

Press release

GTZ-SMB Program Hosts Special Event To Celebrate World Water Monitoring Day

To celebrate the World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) in Armenia, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Sustainable Management of Biodiversity (SMB) Programme hosted a special event on September 16, 2010.

The WWMD was attended by over 140 people including representatives of the GTZ-SMB partner-ministries, cooperating International and Armenian organizations, as well as school-teachers, pupils and eco-club members who were the key players in the campaign 2010.

The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Hans-Jochen Schmidt, delivered an opening speech during which he stressed the importance of creating and raising public awareness on environmental issues and expanding environmental education in the country. According to Ambassador Schmidt, "It is dangerous to focus on economic issues solely without taking into account ecology" [quoted].

At the event, the results of 2010 environmental education campaign "Exploring Biodiversity of Rivers and Streamlets in Armenia" were presented publicly. Successful implementation of the campaign was achieved due to productive collaboration with the Armenian Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Education and Science and experts of the National Institute of Education and Environmental Effect Monitoring Center.

In the framework of the campaign and intent on teaching about modern environmental pedagogic methods, biodiversity of rivers and biological monitoring techniques, the GTZ-SMB Programme organized five 3-day trainings for total of 120 school teachers from Armenian regions and Yerevan. As a result of these preparations, the teachers and trainers were able to undertake eco-excursions with more than 1200 pupils and eco-club members who carried out comprehensive scientific assessments of water quality of rivers and streamlets in their communities.

Press release

A competition entitled “Rivers-Living Ecosystems” was designed to motivate both, teachers and pupils, to explore biodiversity, examine and evaluate water quality of Armenia's waterways. Overall 5 winners of the competition chosen from more than 50 RA schools and FPWC/SunChild eco-clubs were presented with special prizes – stereo lenses. Ambassador Hans-Jochen Schmidt awarded winners with certificates and wished them all the best in their future environmental endeavors. A special 10-minute documentary revealing campaign’s concept and outcomes was screened. The film received positive feedback from the audience and soon will be made available online.

In preparation for the mentioned celebration both, Programme Results report and BioTopic themed “Exploring Biodiversity of Rivers and Streamlets in Armenia – an Example for Environmental Education” were elaborated and printed out in Armenian and English languages. Copies of these materials were disseminated among the campaign participants and guests on September 16. An exhibition of children’s art-works was launched during the reception in which the whole event culminated.

The STZ-SMB Programme aims to create and raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources.

For details, please, contact:

Bella Avetisyan
GTZ-Sustainable Management of Biodiversity
Expert

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
- German Technical Cooperation -
GTZ Programme Office Yerevan
Nalbandyan Str. 48/1
0010 Yerevan
Republic of Armenia

T +374-10-546031
M +374-91-001168
E bella.avetisyan@gtz.de
I www.gtz.de

gtz

Press release