CELEBRATING NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY WEEK IN KURUNEGALA

The Kurunegala Municipal council celebrated the “National Food Safety Week” from 17th to 22nd of October 2008, to highlight the importance of food safety and basic principles of food hygiene.

For this, the H860 evaluation criteria that has been used from 2007 to evaluate hotels and restaurants, was further developed by Mr. W.M.P. Weerasinghe (PHI KMC) into an examination that looks into 108 factors including Location and Environment and waste disposal methods etc.

After obtaining the approval for the changes made to the evaluation by the Ministry of Health, the MOH office of the Kurunegala Municipal Council together with the PHI officers began visiting the hotels and restaurants within Kurunegala city for the evaluation. The evaluated business places were awarded grades based on the points they received in the evaluation.

A ceremony was held on 25th October at the Municipal council conference hall, to give away boards displaying the Grades achieved by hotels and restaurants under the categories A & B. The boards were sponsored by the WASPA project and the occasion was graced by his Lordship the Mayor of Kurunegala, District Administrator of PHIs Kurunegala, Mr. Kamal Munasinghe, Mr. Sumith Bandara, Mr. Weerasinghe CPHI and many other distinguished guests.

Dr. Gayani Dassanayake urged all hotels and restaurants that received grades A and B to keep up their best practices and also to upgrade them as much as possible, the MOH office has the power to take away the grade, as the hotels and restaurants will be monitored continuously. Moreover she said that business places that have received both C and D grades will be given a 2 month grace period to upgrade their practices, where if not found satisfactory will be addressed by taking legal action against them.

At present, many display boards have been exhibited informing the general public about this grading system in support of the campaign.

LEARNING ALLIANCE MEETING

ON
17th NOVEMBER 2008 (MONDAY)
FROM 9.00 AM ONWARDS
AT
ISB AUDITORIUM KURUNEGALA

The LA can be described as a multi-stakeholder learning platform where all these stakeholders gather to discuss and find sustainable solutions for issues that prevail in their areas.

This is expected to facilitate development & testing of innovative approaches to address complex problems such as use of wastewater in agriculture, and capacity built for scaling up.

WASPA LEARNING ALLIANCE... A MULTI STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND TO ADDRESS COMMON ISSUES...

The Learning Alliance (LA) of WASPA project; including local government departments, agencies, Traders, Hoteliers and Vehicle service station owners associations as well as NGOs and Community based organizations.

The 3 visions of WASPA along with the set of Participatory Action Plans (PAPs) were also developed with the involvement of the LA members.
Further more, as a result of the joint intervention activities on the 13th of October in making charcoal, a silicon rich fertilizer using Paddy husks, 6 m3 charcoal making units (Sarrika) were distributed for three years according to the farmers population under the supervision of AEPSA. The units were sponsored by WASPA.

Moreover, as a further assistance to the livelihood development of the farmers, seeds for “Nyara wagana” (weed cultivation) such as Kaic, Mr. etc were also distributed among the farmers by Agriculture Research & Promotion Assistants. The seeds were sponsored by MAFDIA.

Permenent Compost Bins for Wilgodawatte Residents ...

Over 20 households in Wilgodawatte area long the irrigation canal has been active participants of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Programme that had been introduced by WASPA to prevent the pollution of the Irrigation canal that carry water to the paddy fields.

The said households have been practicing waste separation and Compost making using live fences for the past 3 months with the guidance of the Wilgodawatte Grama Niladari Mrs. Sureka Wijesinghe and Praddeshya Sabha (PS) Environmental Officer Mrs. Kumudini Priyashanthi.

As further encouragement to the participants of the SWM programme, WASPA together with the PS provided Cement made permanent compost bins on the 18th of September 2008. The Distribution ceremony was graced by the Chairperson of the PS who expressed his gratitude to the participant for being a part of an activity that is of high importance in today’s context.

He also expressed that the PS is now planning to scale up this SWM programme taking Wilgodawatte as the model area.

The participants contributed 20% of the cost for the bins where the rest was added by WASPA Programme.

International Year of Sanitation 2008

The United Nations officially launched the International Year of Sanitation on November 21, to accelerate progress for 2.6 billion people who are without proper sanitation facilities. Every year inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene contribute to the deaths of 1.5 million children.

“Access to sanitation is deeply connected to virtually all the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those involving the environment, education, gender equality and the reduction of child mortality and poverty,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. “An estimated 42,000 people die every week from diseases related to low water quality and access to adequate sanitation. This situation is unacceptable.”

The International Year of Sanitation, 2008, is a theme year set by the UN General Assembly in December 2006 to help put this global crisis at the forefront of the international agenda.

Though more than 1.1 billion people worldwide have gained access to improved sanitation between 1990 and 2004, an estimated 2.6 billion people – including 990 million children – have not received the services they need. The world needs to accelerate progress in order to meet the Millennium Development Goal target to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, such as simple latrines, by 2015.


Visit by Kelaniya Science Faculty Students

The second year Undergraduates of the Environmental Conservation and Management degree programme of University of Kelaniya visited the WASPA Kuruwatta project site. They visit included visiting the Paddy fields, Wilgodapura community and also Mathagalla Service station.

Wilgodapura Children’s Society Celebrates Global Hand Washing Day with WASPA


16 members of the Children’s society together with two project officers from WASPA conducted the Well-Washer game with a pocket washing. The children were able to highlight the importance of hand washing, how the diseases can be prevented through hand washing and what are the occasions that hand washing needs to be practiced.

The children also voiced their concern on common hygiene issues that are faced by their community and how they can help to improve the situation by practicing good hygiene behavior and sanitation practices.

WASPA Newsfeed

Volume 1, Issue 2

World Toilet Day—19th November 2008

19th November is World Toilet Day—a day to celebrate the humble yet utterly important toilet and to raise awareness of the global sanitation crisis.

Imagine life without a toilet. No toilets in your home or at work, no public toilets, no toilets anywhere. Imagine the mess. Imagine the disease.

It’s hard to imagine life without something we take for granted, but this is the daily reality for 2.6 billion people—40% of the world’s population.

Without toilets, disease and death are ever present. Illness prevents people from working and going to school. Teenage girls are too embarrassed to go to school without latrines and teachers won’t work in there.

Safe disposal of children’s feces leads to a reduction of nearly 40% in childhood diarrhea.

2.6 billion people do not have somewhere safe, private or hygienic to go to the toilet.

One gram of feces can contain 10 million viruses, one million bacteria, 1000 parasite cysts and 100 parasite eggs.

The simple act of washing hands with soap and water after going to the toilet can reduce diarrhoeal diseases by over 40%.
Global Handwashing Day
October 15

WASPA Asia Kurunegala Project together with the Kurunegala Municipal Council has put up Hoardings at prominent places in Kurunegala, in order to reduce the pollution of water sources. This is an effort towards reducing the pollution to the canals, which’s water is used for agriculture down stream.

50 MT of solid waste and nearly 4620 m3/day Wastewater is generated in Kurunegala city.

Poster Competition for Schools in Kurunegala

The Kurunegala Municipal Council Together WASPA Asia project organized a Poster competition for which 84 participants from 14 schools within the city limits have been invited.

Based on the theme of International Sanitation year (2008) and the ever increasing pollution of water sources, this competition will act as an awareness campaign to all.

Date — 10th November 2008
Time — 8.30 am to 12.30 pm (including prize distribution ceremony)

Partners—

International Water Management Institution (IWMI)
International Resource Center for Water and Sanitation (IRC)
NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply, Bangladesh (NGOF)
Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
COSI Foundation for Technical Cooperation (COSI)

Funded by EU Asia Pro Eco II Programme