

WORLD WETLANDS DAY CELEBRATION, 2nd FEB, 2009

2nd February each year is World Wetlands Day. It marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971. Slogan for World Wetlands Day 2009 was “*Upstream-Downstream: Wetlands connect us all*”, designed around a theme of wetlands and river basin management. The theme moves around river basins and their management. People took opportunity on this day to look around at their own wetland and its interconnections with the environment around it.

Under the aegis of Punjab State Council for Science & Technology, World Wetlands Day was celebrated in all the districts of Punjab by eco-clubs established under the National Green Corps (NGC) Programme. Various activities including seminars, competitions, lectures, news articles, stage plays, rallies, wetland field visits, etc were organized to mark the day. PSCST also published an advertisement in leading newspapers to invite attention of general public to protect wetlands. Public awareness programmes were also separately organized at designated wetlands of Punjab.

The council organized special awareness programme with active involvement of district administration and department of Forests & Wildlife at Nangal wetland. Various eco-clubs constituted in the schools under NGC Programme also organized awareness and action oriented programmes on this Day. In all 244 schools organized 368 programmes such as competitions, awareness rallies, lectures, etc.



Scientists from PSCST, Dr. S.K. Saxena, Principal Scientific Officer (Env) & Sh. Vivek Sharma, Project Associate (Wetlands) participated in district level celebrations on 02.02.09 at BBMB-DAV public school, Nangal. The programme was well organized by Roopnagar Tourism & Cultural

Society, Ropar with financial support from PSCST. The programme was coordinated by Deptt. of Education, Ropar & Deptt. of Forests, Ropar. The chief guest on the occasion was Deputy Commissioner, Ropar. Students & teachers from 30 schools of the district participated in this programme and various competitions like quiz, poster making, slogan writing, etc were organized to mark the day. A stage show 'Khuli Hawa ki Talash Main' was also held to appraise the gathering on degradation of environment by pollution. Apart from this, an exhibition of local & migratory birds was also held in the school campus.

Apart from this, celebrations were also held at Kanjli, distt. Kapurthala and Harike, distt. Tarn Taran wetlands. In Kapurthala distt., eco-clubs of the schools



held various competitions like chart making, quiz and painting competitions to mark the day. The winners of competitions were given away the prizes. Deptt. of Forests under guidance of DFO, Jalandhar at Phillaur, who is also in-charge of Kanjli wetland, organized an

awareness camp which was well attended by forests officials. In distt Tarn Taran, district level celebrations were held at Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Harike. The chief guest on the occasion was Sh. Inderyash bhatti, ADC (G), Tarn Taran. Other dignitaries present on the occasion included, Sh. Balbir Singh, DFO(Wildlife), Sh. Manorat Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer and Sh. Tarlochan Singh, SDM. Students from various schools nearby Harike participated in the function. Lectures on vital issues relating to pollution, environment, wetlands, etc were delivered by experts.