

Global Youth Service Day 2009 Celebrated

Like the previous two years, GYSD was celebrated by the National Lead Agency, Peoples Institute for Development and Training (PIDT) on 27th April in New Delhi and Jharkhand. In New Delhi, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) collaborated in the effort. The theme of this year's celebration was **Climate Change**. To mark the occasion, an essay competition was held among 250 public schools of NCR. The subject for junior students (class VI to VIII) was **Resisting Climate Change** and for seniors (class IX to XII) **Co-existing With Climate Change**.

Prizes and certificates were distributed on 27th April at the Gandhi Smriti by Dr. (Mrs.) Aparna Dasgupta, Chairperson, PIDT and others to the winning entries. All the participating schools were awarded certificates of participation. Saplings were also given away to all the participants donated by Mrs. Tripat Parmar, Director, Deeksha.

The program was started with the song 'Swagtam' (welcome) by the students of Deepalaya. Mr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Program Officer, GSDS welcomed the participating teachers and students. Speaking on Resisting Climate Change, Mrs. C. Indira Dasgupta, Director, PIDT said, "one way of changing our present is to change our presents! Along with our gifts to friends and relatives we can make it a habit to also gift a plant or a packet of seeds. As the plant grows, the occasion is remembered and it also contributes to oxygen, reduction of global warming and causes all round happiness".

Mr. Raj Ganguly, Agriculture Specialist, FAO, Reverend Xui Xian, Fo Guang Shan, Ms. Deepika Gupta and her colleague from Center for Environment Education (CEE), . Lalima Aneja Dang, radio jockey and social activist and Mr. Pradep Chaturvedi spoke on the issues related to Climate Change.

In Jharkhand, PIDT Lokshala, Jagdishpur, district Deoghar organized the program on the same day, in many schools of Deoghar. About 1,200 men, women, children, youth, motivators, PIDT staff, SHG members, school Headmasters and the Mukhiya (Headman) of Dhamni panchayat participated. A play, painting, song and essay competition was held on climate change. Discussion was held on how to stop climate change and what we should do to protect our environment. The song 'Per hum sabhi lagayen' (all of us should plant trees) proved to be very popular. The event was highlighted by two regional newspapers 'Dainik Hindustan' and 'Prabhat Khabar' published from Ranchi, the State capital.