



WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR JUNE 12



INDIA: Tara Projects Association (TARA) based in Delhi organised an 'anti-child labour' awareness rally on 12 June in association with 'Fair Trade Forum – India' at its learning center in Nikau Village Firozabad. This year, World Day Against Child Labour draws attention to the role of social protection in keeping children out of child labour and removing them from it. The objective of the manifestation organized by TARA was to make children aware as well as the inhabitants about the ill effects of child labour, the laws made against this evil practice and the need to eradicate it.

In the event, various eminent personnel's from government sector, politicians, social workers and field activists from TARA participated in the programme. More than 250 members including children, their parents, elderly persons and other stakeholders also took part in the rally. Brochures and posters were distributed to the public to spread awareness about the ill practice of child labour still existing in the rural areas in and around Firozabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Primary Educational officer Mr. Jitendra Yadav urged

parents to send their children to school. *Ms.Moon Sharma* while addressing the gathering, said, "Many children who studied from the village have reached to the higher education and have got the respectable jobs. She said, "I wish that many more children will complete their education and will pursue for the good jobs and will bring glory to their village.

The representatives of CEC also spoke about the signature campaign and they are going to take up to bring the issues to the attention of the concerned Ministries. *Mr.Kailash Joshi* and *Mr.Vikas Kumar* from TARA

informed all the participants about the involvement of Tara in the village since last 17 years, and they urged the parents to encourage their children to attend the school regularly.



The children and all the others inspite of heat and humidity marched around the village with enthusiasm and raised the slogans against child labour and to promote the girl child to go to school. The manifestation organized was successful and made all aware especially the parents in the village to send their children to school on regular basis. The march concluded with a festivity party for all.

Some interesting facts about Environment

- On average, ONE supermarket goes through 60,500,000 paper bags per year!
- 27,000 trees are felled each day for toilet paper.
- Paper can be recycled only 6 times. After that, fibers are too weak to hold together.
- Rainforests are being cut down at the rate of 100 acres per minute.
- A modern glass bottle takes 4000 years or more to decompose.
- 40 percent of all bottled water sold in the world is bottled tap water.

Source: www.earthecho.org

World Health Day 2014

SMALL BITE:
BIG THREAT



BANGLADESH: World Health Day, on 7 April 2014 has been observed worldwide, highlighting the serious and increasing threat of vector-borne diseases, with the slogan “*Small bite, big threat.*” Theme for this year had been to spotlight some of the most commonly known vectors – such as mosquitoes, bugs, ticks and snails – responsible for transmitting a wide range of parasites and pathogens that attack humans or animals. They are most commonly found in tropical areas and places where access to safe drinking-water and sanitation systems is problematic.

Thanapara Swallows organised a big rally of around 200 participants to the local administrative office at Rajshahi with the aim of raising awareness about the threat posed by

vectors and vector-borne diseases, and to stimulate families and communities to take action to protect themselves. At the end of the rally, a small group discussion & health camp was also organised in which Thanapara staffs and people from surrounding villages participated.



Mayday

INDONESIA: May Day, promoted by the international labor movement, Socialists and Communists, usually occurs on May 1 in many countries, and is also a national holiday for workers in many countries around the world. Worker, student and non-government organisations commemorated May Day across Indonesia, taking up a range of themes.

Thousands of students, workers and NGO activists in the North Sumatra city marched through the main streets handing out leaflets and then held a sit-down at a major intersection. They demanded better social welfare, decent wages, freedom of association, the development of national industry and the abolition of contract labour and outsourcing.



Yayasan Penghibur organised the May day celebrations in its premises, in which the workers, staff, and the children of Penghibur and few visitors participated. Mr. Suprpto, the founder / leader of Penghibur explained to the participants the background, the purpose and the importance of celebrating this day. He said: 'After President Suharto had successfully taken this country for more than 32 years, people had not been allowed to celebrate this May Day, for the mere reason that it belongs to communist policy. However people living in *reformation era* no more think that May day is celebrated because of communist influence. Rather this day gives voice for the workers - the day which inspires fear in the hearts of the capitalists and hope in the workers worldwide!'





BEIRUT: The security & political situation in Lebanon deteriorated since last year with violence spilling over from the armed conflict in Syria. Sectarian tensions led to deadly clashes in *Tripoli* and *Saida* amidst a climate of impunity for gunmen. Syrian refugees registering in Lebanon is getting increased, and with limited international support, the Lebanese government struggles to meet the refugees' needs. More than a million who fled to Lebanon vulnerable to lack of medical care, says *Amnesty International*. Health care in Lebanon is largely private and expensive, with most Syrians poorer than their host community.

Micro credit lending: Despite the critical situation, AEP continued its Micro credit activities in all the usual regions, and there was a significant expansion for a new region in Northern Lebanon - *Koura and Zgharta*.

Water program orientation: An agricultural expert visited several agribusiness projects and provided the beneficiaries with useful information to acquire new techniques and try to implement it in their daily work.



Empowering women: AEP launched a new plan on 4th April 2014 to empower women capacities through learning. Training sessions were given in all the regions in Accounting, Leadership and Communication skills. Around 373 women were successfully trained and were benefited from these training sessions. AEP has planned to continue this program throughout the year.

Some interesting facts about Health

- The adult human heart weighs about ten ounces.
- It takes an interaction of 72 different muscles to produce human speech.
- Between 25% to 33% of the world population sneeze when they are exposed to light.
- You are about 1 centimeter taller in the morning than in the evening.
- During the lifetime, one eats about 60,000 pounds of food (weight of 6 elephants)

Source: www.health.abc4.com

FRENCH VISITORS TO INDIAN GROUPS

TINDIVANAM: In the month of June, 13 students with 4 staffs from MFR St.Etienne, France came to Village Community Development Society (VCDS) for 'Water Management & Conservation training' for a period of 3 weeks. Students were staying at three different centres of VCDS, and they visited various water conservation programs and other activities initiated by VCDS. They had opportunity to interact with students and members of Kisan Vigyan Kendra, National Agro Foundation, Aqua Dyne and PWD.



As an exposure visit, students were taken to different companies like drinking water packaging company, dye factory, rice mills, bone ash Production company etc. To promote environment conservation and eco-friendly livelihood villages, the students under the rural eco-tourism project planted around 85 fruit yielding saplings at VCDS centers.



CUDDALORE: Chloé Peis from France, did her internship programme with Florance Home Foundation (FHF), Cuddalore between April to June. During her stay with FHF, she had been involved in planning for new projects, translation of documents into French, fund raising, teaching French to the children staying in FHF hostel. She, along with her family who joined later, also made a 12 days tour all over South India (Tamilnadu, Kerala & Pondicherry) covering around 2000 kms. They visited historical places, old temples, beaches, tea/coffee plantations, wild life sanctuary, old heritage homes, palaces, mangrove forest, trekking in the jungle, boat ride in the backwaters etc.



Chloé experience during the stay in India (from her own words): I spent most of my time with children in FHF hostel, sharing with them my French culture and life. I taught them some French words, and I also learnt more about them, their life and the Tamil culture & customs.



I was also involved in fund raising for FHF, but it was frustrating that I sent more than 15 grant applications, and there was no response.

During my internship in FHF, I learned a lot about what is important to write in a proposal, what is the process etc. I also learned that I have to let go, and at the same time, don't give up.

During my social studies, I tried to figure out what does my trainers called "Live in the moment". I traveled a lot, met lot of people during my tour, but for the first time, everyday in India, I enjoyed every moment. I love to be here again!



BANGLADESH: World Environment Day, an annual event, celebrated globally on 5 June for positive environmental action, and also a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future generations.

Thanapara Swallows organised a rally cum discussion meeting in which around 400 persons took part. Handicraft producers and staffs of Thanapara, college students from Charghat, teachers, farmers, civil society people, Government



personnels jointly participated in the rally. The rally which started from Thanapara office

proceeded to Charghat bazaar, Upozilla headquarters and to other main streets in the city. Slogans were raised emphasizing the need to protect the environment.

Thereafter a discussion meeting took place at Thanapara headquarters. Members shared their views on the importance of tree

plantations for a green world, and to keep the environment free from pollution. Due to industrialization, urbanization and over extracting of natural resources, environment is facing a serious threat. Rivers are being polluted due to industrial wastes drained out in rivers. Also

Global warming which is getting increased day by day, if it continues, then after a certain period of time, we have to face a earth for the not suitable place to live. The only one solution for this is more and more tree plantation for our betterment and for our environment.

The World Environment Day programme turned out to be meaningful, as it motivated the participants to become responsible and take actions to protect their environment in their village as well as in the surrounding villages.

Training programmes

DELHI: Training on Social Media Marketing: Tara Projects Association (TARA) organised a one day training cum workshop on 9th June regarding “Social Media Marketing for Social Good”. The training cum workshop was attended by TARA and FTF-India graphics team. Mr. Roony Hermosa from Fair Trade Connection, Belgium was invited to impart the training. The objective of this one-day-workshop was to cover the basics of Internet marketing and to show the Fair Trade Organizations how to leverage the new technologies such as Facebook and blogs to promote their work.



During the first part of the day various topics have been discussed such as the fundamentals of search engine optimization (SEO) or how to improve the organization ranking in Google search, Facebook marketing, setting up a social media team in your organization and much more. The afternoon session had more to do with visual design, which is a very crucial aspect of marketing in present times of information overload according to the trainer.

The workshop was concluded with practical examination of the participants by shooting the photographs and using the designing software.



TRICHY: Training on Sustainable agriculture practices: KUDUMBAM runs an ecological farm in the name of “KOLUNJI” situated at Odugampatty village in Pudukottai district. The farm solely depends on monsoon rains for agriculture. Kolunji ecological farm is involved in the following activities:

1. Developing Agro plantations and social forestry supplying seeds and seedlings to the farmers.
2. Providing training and assistance to encourage home and farm gardening.
3. Imparting skill training in waste recycling vermin- culture, vermin-compost.
4. Promoting back yard poultry and raising nursery for community distribution

KUDUMBAM also provide training to the Indian and International students on sustainable agricultural development programs. There are seven agricultural colleges in *Tamilnadu*, from which students are sent to *Kolunji farm* for learning sustainable agricultural practices and understand rural livelihood. In the month of June, 'Rover agricultural college – *Perambalur*' and 'Adhi Parasakthi agricultural college – *Vellore*' had sent their students to *Kolunji farm* for a duration of 15 days placement. During their placement period, they have attended sessions in preparing different bio-inputs in the morning, and in the evening they went to the villages to interact with farmers on sustainable agricultural practises.



In the same month, five other colleges have sent their students for a three month placement to study rural issues and alternatives established by KUDUMBAM. The focus was on Water scarcity and depletion of water table, Community management of water bodies, Destruction of forest wealth and community management of forest, Seed monopoly and community seed bank and Food scarcity and cultivating of minor millet & pulses.



TINDIVANAM: Training program for teachers: Village Community Development Society (VCDS) is involved with 18 schools in non-formal education for democracy (NFED) program for the school dropout children in the rural areas. Through this, the school dropout children are identified and they are given education through easy learning techniques and their various skills are identified, and they are motivated to bring out their talents. They are also involved in

conducting science exhibition and eco-club exhibitions through which they show their skills and create awareness among the village people on various social issues.

For the academic year 2014-15 which started in the month of June, VCDS organised a training program for the teachers on 7th June. The training topics covered were - Skill Development, School Management, Students management / motivation & guidance, Evaluation, Book maintenance, Activity Based Learning Method, Comprehensive method of learning. The training was imparted to 18 teachers by 3 field coordinators & project coordinator of the NFED program.

STORM

wreaks havoc
on Rajshahi

BANGLADESH: 1st May 2014 was a very distressing day to people in *Rajshahi district* of *Bangladesh*. Usually this season beginning from mid-April which brings the start of the rain, was dry all over. Unexpectedly, on May 1 at around 7 pm, a storm attacked the city with 80 to 90 km speed per hour. The electricity supply to the city's most of the areas has been suspended as the

windstorm flattened many electric poles. Around 100 houses, 50 shops, 500 trees and a huge amount of crops were destroyed in the district in a 20-minute storm.

At *Thanapara Swallows*, the weaving factory and four looms with fabric production, which provides employment to around 250 women, got totally damaged. Workers manage their daily family expenses from the income they receive from this factory, without which their survival will become difficult.



Thanapara appealed to *Emmaus International* for emergency support to renovate the damages in the weaving factory and to fix the machineries. In response to this request, the community leaders in France managed to collect around **5000 euros**, which has been released to *Thanapara* in the month of June. Thanks to *Emmaus International* and to all the companions and French community leaders for their Solidarity to overcome the difficult situation !



TRICHY: Shifting of diet pattern from millets to rice has led to food borne diseases like diabetics, eye sight problems, skin & cancer problems that are common in rural villages in southern parts of India. In order to sensitize the community on the importance of consuming nutritional & poison free food, Health Camps are organised by *KUDUMBAM* for identification and treatment of diabetics. On 28-29 June 2014, *KUDUMBAM* organized a camp exclusively for diabetic patients with *Mid West Medical Mission, USA*.



Dr. Bharathi Raju from USA and *Dr. Uma Maheswari* were the chief doctors who examined the patients in the camp.

Approximately 300 patients were screened at the camp and about 60 of them had been identified having diabetic in *Odugampatti* village. In *Killukottai* village, nearly 350 patients underwent a screening test. Patients were provided medicines, General awareness was also given to the members on the importance of consuming healthily and nutritious food. Millet recipes were introduced to the camp attendants and millet products were kept for sale in the gatherings. People who attended the camp found it useful, and requested KUDUMBAM to organise more similar health camps in future.



world FAIR TRADE day 2014

DELHI: TARA Projects, Delhi celebrated WFTD 2014—‘Fair Trade People - Diversify with Fair Trade’, along with its artisans/producers, staff members, invitees from Fair Trade India network and its Delhi members on *14th May 2014* at TARA premises. Around 200 persons comprising of artisans, social activists, government officials, students and representatives from Fair Trade organizations participated in the programme.

The programme was a combination of debate on Fair Trade, interactive group activities with the producers, discussions, skit and a grand Fair Trade feast. The programme brought out interesting suggestions from the producers on the ‘*Transparency and Accountability in Supply Chain Management*’, and how the Fair Trade movement has benefitted them over the years in securing their Rights and giving them sustainable work.



The program began with the ice-breaker session taken by Program Director of FTF-I, followed by a prayer. Ms. Moon Sharma from Tara Projects and President, FTF-I, welcomed everyone in the gathering. She reminisced about the pro-active role of the Fair Trade movement which began in the 1960s and aimed at the well being and livelihood generation of the grass-root artisans. She also spoke about the Fair Trade Guarantee system and explained the theme, “Fair Trade People” of this year’s WFTD, a global event, celebrated across six continents, in which India also participated and held various programs and events for its producer groups transversely.



A Fair Trade short video clip, made by ‘People Tree’ was also shown to everyone to highlight this year’s theme visually. Lively and interactive group activities were held for the producer groups to make them speak up and share their views on Supply Chain Management, and the importance of transparency and accountability in this progression for effective and efficient results. The activity exhibited chaos and confusion and manifested the importance of unity, planning and the importance of communication in sharing of correct knowledge with each other, for delivering timely and quality products.

A skit was also presented by the team to communicate the real-life similar situation faced on the ground in the supply chain. TARA also recognized the producer groups on this special day, by giving monetary rewards to the self help groups formed by the producers as a contribution to encourage this positive initiative. The program ended with summarization of the program and concluding remarks by Moon Sharma, followed by a scrumptious lunch for everyone.

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