World Wetlands Day Celebration 2010 at Rampur, Chitwan

World Wetlands Day 2010 with the theme Caring for Climate Change – An Answer to Climate Change was celebrated with students and faculty of Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS) at Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal. The program was jointly organized by IAAS, The Small Earth Nepal (SEN) and WWF Nepal. The event reached out to over 100 bachelors and master level students and faculties at IAAS located, approximately 165 km south of Kathmandu Valley. The area is known for its numerous wetlands, one of which, Beeshazari Taal is also listed as Ramsar site.

During the event, importance of wetlands and its relations to climate change was highlighted by an associate professor at IAAS. Relevant projects by master student and coursework at the institute was also presented. A documentary "Combating Climate Change in Gokyo Lake" developed by WWF Nepal showcasing the scenic beauty of Gokyo Lake, the impacts of climate change and the efforts of various stakeholders in adapting to the change was shown to the participants. Publications materials from WWF Nepal, SEN and IAAS on climate change and wetlands were also displayed for the participants.

Local NGOs and communities also joined hands in the celebration and visited Rampur Ghol, a wetland within the campus area and included in the Nepal's wetland inventory. Discussions were held on how to sustain the wetland and promote wise use of the wetland area.

On the auspicious day of World Wetlands Day, IAAS and SEN signed a Memorandum of Understanding on future education, research and development programs and activities such as establishing a climate change learning center and sustaining Rampur Ghol wetlands. The day was marked by encouragement and enthusiasm from students, faculties and various organizations to work towards wise-use and sustainable management of wetlands addressing climate change.

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