

WETLANDS FOR OUR FUTURE! HERE WE JOIN!



World Wetlands Day 2015

On World Wetlands Day, 2nd Feb 2015

SAFE observes the day at Ramsar sites Deepor bill, Assam and East Kolkata Wetlands, West Bengal. Conserving ecosystem services for commons and establish their Biorights is a flagship mission of South Asian Forum for Environment, SAFE, such rights are found falling down in the twirl of development policies and priorities. Deepor bill another mistreated Ramsar site of India, fortunately, still holds the unique community governance model that struggles to guard their 40 square kilometer of precious wetlands, though the naive community does not have the natural fishing rights yet. Dr.Dipayan Dey, Chair, SAFE, said,



“If wetlands are for our future then the prospect of the wetlands communities need to be assured first”. Subsequent to launching Biorights of commons at East Kolkata Wetlands, only Ramsar site of West Bengal, SAFE extends its mission to the wetlands of the North East and will continue to uphold the Biorights of commons, as part of our conservation mission.

Simultaneous events in both the Ramsar sites of Assam and West Bengal received active response from school students, wetlands community, and government stakeholders. World Wetlands

Day 2015 was observed by South Asian Forum Environment(SAFE) in East Kolkata Wetlands, Sukantanagar Bheri with enthusiastic participation from over ninety school students from Sukantanagar Vidyaniketan Kolkata. The theme “Wetland for our future” was celebrated with great zeal by the children in every programme of the event. SAFE initiated the day's celebration in Kolkata with an awareness talk for the school students which was followed by a “Wetlands for our future” campaign walk from Sukantanagar Vidyaniketan school to Sukantanagar co-



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operative bheri with the school children. This march was swathed with flags, banners and festoons with awareness messages to highlight the importance of our wetlands. At Sukantanagar, the students were briefed with the importance East Kolkata Wetlands which was followed with a Painting and Essay competition on " Save our Wetlands." A Tree Plantation programme was also carried out by the children to sensitize them about the importance of trees for the health of the wetlands. A "Human Chain" by the students concluded the day's event.



We thank all for joining hands to speed the conserve wetlands movement...World Wetlands Day, is a platform that unites us for change. We appreciate the valuable contribution made by Purnaram Das, President Deepor Bill Pach Para Samabai Samitee, (DBPPSS) Dr.Bhupen Das, Chief Advisor DBPPS, Samitee, Abhay Bhaishya, Forest Department, Guwahati. Mr.Kakoti, OSD-in-Charge, Guwahati Municipal Corporation,

GMC, Mr. Samar Bijoy Das, Social Development Specialist, GMC addressed the community members on the problems concerning conservation aspects of Deepor Bill. We also thank Sukantanagar Samiti of East Kolkata Wetlands, for jointly organizing the event with us.

We applaud our warriors of wetlands, Chiranjeet Chatterjee, Anando Ghosh, Amrita Chatterjee, Charu Sarkar, Peu Palit, Rabita Singh, Pinak Das, Amita Kaushik, Chanchal Das, Asmita Ghosh, Mrinmoyee Naskar, Abhijit Sarkar, Tapas Naskar, Sayan Mitra, Saikat Karmakar, Shyamal Sen, and Soumen Jasu.

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