

Report of the World Wetlands day celebrations- Alappuzha

Date: 2nd February 2007

Time: 3 PM

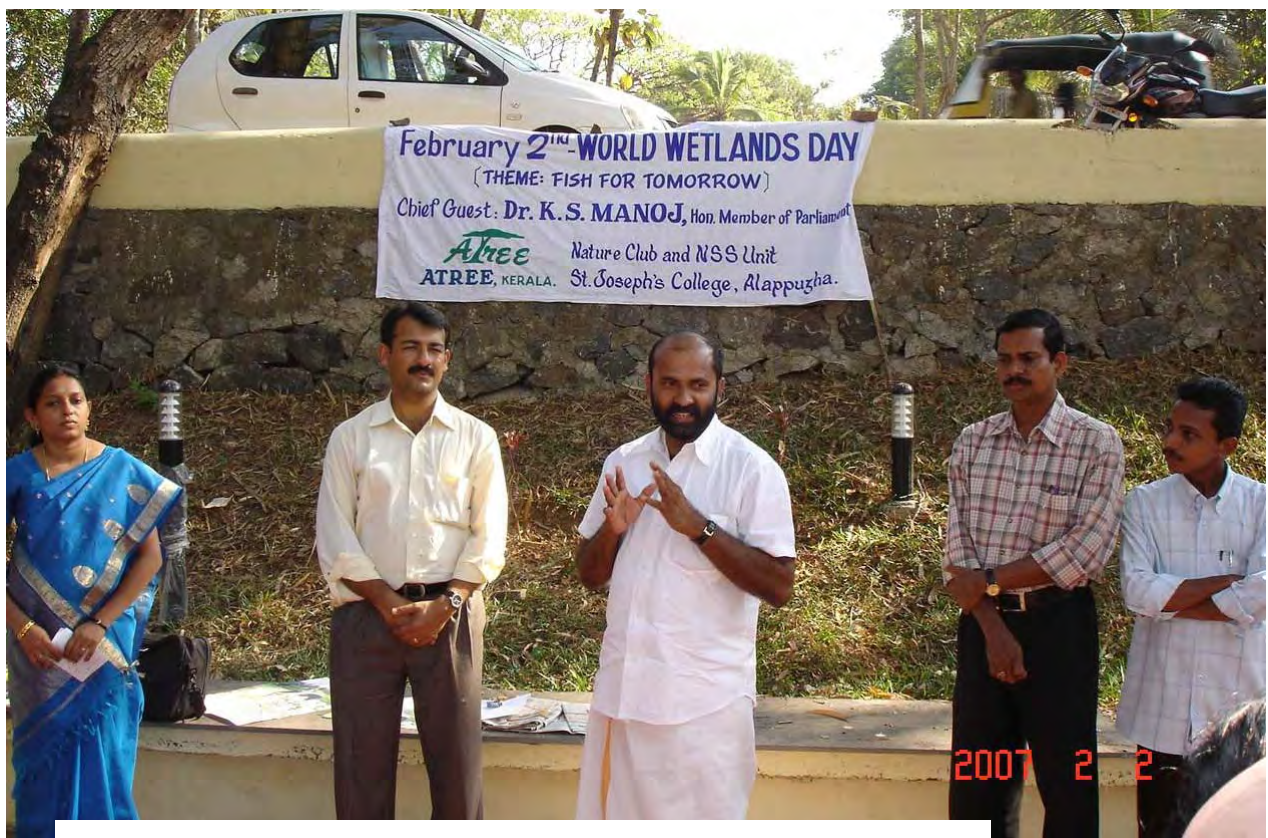
**Venue: Beautified canal side, Opp St. Josephs School,
Shavakotta palam, Alappuzha**

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and Nature club and NSS unit of St. Josephs College, Alleppey has jointly Celebrated the World Wetland Day 2007. The programme started with a wetlands day message writing competition for the students. Mr. Deepak of ATREE briefed the students about the importance of wetlands and the role of Ramsar convention in their conservation. Posters and articles downloaded from the Ramsar bureau was displayed in the place for the reference of students. Students actively took part in the message writing competition. The prize for the best message was judged for “Thannerthadangale Kannerthadangalakkathirikku” meaning don’t make water bowls into weeping bowls which was written by Ms. Maya C

The formal programme started at 3 pm. Mr. Jojo T.D welcomed the gathering. He urged the students to visit the beautified canal sides much often to appreciate the value of wetlands thus taking active role in its conservation. After the welcome address **Dr. K.S Manoj, Hon. Member of Parliament** (Alappuzha) inaugurated the programme by releasing the fish seedlings in to the lake. In his address he stressed the importance of wetlands day especially in the context of Vemband and Kuttanad. He was of the opinion that wetlands day celebrations should be celebrated in a much bigger way even than the environment day considering the importance of wetlands in the Alappuzha’s ecological, social and economic well being. Mr. C.P Anirudhan, Scientist, ADAK (Aquaculture Development Agency Kerala), gave the wetlands day message to the students. He stressed the importance of fish in providing valuable protein to the public. He also pointed the major reasons why the fish population is in decline especially in Vembanad. He urged the gathering to strive for the

conservation of wetlands to make sure that indeed there will be fish for tomorrow.

The prize for the best message was given to Maya C By the chief guest Dr. K.S Manoj. Mrs. Nisha KK, Nature club coordinator of St. Josephs College gave the vote of thanks. Tea and snacks were provided to the participants and the programme came to a close at 4.30 pm.



Chief Guest addressing the gathering



Releasing Fish seedlings



Prize distribution by the chief Guest



The Gathering