

Observation of World Wetland Day-2005 & Asian Wetland Week at Chilika

The World Wetland Day - 2005 was celebrated with the focus on school children. More than 400 school children from the peripheral village of Chilika lagoon along with 25 school teachers participated in the event. The WWD-2005 was observed by Chilika Development Authority in collaboration with Pallishree a local NGO.

Pre-WWD activities

Prior to 2nd February, 2005, painting and debate competition was organized amongst the school children (schools located along the periphery of Chilika lagoon). The theme of the competition was as follows:-

1. Painting competition - Topic: **Wetland Biodiversity**
2. Debate competition - Topic: **Conservation & wise use of the resources**

of Chilika lagoon by the local communities.

More than 500 students participated in the above competition.

The venue of the World Wetland Day-2005 was Wetland Research & Training Centre, Chandraput of Chilika Development Authority, located at the shore of Chilika. On 2nd February, 2005 more than 400 school children assembled at the Wetland Research & Training Centre at 10.00 AM and they had an hand on learning about the ecosystem of Chilika lagoon on the following aspects:-

1. Water quality monitoring.
2. Study the shoreline ecotone.
3. Fishery resources of Chilika lagoon.
4. Macrophytes of Chilika lagoon.

The Scientists of Wetland Research & Training Centre and the Experts assisted them in the learning process. The childrens were divided into four groups and each group was taken café of by one scientist who were explained about the above four aspects. After this, the school children assembled in the auditorium of Wetland Research & Training Centre. They were briefed about the significance of WWD and the role of Ramsar

Convention for conservation of wetland globally. In addition to this, they were also explained about the restoration and wise-use of the natural resources of Chilika lagoon and the role and responsibilities of the stakeholders. After this, a documentary titled "**Wet Wonderlands**" an animated film developed by Ramsar Centre, Japan (dubbed into local language) was screened. After this, prizes were distributed to the students who



Wetland Research and Training Center-Venue of WWD2005



Students in WRTC



Students exploring Chilika



Shoreline study



Students exploring macrophytes

had outperformed in the painting and debate competition. The 25 school teachers from 10 schools also participated in the event.

On 3rd February, 2005, Asian Wetland Week 2005 was celebrated in the watershed. There was a general meeting at the Dengeipahad watershed office located at Harichandanpur attended by 200 villagers from watershed. During the meeting, the role of drainage basin in the conservation of watershed was discussed in detail. This was followed by a Padayatra around the Dengeipahad micro-watershed.



Students studying fish fauna

On 4th February, 2005, Women Self Help Groups celebrated the Asian Wetland Week 2005, at Hatabaradi village. More than 600 women gathered and discussed on the “Role of women in conservation and wise use of the Chilika lagoon.”



**Students receiving prize from
Ms. Louise Harrison**

Observation of the AWS & AWW was concluded on 4th February, 2005 at Hatabaradi village. The valedictory function was attended by senior citizens of the locality and was facilitated by Pallishree, the NGO partner.



**Women Self Help Group at
Hatabaradi village on 4th Feb 2005**