NEWSLETTER - MARCH - 2013
EDITORIAL

We are happy to communicate with you through this newsletter about the latest updates of the organization. As an organization we are trying to develop different concepts to expand new experiences to the world.

Private sector involvement to manage the environment is growing fast today. Many business people are willing to have well established waste management mechanism for their premises. We believe that is one of turning point of the bio gas program.

By aiming the environmental management we are practicing & promoting organic agriculture farming for rural & urban community. HELP-O conducted awareness program for different social groups to aware about effective and benefits of the bio gas in the field of waste management.

The community network the people even provide financial support the people who need to develop their self employee. Community empowerment & development is most valuable social service of HELP-O by community networking to improve the living condition of them.

HELP-O is facilitating for more opportunities to experience in different countries through programs related to different themes & we are do not hesitate to share that experiences with our readers to learn something. Finally we highly appreciate your encouragement to develop our efforts & warmly welcome your valuable comments.
GLOBALIZATION & ITS IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT

Globalization has had far-reaching effects on our lifestyle. It has led to faster access to technology, improved communication and innovation. Apart from playing an important role in bringing people of different cultures together, it has ushered a new era in the economic prosperity and has opened up vast channels of development. However, globalization has also created some areas of concern, and prominent among these is the impact that it has had on the environment. Globalization has featured extensively in the debates on environmentalism, and green activists have highlighted its far-reaching effects. Let us know about the impact of globalization on our environment.

Activists have pointed out that globalization has led to an increase in the consumption of products, which has impacted the ecological cycle. Increased consumption leads to an increase in the production of goods, which in turn puts stress on the environment. Globalization has also led to an increase in the transportation of raw materials and food from one place to another. Earlier, people used to consume locally-grown food, but with globalization, people consume products that have been developed in foreign countries. The amount of fuel that is consumed in transporting these products has led to an increase in the pollution levels in the environment. It has also led to several other environmental concerns such as noise pollution and landscape intrusion. Transportation has also put a strain on the non-renewable sources of energy, such as gasoline. The gases that are emitted from the aircraft have led to the depletion of the ozone layer apart from increasing the greenhouse effect. The industrial waste that is generated as a result of production has been laden on ships and dumped in oceans. This has killed many underwater organisms and has deposited many harmful chemicals in the ocean.

Due to globalization and industrialization, various chemicals have been thrown into the soil which has resulted into the growth of many noxious weeds and plants. This toxic waste has caused a lot of damage to plants by interfering in their genetic makeup. It has put pressure on the available land resources. In various parts of the world, mountains are being cut to make way for a passing tunnel or a highway. Vast barren lands have been encroached upon to pave way for new buildings. While humans may rejoice on the glimmer with these innovations, these can have long-term effects on the environment. Various studies over the years, have found that plastic is one of the major toxic pollutants, as it is a non-biodegradable product. However, plastic is of immense use when it comes to packaging and preserving goods that are to be exported. This has led to increased use of plastic, causing widespread environmental pollution.

It has made so many changes in our lives that reversing it is not possible at all. The solution lies in developing effective mechanisms that can check the extent to which it can impact the environment. Globalization is about competition, and if certain privately owned companies can take the lead in being environment friendly, then it will encourage others to follow suit.

It is important that we put in some efforts to maintain harmony with the environment. The survival of human race on this planet is dependent on the environment to such a large extent that we cannot afford to ignore the consequences of our own actions. While there is a lot of debate and discussion on this issue, the need of the hour is to have effective policies in place, and implementation of those policies. The people that we have chosen to represent us have the responsibility of ensuring that the extent of damage on environment is curtailed, if not totally prevented. We hope this article helped you in understanding globalization and its impact on the environment and the importance of taking concrete actions against it.
COMMUNITY REVOLUTION ON HOMEGARDENING CONCEPT

HELP-O is implementing home gardening project in selected areas within Galle with the financial support of FAO (Food & Agriculture Organization) & active participation of HOLDE Women’s Co-op members. It can be consider as one of the best practices which we are implementing to ensure the food security in home garden & now it is going at the final stage.

With the home gardening concept there was happening multiple change among the community. After reviewing the entire project we can define that it could change even thinking pattern of the people. At the project initiation stage that community was lack of consideration about food nutrition & food availability in fresh manner. After the project implement most of the people make a habit to eat fresh vegetable.

Through this project every home garden of community members was cultivated beyond the financial assistant. Earning from home garden products is the best experiences shows by the community & they were expanding their home garden.

Other best lesson we have experienced that most of the people are changing their home garden time to time with new cultivations & beneficiaries were good motivators to others to change their mind through the project. We believe that this is the best indicator to show the success of the project in real ground.
INTRODUCING BIO ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AT “DAYATA KIRULA” EXHIBITION

HELP-O was fortunate to participate for the national exhibition “Dayata Kirula” in Ampara. It was a good opportunity to introduce the biogas technology for general public. There were governor of the eastern province, chief minister & many other government officers.

The Annual Exhibition Deyata Kirula commenced in 2007. The objective of the Exhibition at that time was to enlighten the masses about the dedication and sacrifices being made by the security forces, to highlight the gains being made by them and the importance of carrying out the war up to an end.

However, after winning the war, shift the venue of the Exhibition to outside of Colombo and accordingly the 2010 Exhibition of the post war Sri Lanka was held in Kandy, which was the last capital of the Sri Lankan Kings. With the aim of propagation of more infrastructure facilities and economic benefits for rural area 5 th Deyata Kirula National Development programme was implemented in the Monaragala District. The Exhibition held on Buttala in 2011. Many roads were developed in the Monaragala District including Bridges. The themes of 5th Deyata Kirula was "Wonder of Crown"

Sixth Deyata Kirula National Development Programme was launched in Anuradhapura District. The Exhibition was held at Oyamduwa in 2012. Oyamduwa is forest area which is located near Willpaththu Sanctuary. Through the Sixth Deyata Kirula National Development Programme many roads were re-constructed in the Anuradhapura area by including road from Puththalam to Anuradhapura. The themes of Sixth Deyata Kirula were "Wonder of recurrence". His Excellency the President decided to propagate the economical benefits of Deyata Kirula National Development Programme for more districts rather than one district. According into this situation 07th Deyata Kirula National Development Exhibition will be held at Ampara Hardy Higher Technology Institute by including infrastructure developing activities in the Batticola, Trincomalee and Polonnaruwa.

Deyata Kirula is not merely an exhibition or display, but an occasion that brings massive overall development to rural areas of the country as part of the national development drive. Apart from infrastructure development that comes with Deyata Kirula , all other sectors including health, education, transportation, farming, living standards and many more are developed parallel to the exhibition. Deyata Kirula exhibition premises spans about 120 acres this year. About 400 exhibition stalls maintained by state and private sectors showcase their products and services.
HELP-O could take part in first international conference on waste management in Sri Lanka. That event can be considered as present need of country to ensure the proper waste management mechanism in the future. As a pioneer in biogas technology promotion in Sri Lanka HELP-O Chairman/Chief Executive Mr. Chathura Welivitiya could adding new ideas to “Geo Watch” by explaining why we need to go for biogas technology as one of the most sustainable solution in organic waste management.

Celebrating 10 years of involvement in the removal of waste while ensuring no environmental liability is left for the generations to come, Geocycle, the waste management arm of Holcim (Lanka) Ltd., hosted the first international conference on waste management in Colombo at the Cinnamon Lakeside on 22 March 2013 under the theme ‘Towards a Waste Free Sri Lanka’. Institutions such as the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Industries and Commerce, UNIDO, SACEP, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce join hands with Geocycle in organizing the event.

Facilitated by top industry personalities, the full day event attended by over 450 professionals across diverse sectors featured 10 technical sessions on waste management practices. With Minister for Environment and Renewable Energy Susil Premajayanthe attending the inaugural session as the Chief Guest, invited to speak on the current scenario of waste management in the country was Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy B.M.U.D. Basnayake and Secretary to the Ministry of Mass Media and Information Charitha Herath. Attending on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Commerce Rishard Bathiudeen, who was to be the Guest of Honour for the event, was Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce Asitha Seneviratne. Presenting the organization’s vision towards a waste-free Sri Lanka, Holcim (Lanka) CEO Phillipe Richart stated that Geocycle’s operations over the past decade have slowly but steadily transformed into its line of actions.

One of the main reasons for this is lack of awareness among the industrial community about prevailing sustainable options for waste management. In this context, as a responsible partner in developing the country, Geocycle considers it is high time to create awareness among the industrial community and the general public. Hazardous waste management in particular has become a crucial issue for the industries and other sectors. In order to initiate a dialogue and plan for the future, Geocycle is organizing the International Conference on Waste Management to arouse interest, create awareness and more importantly be an eye-opener for policymakers. The conference aims to drive all stakeholders towards sustainable waste management starting from collection up to final disposal, without leaving any environmental liabilities for future generations.
HELP-O was participated for The World Water Day special programme held under the Pavithra Ganga Programme in Biyagama City. Different activities organized on the day, beginning ceremony of the construction of biogas plant in mawaramandiya poa & the awareness activity to aware the surrounded people of kelani river by training young girls and boys was very special activities.

Water is the most valuable resource for all beings on the earth. More than 97.5% of the global water is available as salt water. 70% of the 2.5% is as permanent ice & less than 1% fresh water is available for human consumption.

Water is fundamental for the existence of life on earth. Already the scarcity of consumable water has affected two in five people on earth, & by the year 2025 two-third of the global population will be affected.

Water pollution is the process of contamination of water resources such as surface water, ground water & oceans. Contaminants can be organic or inorganic. Water pollution always may not cause us immediate health issues but consuming contaminated water for a longer period may cause irreversible effects on our health.

Based on world water day we need to think about our responsibilities to protect the water bodies in protective manner. Water is life & it is a shared responsibility of all of us to keep in fresh clean & safe for consumption.
HELP-O has putting hands to prevent the Kelani River pollution due to the irregular waste & water dumping to the river. Biogas technology is the key solution we are implementing to the success of the Pavithra Ganga project theme. After celebrating the world water day there was a special event to initiate the biogas project by putting stepping stone & sign the agreement at Mawaramandiya Pola in Biyagama. Foundation laying for the Bio gas plant as a way to process solid waste, wastewater and toilet waste that otherwise harm the quality of water.

World Water Day highlighting “Water Co-operation” was marked this year in Biyagama on the 22nd of March. The series of events lined up are part of the “Every Drop Matters” [EDM] Project which is a partnership between, the UNDP, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Environment Western Province, Central Environment Authority, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Board of Investments and the Disaster Management Centre & HELP-O.

“Every Drop Matters” Sri Lanka is an innovative multi-stakeholder participatory initiative to protect environment, using water as the central theme. EDM’s central focus is on educating and empowering communities to adapt best practices to embark on sustainable water resource management both in terms of quantity and quality.

EDM Sri Lanka has been working with private sector firms to address the water related environmental issues geographically and/or thematically. EDM approach is expected to revive and reenergize the “Pavithra Ganga Project” initiated by the Ministry of Environment, a pilot intervention on community awareness to prevent water pollution and integrated river basin management in the Kelani River basin.
HELPO Eco Green Ltd has started biogas program in Sri Lankan Airlines, the National Airline of Sri Lanka, is an award winning carrier with a firm reputation as a global leader in service, comfort, safety, reliability and punctuality.

After completing the construction there was technical awareness program regarding the maintenance of biogas unit in proper way. Awareness session was conducted by Mr. Chathura Welivitiya – Managing Director of HELPO Eco Green Ltd. He was clearly pointed out that the need of waste management as a present need to overcome the future environment challenges. In addition to that there was a special explanation about the biogas plan management mechanism to get the maximum benefits from the plant.

This was a new idea for them to manage daily aircraft organic waste & waste from main canteen at the premises. Through this biogas system they can treat more than 700kg organic waste per day & generate 15 m$^3$ free gases. With getting success experience from this biogas system they are willing to expand the system to add sewerage lines with biogas plant. This will be more benefited way to manage sewerage systems.

This will be a better environmental friendly solution & new experience to the world in a way they are trying to use the biogas while finding better answer for organic waste handling. This can be considering as good model to study for others who are eager to attend for green certification through environment management.
HELP-O March Newsletter-2013

## BIOGAS TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS PROGRAM IN KADUGANNAWA & MATALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

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<tr>
<th>Bio Gas Plant of Matale MC</th>
<th>Bio Gas Plant of Kadugannawa MC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity</strong></td>
<td>44m³</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Feeding Waste</strong></td>
<td>Chicken Waste &amp; Fish waste with Fish blood</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Use of Bio gas</strong></td>
<td>As Cooking</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Surrounded</strong></td>
<td>06 Homes</td>
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HELPO Eco Green Ltd was able to implement biogas plants in both Matale & Kadugannawa Mc in this year, as a sustainable solution for the prevailing waste problem of both MC's. There was a technical awareness program regarding the maintenance of the biogas plants in Kadugannawa and Matale on 14th and 15th of March 2013. Municipal Councilors, PHI officers, engineers, technical officers and other staff members, surrounded people of mc’s were participated for the programs.

The main objective of the program was to acknowledge them, about how to maintain the bio gas unit properly for long term use of it. Managing Director Mr. Chathura Weliwitiya was explained the risks of environment pollution by irregular waste dumping, technology of the biogas system, advantages of the biogas plant and specially explained the maintaining system of the plant. In the lecture he highlighted the fact biogas plant can only feed by digesting organic waste, and failure of feeding non digesting materials as metal, glass, polythene, plastic etc. He described the importance of chopping large materials before feeding to the plant, also, described how to check the bio gas pressure of the plant, importance of clearing cooker etc.

After those he explained the importance and utilizing method of marvelous bio fertilizer for cultivation which can use as a hormone, natural fruitful organic fertilizer, and insecticide. Next he answered some questions which were asked by the enthusiastic participants of the program. It was a great pleasure that they appreciated our service for the country and for the whole world. It is a great pleasure to say also we were encouraged by their comments on our projects.
MIC & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY MODEL

After the devastation of TSUNAMI, HELP-O have been assign to do lot of clearance and recovery work on the coastal area of the southern province. We have been observed that the displaced people were really helpless they need to be taken care of someone till they fully recovered.

In order to restore and re-start their businesses and income sources they needed to be get financial assistance. HELP-O was realizing that we were establishing information centers in tsunami victims villages. Through this information centers we could gather more people around that & it was the main focal point to change entire situation at that time. After identification of resource need for the people it was manage through the information centers.

After resource sharing among helpless community they were finding a way to rebuild their lives & HELP-O helps them to saving 50 % from their received. That saving mechanism was expanding & community was ready to face the big challenge of living. This system turns into community financing system & there were small community groups in every village. All the community groups linked to Peoples Company & today it is a co-operative society.

However, this community model made huge impact to change the community attitude beyond the financial uplift through the saving. Small groups are the more powerful instrument in every village & women leaders were empower with this program.

Impacts of the Micro Finance Program

- Able to uplift income
- Organize the people for one purpose
- Change the attitudes way of thinking
- More stronger community network
- Women empowerment
- Decrease the amount of children who not going to school
- Decrease the gender issue
- Able to work with local authorities
- Increase the mutual understanding between members
HELP-O NEWSLETTER

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