

CEE

Centre for Environment Education



SAYEN

South Asia Youth Environment Network



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SAYEN

South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN – www.sayen.org) was set up in July 2002. Supported by the UNEP Regional Office, Asia and the Pacific; SAYEN is linked to TUNZA, UNEP's strategy for engaging young people in environmental activities and in the work of UNEP. CEE hosts the Secretariat for SAYEN, which has membership from all the SAARC countries. An organization in each of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) country has been identified as the National Focal Point (NFP) for the network. The number of SAYEN members in each country ranges from 20 to 100 with over 1500 youth organizations, individual, national and international agencies including Government in the region associated with SAYEN. NFPs facilitate SAYEN activities in their respective countries.

The key activities of SAYEN include Networking and Information Servicing, Capacity Building of youth, involving youth in Documenting Best Practices, Awareness Programmes including Youth to Schools.

This issue of SAYEN Newsletter brings you all the information on the happenings at the SAYEN Secretariat from January to March, 2008.

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Events in January, 2008

500 youth oriented to Environment and SD

Mr. Gopal Kumar Jain and Ms. Aparna Susarla, from CEE, the SAYEN Secretariat attended National Level Talent Identification and Exhibition (NATIEC-2008) organised by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur and National Service Scheme (NSS), Annamalai University from 9th to 11th January, 2008 at Annamalai University, Annamalainagar, Tamil Nadu, India. About 500 youth including 250 NSS students representing various states of India and 250 NSS students from Annamalai University attended this programme. In addition to this, around 100 youth volunteers were also involved. The participants were divided into 5 groups and each group attended the orientation session on 'Environment and SD'.

The programme was very successful. Many of the NSS students found the session very interesting and made a commitment towards saving the environment. The module was replicated by some of them at their colleges and they have got a good response.

Follow up Programme

I have taken a class regarding environment from what I experienced in Annamalai University in three days camp. So I did it in my university. Please tell me about any other module or programme conducted by you so that I will be able to be more aware on environmental issues. One thing we have done is that here, we have taken the pledge to make our university campus polythene free.

**Rabi Das, Berhampur University
Orissa (via e-mail)**

During the first Regional Meet, it was decided that the activities of SAYEN would be reviewed every five years and action plan will be drafted for the next five years. Hence, during this meet, the activities of SAYEN during 2002-07 were reviewed and the Plan of Work for 2007-2012 was developed.

SAARC Youth Meet and National Youth Festival

Mr. Gopal Kumar Jain also attended the SAARC National Meet and National Youth Festival organised at Chennai. At the SAARC



Youth Meet, attended by youth from all the South Asian Countries, Mr. Gopal took a session on Environmental Issues in South Asia and Role of Youth.

Events in February and March 2008



Bal Samvaad

Prakriti ane Swasthya: Bal Samvaad (Child Health and Environment)

An event of Eco-clubs in Gujarat, India

Health, over the years has gained importance in people's lives. Today, more and more people, especially the youth are making an effort to move towards a healthy lifestyle. In such a scenario, health education has become an important aspect of the school/college curriculum. There is a need for youth to be aware about the importance of health with special regards to their environment, since the environment in which they live is an important determinant of their health and well being.

Centre for Environment Education (CEE), the SAYEN Secretariat and Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation with support from the Ministry of Environment

and Forests, Government of India, British Gas (BG) India and Gujarat Gas Company Limited (GGCL) organized Prakriti ane Swasthya: Bal Samvaad (Child: Health and Environment). The event was in line theme of the Government of Gujarat for the year 2008- 'Child Health'. The event was organized from February 28-March 1, 2008 at Indroda Nature Park, Gandhinagar, Gujarat and was attended by students and teachers from schools involved in the National Green Corps (NGC) Programme.

The NGC is a programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India which aims to provide opportunities for its members to understand the environment and environmental problems, through school eco-clubs. These clubs comprise of young leaders who work for their environment and take the message of a healthy environment forward. In Gujarat, GEER Foundation is the Nodal Agency and CEE is the Resource Agency for the programme.



Prakriti: Environment Education Bus, an environment education resource centre used by youth, to create environment awareness among school children, youth and adults, jointly developed by CEE, BG India and GGCL have

been visited by about 300,000 people in the last three years. Prakriti has been involved in conducting environment education programmes in eco-club schools in Ahmedabad, Bharuch and Surat districts of Gujarat. NGC schools involved in Prakriti activities participated in the event.



Activities at the event included workshops for Master Trainers, teachers and students, exhibitions by eco-club members and other invited organisations, competitions such as treasure hunt, painting, essay writing, elocution and quiz for students and extempore for the participating teachers. Few other activities conducted include face painting, one-minute games, canvas painting, film screenings and a cultural programme by the students and teachers who displayed their talents.

The event saw participation of more than 70 schools from all over Gujarat (around 250 children and 70 teachers), around 25 District Coordinators and around 100 Master Trainers. Students from 40 other schools visited the event.

The event had youth volunteers and rapporteurs supported by the SAYEN who enthusiastically contributed to making this event a success.

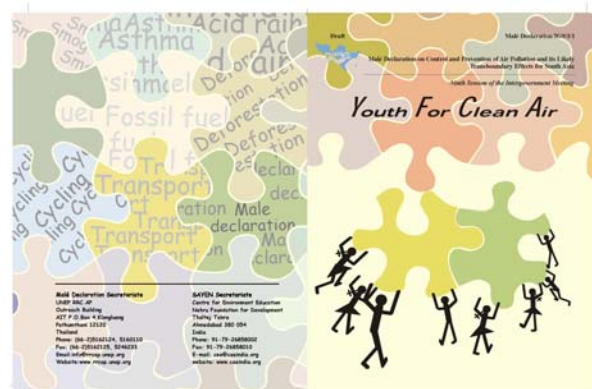
PROJECT UPDATES

- Youth for Clean Air (YCA)
- Sub-regional Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) for South Asia – A Youth Perspective

Youth for Clean Air

“Youth for Clean Air (YCA)” is a project conducted by CEE, SAYEN with support from UNEP, as a part of the implementation of the Male` Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia. The project includes two components-

1. A publication on Male` Declaration (youth version) and
2. An Interactive CD for youth in South Asia.



“Youth for Clean Air” Document-

The process for the publication began with the **Inception Workshop** attended by selected youth (5 members) from the South Asian Countries. The content outline for the “Youth for Clean Air” document was developed and its structure was finalised. The document was

developed under two sections. Section A contains Introduction to Air Pollution, in general, its sources and impacts on various spheres of the environment. Section B focused on the mitigation measures at various levels- as individual, collective efforts, efforts at local, regional, government and global levels. It was decided to follow the same structure for the Interactive CD also. Based on the outputs from the Inception Workshop, the content was developed.



The content was shared at the **Editorial Workshop** with UNEP representative and the youth themselves. The Editorial Workshop was held in Sri Lanka from 21st to 23rd September 2007. About 25 Sri Lankan youth participated in this workshop along with the youth from other South Asian Countries who were a part of the inception workshop. Discussions were held on the content of the document and by the end of the workshop, the document content was finalised.

The document was designed and the draft was shared with the Ministers of all the countries under the Male' Declaration at the **Ninth Regional Stakeholders Meeting** held on the 3rd-4th October, 2007 in Male' Maldives. The draft document was appreciated very much and

few suggestions were made, particularly on the Government efforts and global efforts. The comments and suggestions from the Regional Stakeholders meeting were incorporated and the draft was updated.

Currently, the document has been edited and approved by the Ministries of all the Male' Declaration Countries. Under the Government level efforts, information on India is still awaited. Once the information is obtained, it will be updated and the document will be ready for publication.



YCA Interactive CD

The structure of the interactive CD was determined in the **Inception workshop** itself. The CD has been divided into four modules following the format of the YCA printed document – Understanding atmospheric emissions, Sources of atmospheric emissions, Impacts and Measures to reduce atmospheric emissions. The objective of the CD is to provide information to the young people in South Asia so that they have a better understanding of issues related to Air and its pollution. It would support the 'Youth for Clean Air' document and

drive the educated youth from a reading mode to an action-oriented mode.

Metalearn, a private company in Bangalore was selected as consultants to develop this interactive CD. The first meeting was held with the Project Manager of the organisation to brief him on the details of the CD. The content outline was analysed and the script was developed by his team based on the YCA document.

A workshop on **fixing the script** of the CD was conducted which was attended by representatives from UNEP and metalearn. The storyboard content was finalised during the workshop. The discussions of the workshop were carried forward and the modules were finalised. The Modules were shared with UNEP for their comments and suggestions.

The **storyboards have been updated** based on the comments and suggestions received and sent to UNEP for being signed off.



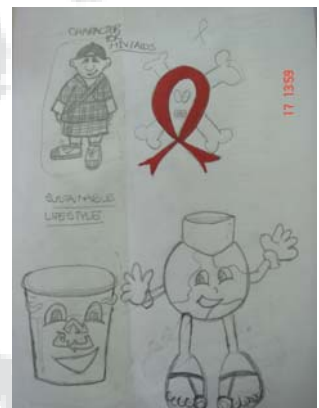
Sub-regional Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) for South Asia – A Youth Perspective

CEE, the SAYEN Secretariat in close partnership with UNEP initiated the project “Sub-regional Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) for South Asia – A Youth Perspective”. As a part of this project a printed document on the Youth perspectives on Sustainable Development would be developed along with a film describing the entire process of SSDS.

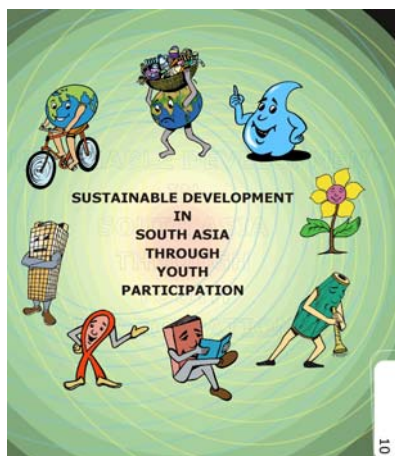


SSDS Document -

The SSDS Document focuses on the youth’s vision and goal for Sustainable Development strategy in South Asia. The youth involved with SSDS believe that they are the future generation of the planet. They are full of potential and enthusiasm and as direct stake holders, they are always enthusiastic to get involved in the current issues and there should be no hesitation in entrusting responsibility to them.



Eight priority goals have been identified and the corresponding action plans are documented which will be implemented by and for the youth of the region. The goals of Sustainable Development highlighted are as follows-



Goal 1: To ensure sustainable lifestyle including socially and culturally among youth.

Goal 2: Ensure effective solid waste management.

Goal 3: Ensure universal accessibility to clean and safe water.

Goal 7: Mobilizing the youth in South Asia to be self conscious in preventing substance abuse and refrain from risky social behaviour to prevent HIV/AIDS infection

Goal 8: Ensure effective governance, especially in relation to unplanned urban growth Action Plans to achieve the above goals include eco-housing, eco-transportation, eco-tourism, bio-fuel, bio-fertilizer, organic farming, energy efficient appliance, green curriculum, green/eco-friendly products, herbal medicines. Preventive approach to meet these action plans are Water shed management, protection of the water bodies and protection of wetlands-pollutants into wetlands, waste management (plastic bag, composting), cleaner technologies, bicycle lane, green belt,

afforestation, renewable energy, traditional knowledge.

The perspective and recommendations of the Youth attending the Youth Working Session at the Fourth International Conference on Environment Education has also been incorporated in the document.

The draft document has been submitted to UNEP for approval.



SSDS Film

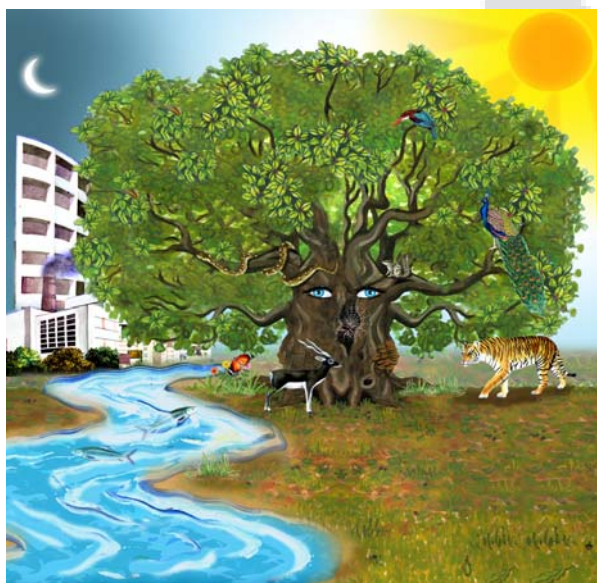
The SSDS film will be produced in a manner that the process and content of the SSDS for South Asia – a Youth Perspective will be reflected. The content of the film will also include the youth understanding of Sustainable Development. Certain initiatives that the young people think leads to SD and that could be adopted or replicated by them will be highlighted in the film. Initiatives that motivate the youth or inspire them will also be included along with the component on what can be done by them to achieve Sustainable Development in their country.

Shooting for the film has been started and the case studies and best practices from all the South Asian countries have been put together.

WHAT SD MEANS TO YOUTH?

The Youth Working Session, “Youth:Trendsetters of ESD” at the fourth International Conference on Environment Education (ICEE), jointly organized by CEE, UNEP, South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN), Bayer A.G. and Earth Charter Youth Initiative (ECYI), brought together about 80 young people from about 40 countries across the world representing several youth networks such as SAYEN, ECYI, Oxfam International Youth Parliament (OIYP), Sustain US, World Water Youth Alliance, Rwanda Environmental Conservation Organisation (RECOR) amongst many others.

The participants had sketched a ‘tree of sustainability’ – a visual representation of their understanding of Sustainable Development.



SAYEN NFPs

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