

Natural Heritage Bulletin

Information and Updates from World Natural Heritage Sites in Asia and the Pacific Region

SPECIAL ISSUE: WORLD HERITAGE DAY 2016



April 18, 2016

Organised by

UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World
Natural Heritage Management and
Training for Asia and the Pacific Region
at Wildlife Institute of India,
Dehradun, India

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

World Heritage Day (WHD) is celebrated globally on 18th April every year in order to commemorate the beauty, splendour and biological richness of World Heritage Sites, and reiterate the collective commitment of mankind towards conserving these areas for posterity. Celebrating this theme on a special day offers an opportunity to raise the public's awareness about the diversity of natural and cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it, as well as draw attention to its vulnerability.

The UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) celebrated World Heritage Day on 18th April, 2016 by organising a series of events. Participants included school students residing near two UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) of India namely, Nanda Devi National Park (Uttarakhand) and Great Himalayan National Park (Himachal Pradesh), as well as from Model School, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun. The celebration of the day was focused on raising awareness and exposure of school students through lectures, field visit, fun activities and cultural performances. A total of 36 students from the three schools participated in the WHD celebration in WII along with nearly 200 WII faculty, researchers and staff.

ACTIVITIES

Nature Trail Walk in WII Campus (for invited school students)

A Nature Walk was organised for the school students of the World Heritage Site participating schools to provide them exposure to the natural surroundings of the WII campus which harbours a variety of flora and fauna. The objective was to enhance the awareness and motivate the young students towards biodiversity around us and its importance in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. On the Nature Trail, a brief introductory class was taken on the joy of bird/butterfly watching and their importance in the ecosystem. Mr. Vivek Sarkar of UNESCO C2C contributed a brief note on the Butterfly taxonomy and variation in calls and songs of bird. Mr. Anukul Nath of UNESCO C2C provided information on identifying snakes and reptiles, explaining the difference between venomous and non-venomous species. The students too shared their experience and knowledge on various taxa they usually encountered in their respective World Heritage Sites. It was an exciting experience for the young students to get a feel of nature and have the opportunity of walking through a forested environment within the urban landscape.



Students on Nature Trail



Dr. Bhumes Singh, Technical Officer, UNESCO C2C

Talk on WII and C2C activities

As the students and their faculty hailed from different parts of India, a presentation on Wildlife Institute of India and UNESCO C2C was made by Dr. Bhumes Singh, Technical Officer, UNESCO C2C. A brief background on how WII, as an autonomous institution was established and its activities were explained. He also talked about various courses undertaken for Forest Officers, Customs & Central Excise Officers and young wildlife enthusiasts.

Visit to Forest Research Institute

The students visited the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun for an exposure trip. FRI is an Institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and is a premier institution in the field of forestry research in India. Staff members from FRI gave an overview of the institute's work on forests and allied sectors to the students. Students had occasion to visit the Institute's main building where they viewed the Entomology museum, Non Wood Forest Products museum, Forest Pathology museum, Timber museum, Social Forestry museum and Silviculture museum. The officials explained the students about the importance of the timber products of the museums to the students.

Screening of film – DELHI SAFARI

An animated motion picture titled 'Delhi Safari' was also screened for the students. The film is about a journey undertaken by a leopard cub, his mother, a monkey, a bear and a parrot when the forest they live is on the verge of destruction. It is shown that a group of builders have encroached upon their forest and the animals decide to go to Delhi, capital of India, to protest in front of the Parliament and ask few simple questions like – why has man become the most dangerous animal?



Doesn't man understand that if the forests and the animals do not co-exist with humans, the balance of the ecosystem will be endangered? This movie won the National Award for the Best Animation Film for the year 2012. The main aim of screening the movie was to make the young participants aware about the importance of forest and wildlife and how they can co-exist with humans on earth.

Drawing and Painting competition

A Drawing and Painting Competition was organized for the students of the invited schools, children of WII faculty and staff as a part of the celebration. The participants were categorised in four age-groups ranging from Pre-School to High School with appropriate themes related to nature, wildlife, cultural and natural World Heritage Sites. The competition was judged by Dr. Anju Baroth (Scientist – C), Mr. Anukul Nath (Assistant Technical Officer – UNESCO C2C) and Mr. Vivek Sarkar (Project Biologist – UNESCO C2C). Criteria for judgement included relevance to the subject, originality/perspective, composition and overall presentation. Prizes were subsequently distributed to the winners of each group later in the evening.



Students participating in Drawing and Painting competition

Cultural programme

The main event of the celebrations was a Cultural Programme in the evening which had a combination of song, dance and drama performed by students, researchers, faculty, staff and family of WII. These included folk, classical and film songs and dances. One of the highlights was a dance-drama performed by the Director, Wildlife Institute of India and his spouse. The finale was a 'Heritage Ramp Walk' where WII faculty graced the stage representing their respective associations with World Heritage Sites in India. The curtains were drawn with a rendition of India's national anthem.



Saraswati Vandana



Kuchipudi dance by WII Researcher



Medley by M.Sc. Students



Songs by Diploma Officer Trainees



Folk dance by Nanda Devi School Students



Dance by UNESCO C2C staff



Songs by NIVH Students



Faculty Heritage Walk representing Natural World Heritage Sites



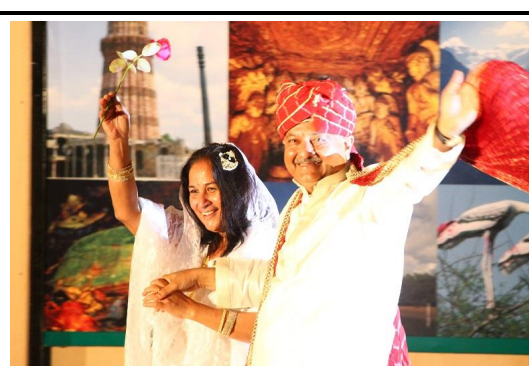
West Bengal Folk Dance



Dance performance by M.Sc. Students



Performance by Director WII



Performance by Director WII and Spouse