



Nature

Biennial Newsletter of SOFEC, DHSK College, Dibrugarh



VOL.1

ISSUE-2

OCTOBER 2013

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FROM THE EDITOR....

Bonajit Deka

Though we couldn't make it bang on time, I am glad that we could once again come out with the second issue of Nature. As the old saying goes 'it is better late than never'. In fact, it is an achievement for SOFEC in its own right.

Today, in spite of having at our disposal the latest machines and state of the art technology to make life easy, there is no second opinion that we have never being so much besieged with so many problems. We are ever busy and bog down by loads of works and duties. We seem to have more problems than ever with no relief at sight. I think it is largely because materialism and selfishness has become our ethos.

Despite this general tendency of our virtual insensitivity and callousness towards nature and issues of Global Common, SOFEC all the same slowly but steadily continues to strive for the cause of nature. Believing in the idea that 'nothing is too small for good work' it endeavours to bring about changes in the attitude of

people towards nature with the principle of 'one little step at a time'. It is in the piecemeal manner that SOFEC attempts to cultivate the value of green and thereby helping the 'global green wheels' keep moving.

I am delighted that this issue brings you a new and exciting column exclusively for junior school going children of SOFEC members. I am sure that you would like it and appreciate their drawings and write-up related to the issues of environment.

Finally, I am sincerely thankful to all the contributors and members of the Editorial Board and Office-bearers for their kind helps and cooperation, without with it wouldn't have been possible to bring out this issue in this shape and size.

Thanking you for picking up Nature and hope you enjoy going through the pages.



FROM THE PRESIDENT....



SOFEC is an organisation based in DHSK College Dibrugarh. Since its very inception it has been functioning actively and smoothly. I am happy and proud to be the President of the organisation for one year term - 2013-14. I believe that this organisation has taken the right path in the right direction. The future of this organisation is bright because it has many active and dedicated persons as its members. Its activities will definitely continue to spread the message of protecting and conserving environment beyond the college and the district. I am thankful to the Editor and its members for taking pain to bring out this beautiful and illustrative newsletter Nature .

OFFICE-BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE CURRENT YEAR -2013-14

Office-Bearers, Executive Members and Ex-Officio Members of the current year - 2013-14, elected in the General Meeting held on the 31st May 2013.

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- A) President : Dr.Titus Bhengra, Dept. of Political Science
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- i. Dr.Chandana Goswami, Dept. of History
ii. Dr. Bharati Dutta, Dept. of Geography



SOFEC MEMBERS ON WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY, 5th JUNE 2013

The ideas and opinions expressed and illustrations presented in this Newsletter are entirely that of the authors and hence the Editor and members of the Editorial Board are not responsible for them.

ROLE OF PARENTS IN CREATING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONGST CHILDREN



Dinalisha Bora
Dept. Of Botany

Parents need to stir love and curiosity for nature into their children which will enable them to relate to the environmental problems and get motivated to take action to preserve it. The knowledge of environment and the related problems comes from the textbooks in schools and colleges. But, unfortunately, it rarely results in action. Parents need to play an active part in inculcating the habit of caring for the environment in young minds from the very childhood. Parents are the best educators who can relate personal matters to the environmental problems (eg. Relating wastage of paper to deforestation).

Children are the future of our society. They should be provided opportunities to become aware of the relationship between man and environment. Best practices of saving water, energy in the form of electricity, paper etc. can be taught at home from the very childhood. Likewise, the hazardous affects of the use of plastic bags and unplanned garbage disposal should be taught to them. Most importantly the value of life should be taught, that each natural thing has a purpose. Each bug has a job to do and each dry leaf will eventually degrade into nutrient rich soil. So, let's not harm life as it belongs to the earth and not us.

We, as parents, cannot afford our children to inherit a planet which is not very healthy. There is nothing we can do to change the past, but with a change in perspective, we can only try to create a better and brighter future.

A THOUGHT ABOUT THE RHINO FODDER PLANTS IN DIBRUSAIKHOWA NATIONAL PARK, RHINO TRANSLOCATION & RHINO VISION 2020



Mr. Rajib Lochan Borah & Dr. Ritupon Sarmah

Department of Botany, DHSK College, Dibrugarh

The Govt. of Assam constituted the Rhino Task Force in June 2005, incorporating



conservationists from diverse backgrounds, from government as well as NGOs like *Aaranyak*, to make the dream drafted under Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020 into reality. The first meeting of the Task Force was held in Nov. 2005. At the meeting two sub groups

were set up, namely the Security Assessment Group (SAG) and the Habitat Assessment Group (HAG). The SAG was to assess the state of the security and support needed & the HAG was to assess the state of the habitat in Manas National Park, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park, Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park where rhinos could be translocated & whether the sites were still suitable for rhinos. Accordingly, the HAG made an assessment of the habitat in the probable release sites, including the existing rhino-bearing areas, and recommended Manas National Park as a priority site for rhino translocation. IRV2020 is a partnership among the government of Assam, the International Rhino Foundation, the WWF, the Bodoland Territorial Council, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that aims to attain a population of 3,000 wild rhinos in seven of Assam's protected areas by the year 2020. The Taronga Conservation Society, Australia, forwarded \$10,000 to this project to contribute to moving the first round of rhinos. SAG assessed the security scenario in the probable rhino release sites in Assam and recommended certain measures that need to be adopted for Manas National Park for the first phase of translocation under the IRV 2020. But, surprisingly the Dibru-Saikhowa national park was not declared suitable in this study. Therefore, queries arise that on what grounds Dibru-saikhowa is not taken into account. While in the report of HAG the habitat qualities of the selected ones are highlighted, clear cut reasons were not published regarding disqualification of Dibru-Saikhowa. From a very simple botanical survey any plant taxonomist will find rhino fodder plants in Dibru-Saikhowa and the habitat looks more or less similar compared to Kaziranga & both are situated at the bank of Brahmaputra. The plants which are regarded as mostly preferred food by the rhinos in Kaziranga are also present in Dibru-Saikhowa. Even, Dibru-Saikhowa is bigger than most of the selected areas for rhino translocation. Therefore, a rethinking is necessary & there may be a detailed study including fodder plants survey, habitat ecology and possible security measures. If a national park is declared not suitable for rhino, the concerned authorities should at least publicize the reasons behind.

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BIOCENTRISM: ETHICS TO LAW



**Dr. Bhaswati Kakati &
Dr. Alalkananda Baruah**

Department of Botany,
DHSK College



Biocentrism, a very common and ancient view that existed in majority of religious practices according to which each and every organism including we the human beings are the creation of "GOD" and the value of life for all organisms are the same. In literature, Biocentrism means life in centre and ethically it extends

inherent value to non-human species. Advocates of biocentrism often promote preservation of biodiversity, animal rights, and environmental protection along with equal respect to all living individuals. Biocentrists believe that all species have innate value, and humans are not "superior" to other species in a moral or ethical sense. In general the term "biocentrism" encompasses all environmental ethics that extend the moral respect and value from human beings to all living things in nature. In modern light of knowledge, Biocentric ethics stress on rethinking of the relationship between humans and nature. According to this view, "nature does not exist simply to be used or consumed by humans, but that humans are simply one species amongst many, and that because we are part of an ecosystem, any actions which negatively affect the living systems of which we are a part adversely affect us as well".

Modern biocentric view in the scientific endorsement was re-established in the works of Charles Darwin especially in his book *On the Origin of Species* (1859), where through the laws of evolution, he supported that humans are not actually some special kind of organism, but simply a species like all others and have same value in natural evolution or simply in nature. In recent times, Biocentric ethics includes Albert

Schweitzer's ethics of "*Reverence for Life*", Peter Singer's ethics of "*Animal Liberation*" and Paul Taylor ethics of "*Biocentric Egalitarianism*". Modern Biocentric ethics differs from classical and traditional ethical thinking as it focuses on attitudes and character rather than strict moral values. Schweitzer's "reverence for life" principle was a forerunner of modern biocentric ethics. It denies any distinction between "high and low" or "valuable and less valuable" life forms. Biocentrism is most frequently associated with the work of Taylor and his book "*Respect for Nature: A Theory of Environmental Ethics* (1986)". Taylor convey that biocentrism is an "attitude of respect for nature"

BIOCENTRISM IN LAW

In modern societies, the idea of biocentrism and the values that it promotes are greatly praised and it gradually finding its position in law. The first country to include rights of nature in its constitution is Ecuador (Article 71, 2008 Constitution of Ecuador). The article states that "Nature has the right to integral respect for its existence and for the maintenance and regeneration of its life cycles, structure, functions and evolutionary processes". In recent years, cities in Maine, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Virginia have adopted laws that protect the rights of nature.

CRITICISM

Biocentrism has faced criticism for a number of reasons. Some of this criticism grows out of the concern that biocentrism is an anti-human concept. Another type of criticism focuses on the contradictions of biocentrism as it emphasises equal importance to all individual and humans are not regarded as special. According to Richard Watson if this is true then, "Human ways-human culture-and human actions are as natural as are the ways in which any other species of animals behaves" and thereby crimes and chaos will definitely rules. Watson also claims that the extinction of species is "Nature's way" and that human's just speedup the process by their un-judicial works and by exploiting the rest of nature. Therefore, he suggests that in reality to overcome the unwished situation, "humans should reduce their destructive behaviour in relation to other species is not because we are equals, but because the destruction of other species will also result in our own destruction".



ALL ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr. Bharati Dutta, Dept. of Geography, DHSK College, Dibrugarh

- The increase of carbon oxide the atmosphere has already raised the average temperature of the earth by 0.50c
- Methane increases at the rate of 1% per year in the atmosphere.
- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCS) contribute about 25% of global warming.
- The Intergovernmental panel on climate change(IPCC) predicts that climate change in the polar regions will be greater than anywhere else on earth.
- Arctic temperatures have risen by 50c over the past 100 years.
- A rise in sea level of 50-100 cm caused by ocean warming would flood low lying lands in Bangladesh, Netherlands and West Bengal.
- Climate change is threatening the 22,00 polar bears that are surviving across the world.
- A six year study on climate change indicates that around 102 islands on the Indian side of Sunderbans are under threat.
- Official records list 102 islands on the Indian side of the vast Sunderbans where the Ganges and the Brahmaputra empty into the Bay of Bengal. Scientists were able to map only 100 islands and the other two had already been swallowed up. Global warming and the depletion of mangrove area could be blamed for the rising sea level in the world biggest delta.
- The extent of annual sea ice has decreased by 6% over the past 20 years. The sea ice decrease over the next 50 years is predicted to be 60%.

looking through the LENS



OFFICE-BEARERS (20133-14)

From L to R: A.Bharali (Treasurer), Bhengra (President), K.Sengupta (V.P), S.Hazarika (V.P), M.Chaliha (Secretary), A.Baruah (Asst.Secy.), K.Chakraborty (Asst. Secy.)



How to plant?
Where to plant? But we always plant



Plantation of Mango tree by SOFEC President, T Bhengra, on Wold Environment Day, 2013



Ready to serve with a big Smile
Ms.Nitumoni and Ms.Sunanda Sahu

World Environment Day celebrated in Dibrugarh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, June 5 – Giving a thrust to the environment issues, several clubs and institutions observed the World Environment Day today with a series of events in the city.

The Society for Environmental Conservation (SOFEC) of DHSK College marked the day with plantation of tree saplings in the college campus. Dr Raji Konwar, principal of the college and advisor of the society initiated the plantation to begin the day's event.

The members of the SOFEC in two groups visited two public schools to deliver lectures and present slide-shows to sensitize and bring general awareness on the issues of environment. Dr L Doungel, Anup Jyoti Bihari and Rajiv Lo-

chan Borah visited Barbari High School, Assam Medical College, where the principal of the school Pramod Dutta welcomed the team.

Dr T Bhengra, president of the SOFEC, presided over the programme, in which speakers, who included professors from DHSK College, spoke on the theme 'Think, Eat and Save' from different perspectives.

Another group of members comprising Dr Bharati Dutta, Dr Chandana Goswami, Sultana Hazarika, Dr Alokandana Baruah and Habiba Khannan visited Barbari Railway High School on the occasion.

Society for Environmental Conservation is an organization of like-minded teachers, staffs and students of DHSK College and it was established in 2002 with its basic objec-

tives to bring mass awareness on environment, particularly targeting the student community and also to protect and conserve environment in the locality. Every year SOFEC observes World Environment Day, World Biosphere Day and World Wild Life Week by organizing lectures, street plays, drawing competitions, etc.

Oil Valley Girls & Boys School located at Boiragimoth here also marked the day by holding a rally in the locality and distributing biodegradable carry bags and pamphlets to the people in a bid to make them environment-friendly. The programme was carried out under the aegis of 'Redwood', the eco club of the school. Through the pamphlets, the campaigners urged upon the people to avoid plastics and polythene bags.

ছফেকৰ উদ্যোগত বায়ু স্ফিয়ৰেৰ দিবস উদযাপন

ডিব্ৰুগড় : ষ্টাফ বিপৰ্চাৰ, ২৬ ছেপ্টেম্বৰ : যোৱা ২১ ছেপ্টেম্বৰত কলে মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ পৰিবেশ সংস্থা ছফেকৰ (ছ'চাইটি ফৰ এনভাইৰনমেণ্টেল কনজাৰভেশ্যন) উদ্যোগত বায়ু স্ফিয়ৰেৰ দিবস উদযাপন কৰা হয়। ছফেকৰ সভানেত্রী ড° ভাবতী দত্তৰ সঞ্চালনাত অনুষ্ঠিত অনুষ্ঠানটোত বায়ু স্ফিয়ৰেৰ সম্পৰ্কে বক্তব্য আগবঢ়ায় জীৱবিজ্ঞান বিভাগৰ সহযোগী প্ৰাধ্যাপক টিকেঞ্জিৎ গগৈয়ে। দিবসৰ তাৎপৰ্য ব্যাখ্যা কৰে সম্পাদিকা ড° চন্দনা গোস্বামীয়ে। মূল বক্তৃতা প্ৰদান কৰি জিৰে মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ উদ্ভিদ বিজ্ঞান বিভাগৰ অধ্যাপক খুণৰ পালে বিভিন্ন বাসায়নিক পদাৰ্থৰ দ্বাৰা পানী কিদৰে প্ৰদূষিত হয় আৰু মানুহৰ স্বাস্থ্যত কি প্ৰভাৱ পেৰে সেই বিষয়ে বৰ্ণনা কৰে। অধ্যক্ষ ড° ৰাজী কোঁৱৰে ছফেকৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত 'নিউজ লেটাৰ'ৰ প্ৰথমটো সংখ্যা উন্মোচন কৰে। সংখ্যাটো সম্পাদনা কৰিছিল ড° এল ডুংগেলে। অনুষ্ঠানত ডলফিন সংৰক্ষণৰ আৱশ্যকতাৰ সম্পৰ্কত এখন তথ্যচিত্ৰ প্ৰদৰ্শন কৰা হয়। ইয়াৰ তত্ত্বাবধানত থাকে ড° সঞ্জিতা বৰুৱা। সভাৰ শলাগৰ শৰাই আগবঢ়ায় সন্দা চাহয়ে।

ছফেক'ৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা দিবস পালন

ডিব্ৰুগড় : ১৫ আগষ্ট : ডিব্ৰুগড় হুনম বয় স্কুলখন কলে মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ পৰিবেশ সংস্থা ছ'চাইটি ফৰ এনভাইৰনমেণ্টেল কনজাৰভেশ্যন (ছফেক) দশম প্ৰতিষ্ঠা দিবস তেৰে আগষ্টত গাভীৰপুৰ পৰিবেশত পালন কৰা হয়। ছফেকৰ সভানেত্রী ড° ভাবতী দত্তৰ সঞ্চালনাত অনুষ্ঠিত সভাৰ আৰম্ভণিতে সম্পাদিকা ড° চন্দনা গোস্বামীয়ে উদ্দেশ্য ব্যাখ্যা কৰেৰ লগতে সকলোকে আদৰ্শ জনায়। মধুশিতা টিমচিনাই পৰিবেশন কৰা এটি ভজনেৰে অনুষ্ঠানৰ পাতনি মেলাৰ পাছতেই ছফেকৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠাপক সভাপতি, খ্যাতনামা অভিনেতা, সাংবাদিক তথা মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ একাঙ্গ অধ্যাপক ড° শান্তনু সেন গুপ্ত আৰু প্ৰয়াত কীৰ্ত্তিৰ বাবৰ স্মৃতিত শ্ৰদ্ধা জনাৰ সৌন্দৰ্য অৰলম্বন কৰা হয়। অনুষ্ঠানটোৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠাৰ আঁৰৰ ব্যক্তিকলক স্মৰণনা জনোৱাৰ পাছতেই মৰ্মী তালুকদাৰৰ তত্ত্বাবধানত 'পৰিবেশ ধ্বংস আৰু জীৱজগতৰ ওপৰত ইয়াৰ প্ৰভাৱ' সম্পৰ্কে এখন তথ্যচিত্ৰও প্ৰদৰ্শন কৰা হয়। শেষত দুটা গছৰ পুলি বোপণেৰে কাৰ্যসূচীৰ অন্ত পেলোৱা হয়। অনুষ্ঠানত মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ অধ্যক্ষ প্ৰমথো অধ্যাপক-অধ্যাপিকা আৰু ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীসকলো উপস্থিত থাকে।

EDITOR'S COLLECTED CAMPUS NEWS

DHSK COLLEGE, October 2 : Along with the rest of India DHSK College fraternity observed Gandhi Jayanti, the 145th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the most befitting manner. The day long program started with lighting of lamp and paying floral tribute to the Father of the Nation. The program was marked by singing of devotional songs, speeches from different speakers and lecture from the invited speaker Dr.M.Hazarika. Most significantly, the professors, staffs and students present on the occasion together vowed to shun violence and take the path of nonviolence, peace and love.

DHSK COLLEGE, September 21 : Observing the World Biosphere Day on the 21st September



Dr. (Mrs) Aparna Mahanta with Dr. A. Ahmed

2013, SOFEC planted some tree saplings in the campus and also fruitfully organised Extempore Speech Competition for students of the College that was well responded by students from different departments.

DHSK COLLEGE, September 19 : A talk on "Women's Movement in India with special reference to Assam" was organised on the 19th Sept' 201, by the Cell for Women's Studies and Development, DHSK College. The illuminating lecture was delivered by Prof. Aparna Dutta Mahanta. The program was well attended by professors and students of the College and was concluded after meaningful and fruitful interaction with the invited speaker.



The Principal, Dr.(Ms)Rajee Konwarh & Vice Principal, Dr.Attikuddin Ahmed, paying homage

DHSK COLLEGE, September 13 : Department of Physics has successfully organised two days National Conference on the 13th - 14th September 2013. The inaugural session was held at Lalchand Kanoi Auditorium wherein Prof. Tanpan Ganguli, Professor of Emeritus was the inaugurator of the two days Conference and the keynote address was delivered by Prof. Gaurango Dhar Baruah, Ex-Head Department of Physics, Dibrugarh University.



Head of Physics Dept. Mr. A Dahal is seen with the Principal on the dais.

DHSK COLLEGE, September 11 : The installation of the newly elected Student Union Body of the College was held on the 11th September 2013 at Sankerdeva Hall at 12:30pm. The oath taking ceremony was conducted by the Vice-Principal in the presence of all advisers and in-charge Professors of various offices of the Student Union.



Oath Taking Ceremony with the Vice-President, in white shirt & blue pant Mr. Bharat Singh.

DIBRUGARH September 5 : Along with the rest of the world, Dibrugarh also observed the Environment Day on the 5th Sept, 2013. Under the theme "Think, Eat and Save" various



School Students of Little Flower Hr Secondary(Dibrugarh) taking out procession on the street in the morning at 7:40 am on the 5th June 2013, marking the World Environment Day, 2013.

educational institutions and organisations including SOFEC of DHSK College also came out of its campus to spread awareness on the need to preserve and protect our environment.

DHSK COLLEGE, August 23: In another event of the College, the meeting of all Heads of the Departments of the college was held to analyze and discuss the recent results of the 2nd and 4th Semesters of the institution and to frame specific Action-Plans for further improvement of the result in future.

DHSK COLLEGE, August 13: With the single aim to improve quality of higher education the department of Political Science, DHSK College organized Parents-Teachers-cum students meet at the college premises. The program started with welcome speech from the Head of the Department, Dr. L. DOUNGEL who addressed the fully packed gathering of parents and guardians and students. While explaining the objective of the meeting, Dr. DOUNGEL thanked the parents and guardians for their positive response and cooperation attending the meeting. Appreciating the effort of the Department of Political in organizing the program the Principal, Dr. RAJEE KONWARH also thanked the parents and guardians and informed the gathering about the various activities that are taking place in the College and expressed her hope that the college will continue to be one of the



best colleges in the state with the support of all its well-wishers, parents and public in general. IQAC Coordinator of the College, Dr. P. GANGULI and teachers of Political Science Department, Dr. T. BHENGRA and Dr. B. DUTTA also spoke on the occasion. Vice-Principal of the college Dr. ATIKUDDIN AHMED, resource person of the day deeply dealt with the whole system of semester and strongly appealed to the students in particular that consistency, regularity, punctuality, 100% attendance and participation are key words of the semester system. Few of the parents present in the meeting also spoke on the occasion and they appreciated the organizers and thanked them for inviting them.

DHSK COLLEGE, August 12 : The 11th Foundation Day of the SOFEC was successfully observed in the most befitting manner on the 12th August 2013, in which Dr. A. AHMED, Vice-Principal of the College graced the occasion and Mr. T. GOGOI, HOD, of Zoology, had delivered his lecture on different species of birds.

KERALA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Nature Study Centre, Kalady

Guess How long these materials "Take to Bio Degrade"

Paper Bag	: 1 month
Banana peel	: 3-4 months
Cotton Rag	: 5 months
Woolen Socks	: 1 year
Wood	: 10-15 years
Leather Shoe	: 40-50 years
Tin Can	: 50-100 years
Aluminum Can	: 200-500 year
Plastic Bag	: 10 lakh years
Glass Bottle	: Unknown

Avoid plastic and save nature

SAVE THE EARTH

FOR US

Introducing CHILDREN'S COLUMN

Young Futurist



Chochoi Doungel
Class-KG, LFS
Younger Daughter
of Dr.L.Doungel



Jagriti Saikia
Class -IV, LFS
Daughter of
Dr. Mita Chaliha



Adrijaa Neog
Class-VI,
B.L.Beria School
Daughter of
Dr.Alokananda Baruah



Purujit Neog,
Class-VI, B.L.Beria
School
Son of Dr.Alokananda
Baruah

Let's save our environment

Riea Nth.Doungel, Class-V, LFS, Dibrugarh
Elder Daughter of Dr. L. Doungel



Shyanush Dutta, Class-KG, Don Bosco School
Son of Mrs.Dinalisha Bora



Aryaman Parashar, Class-IV,
Don Bosco School, Son of Dr.Chandana Goswami

The surrounding in which we live is our environment. Human beings have always been dependent on the environment. This dependence has ever being increasing because of increasing population that increase the demand for food, water, housing etc. So in order to meet our ever increasing selfish demands for easy life, comfort and luxury we are putting more and more pressure on the environment. As a result we have polluted air, water, and soil. Wanton felling of trees, mining of natural recourses, merciless hunting and other callous and selfish activities of man led to degradation of our environment.

The need of the hour is to save our environment. We need to save environment for our own good. But it is easy said than done. The task is however not impossible either. What is lacking is the 'WILL' to do..... Hence, I thank and congratulate SOFEC for its humble beginning by encouraging us to write and share our views on environment. By reaching us in its awareness campaign, SOFEC actually stepped into the future. I support SOFEC in its WALK FOR GREEN.



SOFEC Members with the Teachers & Students of Barbari High School on World Environment Day, 5th June 2013