

Low Carbon Lifestyles Toolkit Dissemination Workshops

11th December, 2010

International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission Seminar, Guwahati, Assam

The International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission Seminar was held at Cotton College, Guwahati, Assam from 11-13 December, 2010. The main theme of the Seminar was Land Use, Biodiversity and Climate Change.

The Low Carbon lifestyles Toolkit was launched in this event held in Guwahati city by Prof. Wolfgang Albert Flugel, University of Jena, Germany. Appreciating the toolkit, he said that it gives action ideas on what we as individuals can do at a personal level for combating climate change, which are easy to adopt. Around 400 people attended the event and the toolkit was disseminated to them. They were all explained the contents of the toolkit and showed how they could use it to calculate the figures in their own area. There were participants from many colleges, academic institutions and NGOs across the country and from countries like Germany, Japan, Italy etc. They appreciated the toolkit for the innovative approach and simple ideas that it propagates and also showed a keen interest in sharing it with many other organizations in their respective countries and maybe having partnerships to also translate the toolkit into their own languages.



The event was also attended by 2 of the National Steering Committee members of the Small Grants Programme, Dr. Mahfuza Rehman and Mr. Ajit Pattnaik. NGOs who were a part of the SGP project 'Creating Green Citizens to link with the Low Carbon Campaign for the

Commonwealth Games 2010' from Guwahati city also attended the event. A session was taken with them on the Low Carbon Lifestyles toolkit, whereby they were given an outline of the contents of the toolkit. They were given a presentation on Climate Change, where they were explained the what, why and how of Climate Change, how it affects India and why is it a growing concern in today's developing world. Thereafter, they were told about the simple steps that individuals can take in their lives to curb carbon produced through various daily activities. They were shown and demonstrated how the calculations of the toolkit were done and how they can also use the toolkit to do their own calculations, using the locally available data.

The seminar had a separate session with about 200 students from Maria's Public School, Guwahati. A session on the Toolkit was also conducted with these students, where children were told about Climate Change and the need to adopt low carbon lifestyles to combat Climate Change. They were given a presentation on the Science of Climate Change, as it is important to understand the concept, before one understands why it is a problem. The presentation explained the changes that have been taking place in our environment over the past few years and the problems that these changes are causing. The presentation also highlighted the effects of this global phenomenon on India and the problems it could pose if the situation continues to be the same. However, one can take small steps at the individual level to minimize the carbon produced through our daily activities. This was propagated to the children. Taking the help of the Low Carbon Lifestyles Toolkit, which all the students had a copy of, they were explained the individual actions that they can take to minimize carbon emissions. They were also shown the calculations that if they take up any of the actions mentioned in the toolkit, how much less carbon-di-oxide-the major gas responsible for Climate Change, would they produce in a year and hence how much money would they end up saving in the process.



The children put up several questions like what are the steps that they at an individual level can take for waste management, does the earth still have the capacity to fully recover from the damage caused to it, etc. This showed that the students were sensitive about the issue and were willing to 'take action' for it, which is what the Toolkit propagates.

26th December, 2010
Pune, Maharashtra

The Low Carbon Lifestyles toolkit was also launched in Pune on 26th December, 2010 through the hands of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India.

The event saw participation from many schools, students, teachers and NGOs from Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Goa and Madhya Pradesh. There were around 200 people in the event. The schools had also put up several stalls on the activities that their schools carry out in the field of environment. They had many posters, etc. put up in the stalls.

Dr. Kalam inaugurated the event by planting a sapling of Undi' (Indian Laurel tree) in the garden of YASHADA, the venue for the event. The sapling he planted was adopted by three students of DAV Public School, Aundh. He then visited the stalls of the schools and appreciated the work and the efforts of the schools and the students.



Thereafter, he released the Low Carbon Lifestyles Toolkit among the gathering of students, teachers, NGOs and representatives of other institutions.



Sharing his thoughts on environment Dr. Kalam said, “Humans generate 30 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. We ourselves will have to cure the problems we create in the environment. So, if you all are good students, you have to plant seedlings and nurture them.” Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sudhir Sinha, CSR Head, ArcelorMittal India; Sanskriti Menon, Programme Director, CEE Central; Shri AK Jha, Director, Tribal Research Training Institute; Shri DC Deshmukh, Director, State Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board and Shri Satish Awate, Programme Coordinator, CEE Central.

He also made all those present take the following oath:

1. I realize that every mature tree by photosynthesis absorbs 20 kgs of Carbon dioxide every year. By the same process each tree lets out about 14 Kg of Oxygen every year.
2. I will plant and nurture ten trees and will ensure my parents, my sisters and brothers plant trees and my neighbours also plant ten trees each. I will be an ambassador for tree mission in my locality.
3. I will keep my house and its surroundings clean and use products which are biodegradable to the extent possible
4. I will promote a culture of environment friendliness, through recycling and conservation of water and other recyclable materials both at home and school.
5. When I take a professional career, I will take decision with respect of organizational processes which protects the environment and preserves the bio-diversity.
6. I will encourage the use of renewable energy to the maximum extent possible.
7. I will spread the awareness about the need to preserve the environment in my home, in my locality and among my student friends.
8. I will engage the water conservation, especially by rain water harvesting and spread the message in my family and friends.

The toolkit was disseminated to all those present at the event. It was appreciated by many of the people who also requested for more copies to be sent to their partners and to them. The teachers specially appreciated the toolkit and said that it was a wonderful tool through which they can orient their children on the Climate Change and Low Carbon Practices.

A workshop was conducted on Low Carbon Lifestyles and the Toolkit with 20 teachers of schools from various districts of Maharashtra. A session was taken with them on the Low Carbon Lifestyles toolkit, whereby they were given an outline of the contents of the toolkit. They were given a presentation on Climate Change , where they



were explained the what, why and how of Climate Change, how it affects India and why is it a growing concern in today's developing world. Thereafter, they were told about the simple steps that individuals can take in their lives to curb carbon produced through various daily activities. They were shown and demonstrated how the calculations of the toolkit were done and how they can also use the toolkit to do their own calculations, using the locally available data for their school or their locality.