

CEE

Centre for Environment Education



SAYEN

South Asia Youth Environment Network



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Last two quarters has been very eventful for SAYEN. Thanks to UNEP, the parent organisation, for providing financial support for conducting the national level activities. While the national capacity building workshops helped in strengthening SAYEN through bringing all SAYEN member organisations within one platform; awareness activities helped refine communication skills of youth. Photography competition, debate, essay - writing, rallies, camping and several other activities were organised at the national levels.

Few of SAYEN projects – Learnings from Tsunami, Sub-regional Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) in South Asia – A Youth Perspective and Youth for Clean Air also got concluded during this period. Thanks to our partners – Oxfam America and UNEP for providing us the financial support and continuous cooperation and support in conducting these projects. These provided a great learning experience for the youth in the sub-region.

New projects such as “Energy Education in PTC Colleges of Gujarat” have been initiated in collaboration with the Gujarat Energy Development Agency and CEE. Through this project, we plan to reach out to more than 25,000 youth orienting them to develop lesson plans on energy education.

While SAYEN is preparing the next five year plan, these projects and activities would be important landmarks in the years to come.

SAYEN Secretariat
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Compilation: Aparna Susarla

Coordination: Gopal Kumar Jain

Design : Jogendra Singh Rajora

SAYEN Secretariat

Centre for Environment Education (CEE)
Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad 380 054
Gujarat, India
Phone: 91-79-26858002 to 09
Fax: 91-79-26858010
E-mail: sayen@ceeindia.org
Website: www.sayen.org

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SAYEN National Youth Meets

SAYEN completed five years in July 2007. Presently, the next five-year plan is being developed. To get inputs from youth at the country level, a national youth meet was conducted in each of the SAYEN member countries. The Sub-regional Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS), South Asia - A Youth Perspective document, "We Hold our Future", has been used as a reference document to develop the five-year plans.

Pakistan

A two-day National Workshop on Environmental Issues In Pakistan was conducted on 10-11 June, 2008 in Lahore, Pakistan. The workshop was attended by about 25 youth from various colleges and universities in Pakistan.



The objectives of the workshop were strengthening SAYEN at national level, capacity building youth on climate change, brainstorming ideas on different projects that could be conducted in Pakistan and improve networking with major organizations promoting young people from Pakistan in their programmes and activities.

Some of the key outcomes of the workshop included commitment towards accelerating efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals related to environment, Setting up of a National Steering Committee to plan and monitor activities undertaken at the national level with the

help of PACADE – the SAYEN National Focal Point.

Bangladesh

A three-day National Consultation Workshop on Youth Engagement in Climate Change was organized from 29-30 July, 2008, in Dhaka, Bangladesh which had about 80 youth participants representing various educational institutions such as colleges, universities and NGOs.



The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen SAYEN in Bangladesh and provide a platform for the youth in Bangladesh to voice their ideas and opinions. The three day workshop also focused on Capacity Building youth on Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

The youth also developed a National Action Plan for Bangladesh focussing on SD issues such as Climate Change, Air and Sound, Water, Land and also Networking.

Sri Lanka

The two-day Sri Lanka National Youth Meet brought together 50 youth from various disciplines on 21-22 August, 2008 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



The youth in Sri Lanka have identified Biodiversity, Livelihood and Climate Change as the key SD issues to be focused by SAYEN in the country and have developed a National Action Plan regarding the same.

Nepal

The Nepal National Youth Meet was conducted on 11 - 12 September, 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. About 40 youth from various educational institutions in Nepal attended the Meet.



During the meet, Youth were oriented to SAYEN and its activities along with Climate Change and its impacts. Some of the major issues focused in the SAYEN Nepal National Action Plan include Sustainable Tourism, Natural Resources Conservation and Climate Change.

India

The India National Youth Meet was conducted on 2-4 October 2008 at CEE Ahmedabad. 40 youth from 14 states of India, representing NGOs, educational institutions and youth clubs participated in the meet.



It was a youth facilitated workshop. The participants discussed in groups and identified 5 broad issues and developed a detailed SAYEN India Five-Years National Action Plan. Issues focused include Education, Society and Poverty, Climate Change, National Resources and Advocacy & Governance.

A panel discussion on “Youth and Disaster Management” was also organised in which the youth got an opportunity to interact with experts in the field of disaster management.

Publications Launched

Youth for Clean Air

“Youth for Clean Air (YCA)” is published by the SAYEN and the Malé Declaration to encourage various stakeholders, especially the young people, to contribute towards the control and prevention of air pollution in South Asia.

YCA publication was launched by Hon'able Minister of Environment and Natural Resource, Sri Lanka, Mr. Patali Champika Ranawaka on 20th August, 2008 at the Fifth Malé Declaration Stake Holders's Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Other dignitaries at the launch included the Chairman, Central Environment Authority (CEA), Sri Lanka; DG, CEA, Sri Lanka; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka; DG, SACEP; and Director, SEI, Sweden.



This publication, targeted to the youth, plays an essential role, as the world gears up to face the biggest challenge of our time: Climate Change. The publication also underlines the multiple environmental, economic and social benefits of tackling the twin challenges of climate change and air quality and thus promotes measures for climate change mitigation, alongside measures to control and prevent air pollution. It inspires the youth with creative and innovative ways of promoting a low-emission society and a transition to a low carbon one, not only in South Asia but around the globe.

Lessons from Asian Tsunami- 2004

As part of the project, Learnings from Tsunami, conducted by CEE and SAYEN with support from Oxfam America, a study was conducted by youth in four countries India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and

Maldives. Based on the inputs from the study, three publications were developed as “Lessons from the Asian Tsunami- 2004”. These are:

1. Spirit of Survival: Stories from the Depths of a Tsunami
2. Threads of Disaster Management: Weaving Youth Insights from Tsunami Response into a Learning Document
3. Nurturing Humanitarianism: Documentation and Training as a way of Preparing Youth for Disaster Management

The first document is a compilation of stories of survival and restoration, the second is an analytical report based on the documentation from the field that was brought together by youth in each country and the third document is a case study of how youth have been involved by CEE, SAYEN and other organisations in disaster management and other issues. The document focuses on youth within the Learnings from Tsunami project and highlights some of their experiences and how this has further helped them in building career.

The publications were launched by Prof. N. Vinod C. Menon, Honourable Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the Valediction function of the SAYEN India National Youth Meet on 4th October, 2009.

We Hold Our Future

The Sub-regional Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS), South Asia Youth, “*We Hold Our Future*” - publication and the film was launched on March 5th, 2009 at the 9th Annual Collaborative Action Network (CAN) meeting at



AIT, Bangkok by Dr. Young Woo Park, Regional Director, UNEP ROAP; Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Representative, UNEP H.Q. and UNEP Regional Advisors in the presence of the CAN members. Other publications launched at this event include the SSDS South Asia, Central Asia and Greater Mekong Sub-region.

The first of its kind, “*We Hold Our Future*” is unique as it provides new light for the youth to be a part of the Sustainable Development (SD) activities in South Asia. Written by youth themselves, eight goals and 23 targets for SD in South Asia have been identified in the publication to address the transboundary environmental issues, emphasizing the need to develop strong cultural ties among all nations in the South Asian sub-region. The publication shares some of the best practices from the sub-region and mentions some key actions/ project ideas that youth could undertake/ proposes to be undertaken for SD in South Asia.

Activities

Youth for Peace - A Rally, Bangladesh

On 21st September, 2008 a peace rally was held from Mohammadpur Azam Road to Asad Gate in

Bangladesh in which about 100 youth and children had participated. An art competition was also held at capture the creativity of these enthusiastic youth and children.

National Conference on Children Clubs, Nepal

A three-day National Conference on Children Clubs was organised in Nepal from January 11-13, 2009 on the theme “Future now for sustainable education and environment”. 226 participants including youth, students, teachers, and organizers participated in this national conference.

Inter College Essay and Drawing Competition on Climate Change, Nepal

An Inter College Essay Writing and Pencil Sketch Competition was conducted in Nepal to find the concrete and practical solutions to reduce the impacts of climate change. 125 youth from 29 Certificate Level Colleges of the valley participated in these events. These events were organized with an objective to encourage youth to get them involved in activities to reduce Climate Change and inspect their perception of climate change.

National Photography Competition, India

A National Photography Competition was conducted in India on the theme “Sustainable Development: A Youth Perspective”. This is what some of the youth had to say about SD

“The image was taken by me in October last year (2007) from a remote village near Seppa town in the West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh, while on an Environmental Impact Assessment trip. The boy is named Nepali and is a known archer in the area. He is also the answer to the question that many wonder, “Why doesn’t India get a gold at the Olympics?” I got an answer to that, the moment I saw him doing, what



he does best. He could well be the litmus test for all the development in the country - testifying how 'sustainable' it really is."

Govind Singh, Delhi

"To me, Sustainable Development refers to our efforts at ensuring that our future generation is not forced to consider a breath of fresh air a luxury rather than a necessity; by using pollution free alternatives for as much as possible."

Anish Thomas , Delhi



"Photograph shows slum children who learning in one corner of Manav Sadhana.

Numbers of problem regarding development (!sustain!) can be solve by this tiny act. On my perspective it is *Father of Sustainable Development* coz these children are future of the society if they guided properly this time than issues related environment, economy, health, population, all will solve by itself and we will achieve a Real Sustainable Development."

Kaushik D Chodvadia, Ahmedabad

"Sustainable development means utilization of natural resources in the way that can save those resources for future generation. In the photograph, I tried to mention deteriorating beauty of nature by industries .If development is another name of threat to natural beauty, then it is a question to think and probably right time to think about existence of our mother nature's real beauty and sustainability of it for our future generations."

Neha Dave, Ahmedabad



Is that their mistake?

*I wonder is that their mistake to be like that?
The day, a single thought that made a spark in my darkened minds. One should not sit inside rooms and talk about sustainable development, just make a visit to a slum You will know what it actually means sustainable.....*

*You live in a good room, still aiming for a better one?? Think about them a house made full of waste you throw off, and can't imagine if rains comes????
They sustain still.....*

*The room was not so very big, but it was to them!
Full of their possessions not really what we mean,
jewels not really their torn clothes
Aside in a corner of theirs, we still want a new fashion.....*

*The plastic containers which you throw are their vessels for water storage, safely storage in the safest place, outside of their house!
There came a street vendor, where the little children were around him desired to get it, but unable since the cost of them was around 10 rupees which was very huge amount for them.....*

*Their powerful street lights along the streets down till the last home
Of the streets hoping to glow one day since they don't have bulbs in them to do so!*

Their streets were full of stones and scraps not to level but it was the dumping place of the brainless owners. Those people don't have a foot wear too. Still they walk and work on that!

A girl with lot of family responsibilities & duties when our parents tell us that we are still kids at the age of ten. She was quite matured like a mother looking after her baby sister in the bright hot sun!

*There are lot to tell from heart but still the words are not given the form of speech, I am unstuck with words!!! Silence prevails
Wondering a magic to turn out all these.....*

**Poem By
Ms. B. Priyadarshini
(during her internship with the SAYEN Sect)**