

KOMPASSIONATE KIDS – PHASE II

REPORT

Encouraged by the success of the pilot phase undertaken in some schools early this year, C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) launched Phase II of Kompassionate Kids. With a view to sensitise the teachers first about animal cruelty issues and the link between food choices and environmental damage, a one-day teachers' training workshop was organized at CPREEC Convention Centre, Chennai on Friday, July 09, 2010.

The workshop was attended by 44 school teachers from 24 city schools. (A list of the participating schools is attached as annexure).

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop specifically aimed at:

- Helping to strengthen the capacities of the teachers for conducting activities in their respective schools on animal welfare / vegetarianism
- Sharing of experiences of the schools in organizing Eco-clubs, Karuna clubs, etc.
- Enhancing co-operation and information exchange among the schools by establishing a network

PROGRAMME

The inaugural programme began with an invocation in Tamil, which reiterated that there is only one earth and it is our foremost duty to safeguard our environment and also all plants and animals.

The gathering was welcomed by Dr. T. Sundaramoorthy, Head – Biodiversity Conservation, CPREEC. This was followed by an introduction to the Kompassionate Kids Programme by Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Hon. Director, CPREEC. She reiterated on the important role that teachers could play in changing the attitudes of children towards animals.

The Phase-II of the Kompassionate Kids Programme was launched by Maj.Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R. M. Kharb, Chairman, Animal Welfare Board of India, by lighting the *Kuthu Vilakku*, the traditional oil lamp. This is believed to signify the spread of knowledge. In his inaugural address, Maj.Gen.Kharb talked about how animal farming has become a business and most animals are being treated as profit-making machines. Mr. Andrew Rowan, CEO, Humane Society International, also participated.

Presentations titled 'Non-violence Towards Nature — Through Vegetarianism' and 'Prevention and Control of Rabies' were made by Ms. Lalitha Ramadurai, Sr. Programme Officer, CPREEC and Ms. Siaw Yean Woon, President, Animal Welfare Society of the University of Sydney, Australia, respectively. The presentations were interspersed by team activities – "Animal Cruelties", a presentation prepared by Mr.Nicholas Rowan and Ms.R.Sridevi and Design a Campaign. The teachers showed great enthusiasm in participating in the activities. Resource materials were provided to all the participants including a booklet titled 'A-Z of Animal Cruelties', CD containing the presentation 'Non-violence Towards Nature' and a list of suggested animal welfare activities they could carry out in their schools.

The teachers were also taken to the animal shelter at the Blue Cross of India. Mr. Don Williams, Resident General Manager at the shelter explained to the teachers about the activities of the Blue Cross.