EDITORIAL

We would like to express our warm wishes for the 2012 New Year & welcome you on HELP-O April newsletter with different new experiences of HELP-O activities in various sectors. This month is very important for everybody because all people celebrate the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year with new aspirations for future. HELP-O also has planned to implement many programs to achieve different targets through new visions.

By implementing Green Bio-Energy City in Trincomalee we have started the biogas plant implementing project in Jungle Beach Hotel. As a fast developing area in Sri Lanka, Trincomalee is the most focus area in Eastern province. With that development they need to have better & sustainable solution for the waste problem. HELP-O has planned to implement many waste management programs in Trincomalee. It is very effective programs because we upgrade the renewable energy source for the society. We could able to expand the services to private sectors to involve in renewable energy sources of biogas as most profitable waste management mechanism.

In domestic level waste management steps are also taking to make more environment friendly cities in Sri Lanka. Waste free cities are the present need of the world. However it is difficult task due to lack of effective waste management method. Biogas technology can be considered as the most appropriate way to overcome the future waste & energy problem.

HOLDE Women’s Co-op is developing to facilitate for the community by addressing their need. We have upgraded the physical condition of the grass root level people while developing social condition of them. Many rural people were changing their life with the help of HOLDE Women’s Co-op & expected to expand their services in different way.

We appreciate your valuable ideas & comments on our effort of sharing HELP-O experiences. This summary of our expanded services will better tool to communicate with you about our new concepts & experiences in various sectors in different manner.
25th March was a special day for HOLDE Women’s Co-Operative members. They got the opportunity to exchange their social experiences & their community net work experiences with the students of Japan University who visited to the Co-Operative branches.

The main purpose of their visit were
- To have an idea about voluntary works in village level
- To study about community driven programs in village level
- To study the waste management system by using bio gas technology

During their visit they could visit the branch activities of Walawaththa HOLDE Women’s Co-Operative branch & could exchange the ideas about mechanism of community network in village level.

It was much interested for them to have a site visit of our member’s small business such as poultry farms, sewing business which has started by utilizing their loans. Members express their ideas of “how they are recovering gradually with their savings mobilizing”.

Galle International Buddhist center bio gas unit was observed & they studied the technology & effect of the bio gas unit with the priest of the Buddhist center. The priest described how they could reduce the LP Gas and fire wood cost by using the waste turning to valuable resource through the bio gas unit.

Finally they explained that it was very valuable for them to get the idea of development of community driven programs through an onsite visit. The multi benefits of this community network as well as their unity in providing assistance for their needs.
As new beginnings of the year with fresh of mind HELP-O celebrate Sinhala and Tamil New Year 2012 by all staff members’ participation. We wish to all may have very happy New Year through the success of each & every new efforts.

Event was organized to start by boiling milk to see the prosperity of the year & then HELP-O chairman/chief executive Mr.Chathura Welivitiya share the new ideas by addressing all. Mr Asoka Siriwardana, Mrs.Kumuduni Abeywickrama & Mr.Abeywickrama, Mr.Mahinda Padmasiri were participated for this special event & gave their valuable ideas.

They wished to HELP-O chairman and staff for successes all of the works. HOLDE Women’s Co-Op community members also saved much money in the village branches with the participation of HOLDE Women’s Co-op chairman Mrs.Chandralatha.
The Netherland Aluminate Association Sri Lanka (NAAL) visited to identify the location of proposed biogas plant construction in Walawwatte-Galle Municipal Council area. They could be exchanged our social experiences and community network in Walawwatta.

The main purpose of their visit were,

- To identify the location of planned biogas plant
- To study the waste management system and how to maintain the biogas unit and technology.
- To study how to get beneficiaries the biogas unit.
- To get an idea the community works in village level.

HOLDE Women’s Co-op chairman Mrs.Chandralatha explained why they need biogas plant to the area of Walawwatte & how much daily waste collection is happening within the area. She explained about the benefits they can get from biogas plant by reducing LP gas and fire wood cost while minimizing daily waste collection.

HELP-O chairman/chief executive Mr.Chathura Welivitiya also explained that the ultimate objective of the biogas plant within that area is to reduce the waste collection & give more benefits to the community as a sustainable project run by community.

On the other hand it will minimize the waste collection cost of Galle Municipal Council & that can be use for the development of the area. They got many ideas about the bio gas and they studied that technology and effects of the bio gas unit. They satisfied the proposed bio gas plant and it will start construction in future.
Green growth declaration at the OECD

Korea has been working with the OECD to spread the green growth movement throughout the international community. In May 2011, the OECD released a comprehensive report on Korea’s green growth strategy, highlighting a project undertaken in 2009. Korea will contribute to achieving the OECD’s effort to further develop and propagate green growth policies.

East Asia Climate Partnership (EACP)

The East Asia Climate Partnership (EACP) is Korea’s major development cooperation program, designed to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries with regard to the climate change challenge. Through the EACP, Korea focuses on sharing its experiences and knowhow on green growth with developing countries. Korea is committed to providing USD 200 million to help developing countries realize their green hopes through low carbon green cities, clean energy, forestation, biomass, development and waste treatment.

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

The Global Green Growth Institute was established in June 2010 in Seoul to focus on systematic theoretical studies on green growth models taking into account their different economic and social circumstances. GGGI is a globally represented non-profit organization run by and international board of directors. GGGI opened its first foreign branch in Copenhagen in May 2011 and plans to establish several regional branches around the globe by 2012 in order to build a global network and further develop into an international organization based on an intergovernmental treaty.

“Today, Korea hopes to serve as a role model for contributing to climate change mitigation and has emerged as a pioneer of the green path and a fast mover as a green growth economy through the rapid spread of green growth across all industries. Korea is also playing a bridging role by helping developing countries join in the green wave.”

These are the Green Growth Activities & Achievements of them.
As a supportive project for “Divinaguma” with the financial assistance of Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), HELP-O launched a home gardening program among eight villages of Galle district. Objective of the project are

- To find a sustainable solution for food & energy crisis
- To provide nutrient & quality food
- To promote the community for home gardening activities through organic liquid fertilizer

For the project initiation we have identified the location for the construction of biogas plant as a part of project activity & this is constructing with the financial contribution of owner & technical guidance from HELP-O with the collaboration of Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO).

We were selected the appropriate place for construction of Biogas plant as a solution for the waste management in domestic level.

Especially there is a pig farm in domestic level & it was a difficult task to manage the daily waste collection. On the other hand pig farm activity has impact for the human health of the surrounded people.

Through the biogas plant construction we expected to reduce the daily waste collection, energy generation through biogas plant.

Other major task of the project is home gardening by using organic fertilizer. This is multiple benefited projects for the community.
As a new development area in Eastern province HELP-O has given priority for the Trincomalee area to implement better waste management mechanism with the intention of creating green bio-energy city in Trincomalee. HELP-O has initiated the project with the financial support of UNEP/APFED programme. First project has started in hotel which is constructing to open for the public as soon as possible.

Trincomalee area comprises with many natural resources & highly tourist attracted area. Due to that all the hotels, restaurants, business firm & other public places need to have better waste management methodology to create more attractive city environment.

HELP-O is developing the Biogas technology as a solution for the waste problem within the area. It is not only for waste management & it includes multiple solutions for the daily waste collection, renewable energy generation, organic fertilizer manufacturing, carbon emission reduction & environment protection. Trincomalee city will green bio energy city after the completing the project work.

Great Opportunity of Discuss Human Trafficking in Sri Lanka

Enhancing Human Security: Developing Capacities to Protect and Assist Victims of Human Trafficking workshop was held March 28(Wed) – 30(Fri) 2012 Seogwipo City, Jeju Province, Republic of Korea at CIFAL Jeju/Jeju International Training Center(JITC) & attorney-at-law Mr.Mapalagama Wimalarathne Godagama also was participated for the workshop by representing Sri Lanka & HELP-O.

It was a great opportunity to discuss about the human trafficking in Sri Lanka in a time of debate in different way about the topic. There were many lessons & experiences to learn from different countries.

We expected to share the experiences of Human Security workshop within next few months to enhance the awareness on this matter to discuss in open manner with different ideas of you.
Ayurveda Department in Southern Province Ayurveda Community Health Unit has conducted seventh awareness program in 47 settlements in Galle. This programme has conducted about the Dengue prevention awareness of the community.

HOLDE Women’s Co-op members were participated for this awareness programme. Ayurvedic doctors were participated for this program and specially discussed about the dengue, symptoms, and to keep the good health condition. Also she explained about the way of spread the diseases and how to recognize illnesses and she said we must clean our home garden.

Doctors were explained about the necessary action to need to take minimize the dengue effect & what are the Ayurvedic methods to upgrade the human health while protecting our environment.

This meeting was very special opportunity for the participants to understand how to can be change the daily life style. At the end of the programme participants raised many questions related to their leanings. The participants satisfied this program and they said learned lot of things about Ayurveda method.
HOLDE Women’s Co-Operative is working with the society to assist the poor community in their needs specially. In present this Women’s Co-Operative is expecting to get start a long term journey by making a sound voice among the poor community.

The monthly board of directors meeting & the congress meeting was held during the month of April. The main things discussed in the meetings like below

- The working rules of the women’s Co-operative & it was approved
- The members name list was publish in last board of directors meeting & in congress meeting with the selection of the names for the seven committees according to the low of Co-operative act.
- Especially the expansion of the Women’s Co-op was discussed in these meeting with the main idea of to maximize their service to the poor.
- Malawanna HOLDE Women’s Co-op loan was approve for 10 self employers

All the members as well as the board of directors discussed the main advantage of transferring to the people’s movement to HOLDE Women’s Co-operative. Through this strong net work they are trying to reach more vulnerable community in their needs by getting new achievements successfully.

Finally all of the members of HOLDE Women’s Co-operative express their ideas that “Financial assistance as well as the unity among our villages, members are the main strength we got from this system. We think this type of assistance need for every society to fight against the poverty specially”.
B.P. Anoja is a member of Malawanna HOLDE Women’s Co-Operative from the beginning of the society. She earns her living by prawn cultivation & small poultry farm. One day one of our reporters had a discussion with her & she explains the situation & progress to her.

I’m the treasure of our “Olu” group & I engage with this community network from the beginning time of our Malawanna Women’s Co-Op society. Every week our group get together in particular place. We do savings & provide credit facility for the members in their emergencies.

Many women of our group get the financial assistance for their self employments & I also got Rs.10, 000.00 loans for my prawn cultivation first time. Now I have paid it all & required another RS.20, 000.00 to develop my business. As we haven’t any collateral for to get assistance from other financial services for such type of our business works this is one of the best ways for to get assistance for our needs.

With the help of our family members I do this prawn cultivation & get around 8Kg-15Kg prawns in one time. It can get around 10days with in the month & can sell 1KG for 700Rs-1000Rs. This is the main Income generating activity for me & I can manage my living cost from this business.

Not only my family but also my group members assist me for my business when I have much work during the prawn season. It’s so big strength for me as I have much man power for emergency with the help of our HOLDE Women’s Co-Op society. When we gather for our group meetings we discussed the financial matters as well as our members needs also as one family. This friendly gathering always helps to increase the mutual understanding among our members by listening to others voice & to assist their members in their needs.
Bala Vikasa Social Service Society is a registered, non-profit, non-governmental community development organization, based at Warangal, Andhra Pradesh; India. People Development Training Center (PDTC) was initiated with an objective of sharing knowledge and experience of Bala Vikasa, in “Community Development”, to the likeminded NGOs, Individuals and Institutions through need based capacity building activities. Bala Vikasa PDTC has designed a number of training modules basing them on its own grass root experience and keeping them relevant to the needs of the development sector. The objective of training programs is mainly to provide knowledge, impart skills and change attitudes of the agents of change towards development. HELP-O works as Sri Lankan representative for this programme & gave opportunity to participate for many people for the training programme in continuously. We try to share the experience of participants for the Bala Vikasa Training Programme from this newsletter.

The secretary of Ministry of Fisheries, Cultural Affairs, Food Supply & Distribution, Trade & Co-operative Development–Southern Province Mr.A.L.A.Asoka Siriwardana was participated for this programme & you can find more valuable his own ideas about the training programme.

“I have participated for the Bala Vikasa Training Programme in year 2011 & programme was conduct under the topic of “Community Driven Development (CDD)” from 10th January -3rd February 2011.

During the period of stay in the Bala Vikasa Institute I got the chance to get further knowledge on culture and sustainable development. Sustainable development is a currently used term in the development process. I had a chance to see the both practical and theory sides of this terminology.

In Sri Lankan Development process assets is the base. We got the opportunity to learn about Assets Based Community Development (ABCD).We had a chance to visit a rural village where those theories are applied.

Sri Lanka is in a rapid growth of development process. In this process southern province plays a major role, because most of the major development projects are being launched here. So we have to take care about the environment issues related to these projects. We had some lessons learnt on the development issues.

We had lessons and practical on conflict resolution. As a secretary of a provincial ministry there is a good use of that knowledge in administration process. Lessons of development communication were also practiced by us. As the secretary of the ministry of fisheries, Cooperatives and Cultural Affairs most of the activities are done in the community base. So effective communication should be applied in that field to make the development projects a success.

For the organizational development, strategic planning is a key feature. We have learned theory and practical on planning, monitoring and evaluation. In the development planning sector in Sri Lanka, Finance Commission has introduced RBM (Results Based Management). We had a chance to get lesson on the key topics and fields of RBM. It will be supportive for the organization management also.

So, actually during the period of stay in Bala Vikasa Institute in India I had a great chance to get the newest knowledge in different important fields. They will be supportive for my role as a secretary in the ministry and I deeply think that I will be able to apply the knowledge in the fields of the ministry.
**COMING NEWS.....**

**Low Carbon City: Workshop in Jeju – South Korea**

Related to “Low-Carbon City: Green Growth for Local Governments” workshop to be held from 02nd-04th May 2012 in Seogwipo City, Jeju Province, Republic of Korea, organized by CIFAL Jeju/JITC-affiliated with UNITAR and sponsored by Jeju Special Self-governing Province.

Representatives from HEP-O & Galle Municipal Council will participate for the workshop from Sri Lanka.

**Accounting Training for Co-operative members**

Newly established HOLDE Women’s Co-operative society has organized two day training for the co-operative members on 17th & 18th of May 2012 at co-operative commissioner conference hall in Galle.

HOLDE Women’s Co-op branches members will participate for this training & it will good opportunity to learn about the methods of accounting.

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**WE ARE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS & SUGGETION ..........**

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