networks. A lot of people responded to the ad for committee members but most did not stay. Eventually we managed to get a few to keep coming back. Two new volunteers started working in the office in February and they have both elected to work two days a week. So things are looking up.

And I have saved the best news for the last. We held our AGM on 18th June. A new constitution was accepted and NINE people were elected to the committee.



# NUCLEAR POWER & THE AFFECTED AREA

By: Hanae, SCI Japan

SCI Japan organized the emergency workcamp in damaged area of 3.11 big earthquake from 30th April to 7th May. Before the workcamp, several members went to the affected area for the relief and their information was crucial to organize the workcamp. Also one of our member lives in Iwaki city suffered by not only earthquake and Tsunami, but also nuclear power plant.

We were looking for the place where we can set up tents and can cook by ourselves during the relief workcamp. Since Iwaki city had many severe aftershocks, the local government did not allow the volunteers set up tents inside the city. So we put our base in the neighboring city.

Immediately after the 3.11, we faced to see the nuclear accident everyday. During the 1st, 3rd and 4th power plant in Fukushima exploded, I was just shocked, but to be honest, after that I was paralyzed with the fear. Maybe because I am living in Osaka, about 800km far from the power plant and I was stupid enough to believe the statement from the academics that Fukushima is not going to be worse like Chernobyl(but later it becomes the same level of Chernobyl).

**So it was my first time to think about Fukushima as my problem when I decided to join the workcamp in Iwaki city, Fukushima. When I was asked “are you not afraid to come to this area?” by other members, and when my parents said “are you crazy or stupid to go to the area?”, I started to feel real dreadfulness about the nuclear plant. “What will be the damage for my body?”**

But in same time, I could imagine more how much dreadfulness people near the nuclear plant feel every day.

I was shocked to see the “normal” life in the nuclear affected area during the workcamp. We visited Hisanohama district, just 30km from the plant. The area is hardly damaged by the tsunami & earthquake, and has not improved so much. But the area is constantly suffered by the nuclear.

**When we arrived the district, we hear the district's loudspeaker saying “the level of radiation is 0.56 micro sieverts/hour in this moment.” The voice is monotonous, it is the “normal” announcement in this area, but this “normal” & monotonous voice makes me more fear. The first word came up my mind was “it is a war.”**

People need to hear the indiscriminate attack of radioactivity every moment. And the more fearful thing is that we cannot see how much attack we get and what will happen in our body in the future. The district is already hardly damaged by Tsunami and earthquake, but it is still receiving more frightening invisible damage on the all the creation there by radiation every moment.

The district head said “because of the nuclear plant, till about 1 month after March 11th, we could not come back to the district.” That's why the improvement of relief cannot see so much even 2months after 3.11. The district head himself lost his house. And still 70 % of elementary school children did not come back to the area due to the fear about radiation (in the time of our workcamp).

**Including me, many Japanese could not think the real risk of the nuclear. When someone raised opinion “nuclear power is dangerous”, we get immediate answer that “can you go back to the ancient time without electricity?”.**

But Fukushima tells us that the power of the nature is beyond our simulation and that human simulation has limitation. Now I can see that the nuclear plants have been making unreliable balance between nature/human life and money. And I need to search more about what was been telling and what was been hidden about nuclear power.

# Celebrating Earth Day at the National Zoo

By: SCI Malaysia

April is a much-awaited month for SCI Malaysia – FT & Selangor group. Over 160 Volunteers celebrated Earth Day at the National Zoo on the 24th April. Members were divided into groups to work with the zoo keepers at their animal enclosures - cleaning, food preparation, feeding etc - a fantastic opportunity to be so near to the rare animals, and rest of volunteers went to plant trees.



30 specially selected fruits trees were provided by HANDS (Human and Nature Development Society) and together with another 120 landscape plants from the Zoo itself - were planted.

The volunteers were later shown around the 40 acres Zoo, in the newly acquired electric tram - how the 5000 animals (500 different species) are sheltered in their safe and natural habitat. The volunteers got to see the delightful animal shows as well.

After a sort of pot-luck where we shared our lunches the Zoo Director shared many of the environmental friendly changes they had introduced at the Zoo.

Dr Kannan from HANDS, gave an interesting talk of how we can contribute to a better balance in our ecosystem, and we were also shown slides of how we can contribute part of the Billion Acts in Green.

All the participants enjoyed the day - made new friends, get to appreciate the work of the Zoo Keepers, got so close to the rare animals, learn what's been done to improve our Environment and how we can contribute. The message was very significant to the youngsters and youth - who would become Captain in our Society in the very near future.



Thanks to Zoo Negara for being the kind venue host and coordinator, and to HANDS, PiPM, SCI, Starbuck, Sri Garden International School Sri Bestari and all the other participating NGOs, participating schools and Civil Societies.

Our next year plan on 22 April 2012 will have a special focus on Water, recycle water, clean water, pond, lakes, rives and water animals such as crocodile, lizard, iguana, fishes and many more. Do mark you calender and come join the fun!



# 2011 Hong Kong Camp Diary

By: Louis Leong, Volunteer from Hong Kong



Today, we went to Chungking Mansion to visit a refugee centre run by Christian Action. Christian Action's Refugee Program assists refugees with essential humanitarian needs such as food, clothing, shelter and toiletries. They also provide educational, recreational and psychosocial support.

Jeff, a project officer, introduced to us the services they provide for people with refugee status, the challenges and difficulties they face in Hong Kong.

**Refugees are seen as a burden to our society and cannot contribute anything. However, Jeff told us that although most of them seem to be poor and penniless, this is the result of them having no chance to pack their belongings or sufficient money, as they often had to leave their home countries suddenly and out of emergency.**

Quite the contrary, refugees who fled their own countries are often educated middle-class people - whose education, profession or political opinions have drawn them to the attention of the authorities and resulted in their persecution. Asylum seekers in Hong Kong have to wait years and years to be accepted as refugees and grant permanent residency in another country such as Canada or USA. They are not allowed to work in Hong Kong and never will be granted

permanent residency in Hong Kong.

In the afternoon we had a study session facilitated by Sam (Sameera Jayasinghe). We talked about the reasons why people come to Hong Kong as asylum seekers and what happen to them while they are in Hong Kong. The more we understand asylum seekers and their background, the more we recognize them as parts of our society and members of global village.



We looked at the situation and discussed critically. We could see that the asylum seekers are forgotten in our society. No matter where they come from, we ought to offer them our helping hands.



On the other hand governments are limited in helping refugees as they have to identify genuine people who could no longer live in their home country due to political reasons from those who misuse the system to migrate to other countries purely for economic reasons.

I am confused about how we should weigh the public interest and humanitarianism. Hong Kong citizens may be concerned about the allocation of resources for people who come from other countries as refugees while there are many issues the government has to spend money on. No one is clear how it will affect our society if asylum seekers are allowed to find jobs here in Hong Kong. It may not be acceptable to the public as the unemployment rate will rise. Most of the people always have an idea that the asylum seekers come to Hong Kong for money or jobs.

Also, people are worried about that if more asylum seekers come, the more living grant the tax-payers will have to pay.

However, this misunderstanding or difficulty may be resolved by educating the public and strengthening the connection between the refugee and the local communities. For instance, Jeff and his fellows have made great effort and done very well to teach the asylum seekers Cantonese and arrange football matches with some local schools. I believe that these activities help them forget about their unfortunate experience and enjoy their time in Hong Kong more.

During our discussion, we talked about what we can do as civil society to help and welcome people who come to Hong Kong as asylum seekers. I hope there will be no more war, and no more political and religious persecutions, thus no more refugees and no more asylum seekers.

As a follow up program, we discussed how we could help the Christian Action Refugee program and we collected clothes, musical instruments and educational items among ourselves and donated them to the project after the workcamp. We hope this small action will help people who are already in Hong Kong as asylum seekers. The visit to Christian Action and open discussion about asylum seekers in Hong Kong do inspire us to understand and help others in small ways we could.



# APPES & APM 2011

By: SCI Bangalore

**We must congratulate SCI India for bringing in 9 of the 10 branches/group from AP&M and 2 of our partners as well for this APPRS/APM -2011 at the Garden City of Bangalore. All together we had 19 International Participants, 16 locals from 12 countries participating. Truly international .**

We had 3 days of Peace Education Seminar followed by 1 day of APM, our regional meet.

## **On the First Day,**

we were introduced to an extraordinary Peace Model, MK Gandhi, by a renowned scholar Dr H Srinivasaiah. We followed with breakout groups – to reflect of what we had learned, and look within our own environment – who are our Peace Models and Messengers in our own communities. This was shared. This helps to expand our appreciation of motivating Peace Models whom we can relate to. We got to enjoy a 300-pictorial-exhibition of Gandhi that was specially put up

## **Day Two –**

We conducted an overview of the Strategic Plan (SP), its background, development and expectation. Branches were advised to focus on objectives and areas which are appropriate, meaningful, and they have strength and competency, first. Our facilitators shared our international initiatives on Peace Messengers, and No-More-War. A quick workshop followed where all branches were teamed and asked to list what are their current and future plans on sheets of paper. These were pasted on the wall and with other charts, it was a nice mini eSP-osition. Organisation needs people - volunteers. In the Open Space – SCI Nepal shared the role of Voluntarism, and SCI Korea went a step further to show how they have successfully reorganized and manages their 3000 odd members. It was amazing.

## **Day Three -**

As part of the Peace Education and learning from each other we arranged presentations by Japan/Bangladesh's SIDR Cyclone Shelter, Sri Lanka's Muthur workcamp project and Peace Village, Hong Kong's International Work-camps and discussed about Japan's Peace Constitution. We also recap a Fund Raising Models – the Donors' Pyramid, that was presented in our APPES 2009 Workshop. SCI Sri Lanka and Korea were invited to share their successful experience in Fund Raising. Loaded with a lot of information and excited about the future – we then listed some of the Regional / Joint Programs & Projects that we could do. This was prioritized by dotting system and presented to the APM. In closing – we had a grand and gala farewell in the evening with songs, dancing, singing and food warmly and generously hosted by the SCI Karnataka Group.







APM (Asian Platform Meeting) on the 4th day.  
The APM was ably chaired by Jaiprasad and Karu.

The following topics were added to our Agenda - Pink-slips, issues of IEC representation, changes in the constitution, communication between branches, hosting of ICM – 2012, camp fees, regional exchanges, terminology in SCI, new partnerships

The agenda proper – cover Asia Regional Travel Fund, New Groups, Nepal branch issues, ADC Chair, with updates on Sri Lanka post conflict workshop, Asian Voices and feedbacks from AIWG, NSPM, AEEP. There was also two Paper presentations – on Fund Raising and Cooperation with ASEF.

The APM also proposed two recommendations and one resolution to be tabled at the coming ICM. The delegates also adopted 10 projects / programs that would affect the positive development of SCI in AP&M. Details of the APM report would be send out separate..

Once again our Thanks to SCI India for such a wonderful program – thank too to all the branches and participants who took time and put in so much effort to make this a successful event – thanks to the Prep Team – Jayaprasad, Wilbert, Rita and Stephen.



# Recognition of Voluntary Work

By: SCI Indonesia



Last February Wilbert attended a conference organized by CCIVS and ASEF. It took place in his hometown, Semarang, Indonesia. Central theme was the recognition of voluntary work, an important issue also for SCI. A report about the conference and the follow-up.

The conference was divided in two parts, the first 2 days representatives of several IVS (International Voluntary Service) -organizations met. The last two days those participants got company from representatives of different stakeholders, related to IVS. Among the latter group there were for example diplomats, researchers, professors, representatives of ASEAN, European and Asian Youth Forum. It was an interesting concept, and challenging as well in terms of facilitation. How to introduce the newcomers at the 3rd day into the topic and the world of IVS as such.

As the conference had to have a representative character, the conference took place in a luxury hotel in Semarang (at the same time it was not representative for IVS, workcamp accommodation is kind of another world....).

**One of the topics was how voluntary work can be more recognized by governmental institutions. In that case Indonesia was a right place to work on, the SCI-partner IIWC has to deal with severe regulations, if they want to organize short term or long term voluntary projects, and invite foreign volunteers.**

The representative of ASEAN was a welcoming quest, she was enthusiastic about the development of Asian Voluntary Service (AVS). This would be the counterpart of the well-known and well-subsidized EVS-exchange program in Europe.

The follow-up of those topics resulted in the development of a youth-

camp in Indonesia, initiated by IIWC and the Indonesian ministry of culture and tourism, to take place end of November. In fact it is also a try-out for a short term AVS-project. Another follow-up of AVS -trial project- is a program involving long term volunteers in the rehabilitation of the disaster-area in Japan (by NICE-Japan)..

Other outcomes of the seminar are:

**Education:** concrete steps has been made to come to a global (not only Asia-Europe) research to the impact of IVS. An impact-study can help at the end for more recognition in general for IVS. Earlier studies will be collected, and if needed extra research will be carried out (also dependent on finances). As representatives of universities were directly involved in this, this may lead to concrete follow-up. International NGO's: to get more visibility for and recognition by NGO's as Greenpeace, Amnesty, Red Cross etcetera, the plan has made to come to a thematic based database with the IVS-programmes

I am not aware of follow-up in the field of education, the database is just in a starting phase. A concrete project where SCI has been involved, was the organizing of a special workcamp in cooperation with ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN). This took place in Malaysia in July 2011. Since SCI Malaysia was already busy with their regular summer workcamp, the practical carrying out was done by foundation 'Salam' in Malaysia. But it is good to realize this could not have started without the initial work of SCI.

All by all the seminar was a good opportunity for SCI to network, to stay involved in developments on IVS in the Asia-Europe region. There will be a follow-up seminar in Germany, from the side of CCIVS, mid October. SCI will be present there as well.

# GROUNDING OUR FUTURE

By: SCI India

In India the project 'Grounding our Future' started in February, by initial selection and workshop at four different places ie: West Bengal, Maharashtra, Bangalore and Chennai.

After the initial training for 150 young volunteers , two were selected for the one month capacity building and job shadowing training in Germany and Italy (see article SVI Mauritius, AV).

After completion of this period in Germany and Italy the two Indian volunteers helped to plan a one-month-local-capacity-building program for two volunteers from Germany and Italy in India.

The volunteers were Ms. Anna and Fabrizio, who participated in different activities starting from Delhi for a week, then in Bangalore, Kanyakumari and in Chennai on 8th August, 2011. During their visit they visited many NGOs working for Environmental concerns and awareness.

They participated two days Green Camp in Bangalore where 40 volunteers participated with different NGOs attending this workshop. They participated in awareness campaign in Kanyakumari. In Chennai they attended a workshop on Waste Management and a bicycle rally with college students of different colleges. So far the whole activity has created about 200 volunteers and activists, being sensitized by concerns of Climate Change.

Until November this year , there will be more activities on Climate change. Next year the title of the project on Climate change will be "A step towards Future".



# GROUNDING OUR FUTURE:

## Climate Change

By: Mr. Abhinash Ganesh and Ms. Rebecca Charles



**We are a group of international young people who are designing a campaign to raise awareness about Climate Change. That's where our first workshop was conducted in Karnitz, in the North of Germany.**

For a week volunteers from Vietnam, India, Mauritius, Italy and Germany, were living together in a sustainable framework at a country-side house in the rural village of Karnitz, in the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern region. The house is indeed equipped with solar panels and the majority of the insulation is made of hemp. Here we were working together to get a better knowledge of the various challenges of climate change in the participating countries and to define the bases of a large scale campaign on climate change.

Activities have involved presentations of the participating countries, focusing on climate change and followed by questions & answers about the diverse issues the different countries are facing. After this sharing of knowledge, we had a "brainstorming" session in order to define drivers, impacts and solutions to climate change. This brainstorming activity enabled us to cover a very large spectrum thanks to the many backgrounds of the participants. Before diving right into developing a sophisticated campaign, we developed imaginative scenarios to be able to draw catching pictures of possible futures.

To bring the campaign to life, we gathered in dedicated subgroups to work on its design, its content and the punctual events. The objective is to use this work as a basis for campaigning over the following year.

Besides, the group decided to make a visit to the Solar Initiative MV which is an energy autonomous project with a multi-climate house, solar mobility etc.



Besides the group activities on building the campaign, we visited the Solar Center Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, located in Wietow. This gave us a broader view of the possibilities on how to use solar energy.



The founder of the NGO 'Solar Initiative' welcomed us in their restored house, equipped with solar panels on the roofs, but also on the window shutters.

First we attended a presentation on renewable energies, especially solar photovoltaic and solar thermal and on energy efficiency: insulation, heating systems...

A wall of glass was added to the northern and the eastern part of the house, in order to keep away the cold wind during the winter. This is a way to save energy.

A multi-climate house has been recently built and is dedicated to the visits. This house illustrates the big potential of solar power. Made of wood and foil and equipped with a particular type of solar panels, the house is divided in three climate areas: Greece, Africa and Dubai. We experienced the variations in temperatures and we observed the luxurious vegetation growing in the African area.

**To show us what is possible to do with solar power, they presented us a solar cooker and a solar organ (which can also be used as a lighter!) : alternative ways to cook and to play music!**

The visit was both interesting and entertaining and the multi-climate house pleased the whole group. It brought us new ideas for the project but also to bring to our respective country.

This first international workshop was then directly followed by the so-called "job shadowing" in Germany and Italy. Participants from Vietnam, India and Mauritius worked within the German and Italian organizations and to pursue their work on the campaign.

Then the group was visiting Berlin for a week before getting into job shadowing. Then the team started with their job shadowing, the Indian volunteers decided to work on Waste management and pollution control.

[www.goodgoods.de/en/homepage/](http://www.goodgoods.de/en/homepage/) also made a visit to waste management centre and then to tour to Hamburg Green Capital. Both the visit was very interesting and informative. Then during the job shadowing we were working on creating the logo, brochures, blogs, creating face book page.

The workshop was very interesting and we were able to get more knowledge about the concept and how important is to work on climate change. The responsibility of being citizen it is very necessary to work on issues related to climate change so we can have better future for the next generation. In India we have more responsibility to safe guard our mother Earth.



# GROUNDING OUR FUTURE:

## *Lets Pedal for clean Green World*

### *Youth Cycle Rally to stop on Global Warming*

ICWO/ SCI India / SCI Italy / KMGNE Germany / TI Cycles



#### INTRODUCTION ABOUT ICWO:

We Indian Community Welfare Organisation is a non-profitable, non-governmental social work organization, working for various developmental projects for the past 16 years in special focus with the marginalized community in Tamil Nadu. ICWO is doing a considerable amount of work in the field of STI/HIV/AIDS prevention with the aid of several dedicated volunteers, the constant encouragement and support of the government.

#### SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL (SCI):

Service Civil International (SCI) is one of the world's largest international volunteering organisations with more than ninety years of experience in coordinating international voluntary projects. Through these projects we help break down barriers and prejudices between people of different social, cultural and national backgrounds and promote a culture of peace

#### SCI TAMILNADU GROUP INDIA:

SCI Tamilnadu Group is a Non Governmental Voluntary Welfare Organisation working without caste, colour of creed. It endeavors for Peace and Justice through Voluntary work.

#### INTRODUCTION ABOUT THE GLOBAL WARMING:

Global warming is caused by green house gases, which trap in the sun's infrared rays in the earth's atmosphere, which in turn heat up the earth's atmosphere. These green house effect warming is called as global warming. The effects of green house effect are visible more prominently in the recent years, with number of natural calamities on the rise in the whole world. The global warming has happened in the past few years and is evident from the rise in mean temperature of the earth's atmosphere. The global warming has led to increase in mean earth surface temperature and thus melting of polar ice. The effect of global warming is very evident on the animal kingdom also. Some animals have become extinct due to loss of their natural habitat or their inability to evolve to the rapid changes in the climate.

The effect of global warming can be felt on seasons too. There is shift in season cycle, as the summers are getting longer than the winters. The global warming is also responsible for the introduction of some new diseases. Global warming is also effecting the crop production, as the crops are getting destroyed by the sudden change in temperatures or sudden onset of rains.





As a matter of fact, because of global warming, the earth's atmosphere is getting more unpredictable with heavy rains in the areas, which have scanty rainfall or drought in the areas, which received good annual rainfall. The months of rainfall has also getting affected.

But there are some people on the other side of the wall also, they believe that the global warming is a natural process and cannot disturb our ecosystem. The earth's surface mean temperature was even higher a long time ago, and the ecosystem has evolved from that temperature to this. So it can evolve further. But the changes that are happening now are rather fast compared to earlier times.

Indian Community Welfare Organisation (ICWO) along with Service Civil International (SCI) India, SCI Tamil Nadu, SCI Italy, KMGNE, TII Cycles jointly organize the cycle rally "Grounding Our Future" titled "To Stop Global Warming". Program was inaugurated and flagged off at Marina Beach Swimming Pool by Dr.P.Kuganantham, M.B.B.S .D.P.H, M.P.H-WHO FELLOW (Johns Hopkins, USA), health officer, Public Health Department, Corporation of Chennai on 8th August 2011 at 11.00.a.m.



Mr.AJ.Hariaharan, Secretary, ICWO said that -Youth need to come fight against to stop Global warming for the better. ICWO is committed to initiate intervention wherever needed to stop global warming. The fight against global warming cannot be in isolation it needed collaboration effort and needed different stakeholders, corporates, NGOs, CBOs, along with general public to work towards in fighting against global Warming.

Mr.Jayaprasad, National Secretary, SCI India, Mr. Fabriso, SCI Italy and Ms.Anna, KMGNE, Germany participated in the cycle rally. Social work students from Stella Maris College, Mohammed Sathak College, Hindu College, Presidency College, C.N.P.T.Poly-Technical College and Volunteers from USA, Australia participated in the cycle rally.



Many people and governments are already working hard to cut greenhouse gases, and everyone can help. In addition to reducing the gases we emit to the atmosphere, we can also increase the amount of gases we take out of the atmosphere. Plants and trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as they grow, "sequestering" carbon naturally. Increasing forestlands and making changes to the way we farm could increase the amount of carbon we're storing.

Some of these technologies have drawbacks, and different communities will make different decisions about how to power their lives, but the good news is that there are a variety of options to put us on a path toward a stable climate.

# GROUNDING OUR FUTURE:

## Youth Volunteering & the Challenges of Climate Change

By:  
Loveetah Chummun Bhujphory  
SCI Mauritius

The project is an initiative of SCI Italy. Partners of the Action are SVI Mauritius, VPN Vietnam, SCI India and KGMNE Germany. The project is partly funded by EACEA through SCI Italy which is the applicant. The project duration is one year and involves organisation of activities which are related to the main topic: “Youth Volunteering and the Challenges of Climate Change.”, in each partner member countries. Each partner country is thereby addressing the issue in a way relevant to their conditions in their respective country.

The main aim of the project is to create awareness among the young generation about the Challenges of Climate Change with special focus on the effect of climate change in Mauritius and our role in addressing the issue at national level. Since the project has a special focus on ‘YOUTH’, SVI Mauritius decided to take on board for this project another NGO ‘System Demokratik Morisien’ SDM.

SDM is an NGO comprising of mainly secondary school and university students and have been working on projects related to ‘Climate Change’ in the recent past.

**One important aspect of the project is the sharing of information, ideas, or experiences, etc among the countries involved and this was achieved by the six weeks of Job Shadowing/Training organised in Germany/Italy whereby two participants from each partner country met and participated for a period of about six weeks in May/June 2011. This article will be focussed on the experience achieved by SVI Mauritius.**

Mauritius is a small island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. With a constant temperature rise, decrease trend in annual rainfall, increase in flash floods and sea level rise, there is no doubt that our present and future generations are already faced with a great challenge in the issue of climate change.

For the sake of this article, the project has been divided into three parts:

### **Brainstorming session in Mauritius**

Prior to sending two participants to Germany/Italy for the Job Shadowing/Training, a brainstorming session was organised at SVI Mauritius in March 2011 so that our two delegated participants and the local team of the project join the Job Shadowing/Training in Germany/Italy with at least some basic information of the involvement of Mauritius at National level.

The Resource persons were from the following Ministries/Sectors:

- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
- Ministry of Tourism and Leisure and External Communications
- Forestry Service, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security
- Renewable Energy Engineer  
(Private Sector - Sustainable Solutions Ltd)
- Ministry of Transport (France)

Around 25 participants attended the brainstorming session. Activities which can cause global warming such as burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, livestock rearing, use of artificial fertilisers and unsustainable consumption were discussed.

The impacts of climate change on our coastal ecosystems such as sea level rise, beach erosion, coral reefs, mangroves, wetlands and saline intrusion were also discussed. The discussions moved on to the effects on agriculture with issues such as food security, pests and diseases, soil erosion. The impacts on fisheries with changes in hatching patterns and migration path; the impacts on human health with respect to diseases, heat stress and more resistant viruses; the impact on atmospheric circulation, economic activities (tourism, property, infrastructure, etc) and social aspects form part of the discussions.

Adaptation, the next discussion item of the topic of Climate Change, followed. However without awareness, no adaptation is possible. Therefore adaptation can only be an outcome awareness, dissemination of information, communication.... The public should be aware of the risks and possible consequences of climate change.

The government of Mauritius has been encouraging implementation of projects which involve measures to adapt to the changing climate. Special funds like MID (Maurice Ile Durable Fund) and Food Security Fund have been put in place. Some measures under discussion and/or implementation include use of solar devices, use of wind power, use of energy-efficient appliances, building sea walls, beach replenishment, changes in farming practices, rain water harvesting, green building concept, recycling, waste management, car sharing, use of solar photovoltaic panels as a sustainable source of energy, etc. Thus the two Mauritian participants felt more confident to join the programme and share their experience with their counterparts in the Job Shadowing/Training held in Germany and Italy.

### **Job Shadowing/Training in Germany and Italy**

The first part of the Job Shadowing/Training was held in Germany, more precisely in Karnitz... a beautiful rural countryside... with just some thirty inhabitants in kilometers of extensive grazing. This place is situated in Demmin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany.

The participants from all the five countries (two per country) were lodged in a house which was more or less sustainable on renewable energy sources like solar panels and wood burning for heaters and hot water supply. It was so arranged that the participants shared rooms with other fellow participants.... international sharing.

Participants from each country made presentations on impacts or potential impacts of climate change in their respective country. Thus participants had the opportunity to share their experiences in little groups, individually.... in presentations.... in story telling.... with the theme climate change. More focus was then laid on the problems arising due to climate change in each country... what is being done.... what is not being done...

For the second part of the Job Shadowing/Training, one participant from each country stayed in Germany while the other went to Italy. Ideas generated in this stage by the two groups were continuously shared through the website. The two groups worked on the impact, threat & opportunities of climate change with long term vision projected over a few decades in the future. In addition, ideas about making of a video/film with messages like 'Love Green and Live Green', 'Use of proper bin for waste segregation' were in discussions topics among the groups.

The whole group was given the opportunity to visit the Solar Zentrum, a building that produced electricity for selling and own use by using sun rays. Another important aspect of the building is that the different rooms could be adjusted to different temperatures.

A flyer was made with information collected from different participants on the theme Climate change (What is Climate change, effects and drawbacks) which could be used by anyone in his /her country and put on the site 'Ivane'. A poster was also made with the title 'Care for Tomorrow' based on Waste Management.

### **Job Shadowing/Awareness Campaign in Mauritius**

The third part of the project involves another sharing but this time in the partner countries. Thus we have the opportunity to have two participants, one from Germany and one from Italy for a period of 25 days in Mauritius.

Main activities planned for these 25 days are as follows:

- Video on composting: Composting as a solution to waste management. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Mauritius has started putting bins for waste sorting in quite a few schools. We are trying to get one resource person with sufficient knowledge to make a small documentary/video on waste sorting but more specifically on composting. We would have liked to choose one school and do the video there on site.... We would like to distribute the video on CD to all schools following approval from the Ministry of Education.
- SVI Caravane Bicycle Tour: 'Tour de L'Amitié': This main Work Camp activity has proved its legacy over the years. The first bicycle tour took place in 1962 going round the coast Road of Mauritius during six days getting to know the different features of Country sides. During its 51 years of existence, this activity helped to consolidate strong bonds of friendship among Mauritian of all walks of life and learning community life. This time a four days bicycle tour with focus on theme related to 'Climate Change' has been planned and has as title 'Learning to save our earth/environment' literally translated (anu apran prend konte nou la terre) It is some sort of rally on bicycles in a particular region of the island on a four day tour and tent camping.
- The proposed projects from SDM such as plastic recycling, mangrove plants in erosion prone areas, etc. SDM is a group of youths involved in many projects including projects related to Climate Change. SVI Mauritius will give its support to the group through this Climate Change Project.
- La Vallee de Ferney: A success story to save our forest. A visit at La Vallee de Ferney has been planned for our counterparts. There was a major road development project which was finalised and work was about to start after an international tender exercise. Days or weeks before the project started, NGOs and other environmental activists succeeded in convincing the Government to cancel the project. One can imagine the implications of a major project involving international tender exercise....and of course our Prime Minister's commitment on this sensitive issue. This place is now a green space, our pride...preservation of our forest.
- SVI Mauritius Website: SVI Mauritius does not have a website and a proposal to create one using the expertise of our counterparts from Germany and Italy was unanimously welcome.

**The project is still ongoing. Meanwhile we are proud to say that with such a project where at international level experiences of several countries are shared with enthusiasm and at national level involvement of other NGOs from the younger generation are invited and experienced, SVI Mauritius feels happy and is at peace with the philosophy of SCI...**



# Endnote

Hi, I think this time again our Asian Voices came later than we planned, but it arrived thanks to some very dedicated members and all the friends contributes to write the articles.

So we, the co-editors are happy to meet you all through this Asian Voices again. Also we have great news that from next issue, we have new member in our editor team. Pat from Hong Kong decided to join the team, Thank you, Pat and welcome!

Since the latest APM/APPES held in Bangalore, India, we could have almost all the branches/groups/contact in our region. Then Pat joined this activity and is willing to cooperate with Asian Voices now.

Before closing the endnotes, personally I would like to say Thank you very much to all of you for your message and action for relief after the 3.11 disaster in Japan. As one of the SCI Japan member, I have been able to read many encouraging messages and receive power from around the world. Thank you for your solidarity. In next issue, I will write 3rd relief workcamp in Fukushima where many of your message reached to local people in Fukushima.

Looking forward to seeing you soon in the next volume!

Amities

Hanae on behalf of co-editors (Wilbert, Nurul and Maria)