

## Second Children's Ecological Congress, 2009 – '10

One of the mandates of the Biodiversity Board is to create awareness on the need for conserving biodiversity among different sections of the society, including students and teachers of the schools and colleges, secretariat staff, bureaucrats, legislatives, judiciary, media and general public.

Biodiversity Board is actively involving educational institutions in various programmes related to biodiversity conservation. As a part of the programme, the first ever Children's Ecological Congress was organized during 27- 28 February 2009 at Trivandrum about 80 students from 22 schools across Kerala attended and the same was a grand success. The theme for the first Children's Ecological Congress, was "Wetland Biodiversity Conservation".

Considering the rapid urbanization and fragmentation of farm lands in Kerala, and also the consequent threat to food security, use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides etc, it was thought that the children should be sensitized on the issue. Several years back our ancestors were using various varieties and kinds of agricultural plants. However, in recent times due to the evolution of agriculture from traditional to modern, we have lost most of our natural varieties. It is high time that we bring back our traditional varieties to our existing cropping system. The best place to start with is at school level. Hence, the theme for the second Children's Ecological Congress would be "**Agro Biodiversity Conservation**".

## **Competitions**

State level competitions will be conducted on Water color painting, Essay writing, Quiz competition and short oral presentations based on the Eco club activities of the school during the last academic year related to agro biodiversity conservation. Competitions on the above themes should be conducted at school level, before 24 October 2009 and the students who gets first place in each item alone can participate at the State level. The State level competitions will be held at Trivandrum on **12 November 2009** from 9.00am – 6.00 pm. The venue will be communicated in due course. The school which scores maximum points will get the Rolling Trophy for the year 2009.

## Terms and Conditions

- i) Only Government and Aided schools can participate in the programme. The competitions may be conducted at 3 levels - Upper Primary, High School and Higher Secondary in schools and also at the State level.
- ii) Competitions at school level for Painting, Quiz and Essay writing may be conducted separately for the UP, High School and Higher Secondary sections on or before 10 August 2009. All the First prize winners can participate in the State level competition.
- iii) Presentation should be prepared based on the activities related to Agro biodiversity Conservation conducted during 2008-09 by the school or Eco Club. A representative of the student shall be trained for presenting the report at the Congress.
- iv) The language to be used for all presentations shall be **Malayalam**.
- v) Along with the contestants, only one teacher, preferably the co-ordinator of the Eco club should accompany. In case girl students are participating, one lady teacher can also join the team. TA will be provided only to the contestants and the teacher/lady teacher as the case may be.
- vi) For the painting competition, contestants should bring painting accessories like water color, brush etc, and drawing paper only will be provided.
- vii) Time allotted for each competition as given below:
  - a) Painting – 90 minutes
  - b) Essay Writing – 60 minutes
  - c) Quiz – 90 minutes
  - d) Oral Presentation – 15 minutes

If power point presentation is made, the number of slides should be limited to 15nos. Video clippings will not be allowed.
- viii) Those who need accommodation may intimate well in advance.
- ix) Participating teachers (one male teacher and female teacher if girl students are participating) and students are eligible for train (Second Class sleeper) from the head quarters or from nearest railway station to Trivandrum and back. The actual bus fare

from school to the railway station will also be paid. Local transportation at Trivandrum will be arranged by the Board.

- x) Entry form for the competitions may be downloaded from our web site and the duly filled up applications should reach the Member Secretary in the address given below on or before 24 October 2009.

**The Member Secretary  
Kerala State Biodiversity Board  
Pallimukku, Pettah P.O.  
Trivandrum - 695 024**

Applications can also be submitted by email at, **keralabiodiversity@gmail.com**.

- xi) Applications received after **24 October 2009**, will not be considered.

xii) Contact Person: Dr. Harinarayanan (Programme Co-ordinator), Mob - 9447841880