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*e-newsletter*

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Volume 2

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*2013*

*NMNH family wishes a very Happy  
&  
Prosperous New Year to You*

## **NMNH HQ, New Delhi**

### **Foreign Visitors**

On 21st January, 2013 John H. Falk and Lynn D. Dierking, Sea Grant Professors in Free-Choice Learning, Oregon State University, USA visited National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi and discussed with staff of the Museum. They shared their experiences of working with Museum visitors in US with the staff of NMNH.

On 22nd January 2013 Ayako Iwatami, Associate Professor from Hiroshima University visited the Museum and discussed with the Director about possible collaboration on Intangible Natural heritage especially with reference to the ecological aspects of Kalbelia in Rajasthan

### **Staff training**

Dr. Reena Dey, Scientist-C and Sh. K. S. Attri, Sr. Educational Assistant participated in a National workshop on Museum Evaluation and Visitor Research held at National Science Centre, New Delhi during 17th to 19th January, 2013. The workshop was conducted by John H. Falk and Lynn D. Dierking, Sea Grant Professors in Free-Choice Learning, Oregon State University, USA.

### **National workshop on Museum Evaluation and Visitor Research**

A National Workshop on Museum Evaluation and Visitor Research was held at National Science Centre, New Delhi from 17 to 19 January 2013. John H. Falk and Lynn D. Dierking, Sea Grant Professors in Free-Choice Learning, Oregon State University, USA were the Guests and Resource Persons for the workshop. Sh. G. S. Rautela, Director General, NCSM gave the introductory talk. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH was also present during the inauguration of the workshop.

The participants were introduced to Free-Choice Learning in museums and Contextual Model of Learning. There was talk on Museums as Societal Institutions and as nearly every museum offer special programmes and tours to the school groups, interaction with the visitors is important. There was another talk on Understanding Physical Dimensions of Learning in the museums. Good design of the exhibitions and properly designed labels make the things easy and visitor friendly. Introducing to Museum Evaluation, the points discussed were: what is evaluation and why it is important? How to ensure that evaluation is integral part of all exhibitions / programmes development and various types of evaluation: Front-end evaluation, Formative evaluation and Summative evaluation. It was emphasized that Evaluation is a process, a set of tools to use during all phases of project development and series of feedback loops within development process to incorporate learner's views into exhibition or program. This was followed by a talk on how to conduct visitor research. Research Guidelines were discussed using some case studies done in American Museums. To evaluate the visitors a discussion was held on Designing Questionnaire in such a way to make the whole process a pleasant experience for the visitors.

In the end it was emphasized that museums should work collaboratively for & with citizens to identify content that is valuable, empowering and meets needs of community, rather than deciding what community needs to know?

## **Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore**

### **Winter Nature Camp**

The Museum conducted the Winter Nature Camp- 2012-13 at Sita Nadi Nature Camp in Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary on 9th & 10th January, 2013. The camp was conducted for the students of rural High School of Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District. Altogether 15 students from 11 different schools registered for participation in the above camp through a written test on environment.

At Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, the participants were exposed to the tropical rain forests of Western Ghats through lectures, slide shows, nature trails, film shows and nature games. The participants also had an opportunity to explore the biodiversity of tropical rain forest through a trek to Sita Nadi as well as Kodlu Theerta falls. The bounty of nature was very much appreciated and admired by all the participants of the camp. The participants were honoured with the participatory certificates by the Range Forest Officer of Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary.

The participants of the camp also visited Kavi Shyla i.e. Dr.Kuvempu's Museum at Koppalli in Theerthalli. Shimoga Dist. on their return journey to pandavapura.

## **Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal**

### **Winter Nature Camp at Pachmarhi**

A Winter Nature Camp (WNC) was arranged at Pachmarhi during January 2-4, 2013. Twenty selected participants from various schools of Bhopal participated in the nature camp.

### **Wildlife Fortnight**

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal organized a programme on wildlife fortnight on 6th January, 2013. On this occasion, the prizes and certificates were distributed to the awardees and participants of three programmes, namely Poster design competition, Quiz competition and Winter nature study camp at Pachmarhi conducted earlier. Dr. U. R. Singh, Former Director (R&T), EPCO, Bhopal and Dr. Avinash Karera From M.P. Pollution Control Board were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour.

## **Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneshwar**

### **Winter Nature Camp-2012-13:**

Winter Nature Camp 2012-13 was organized on 7th & 8th January 2013 at Bhitarkanika National Park for the 20 selected students born between 1st April 1996 to 31st March 1999. The objectives of the camp was to explore the mangrove biodiversity, to provide first-hand field knowledge about flora & fauna, to make students aware of the conservation aspects of the mangrove ecosystem, to orient students about wildlife, to expose them to the habitat of Olive Ridley nesting sites and to make them understand the impact of socio-cultural aspects of Bhitarkanika National Park. Publicity was made through banners and circulars. Registration was held from 4 to 6 December 2012.

## National Seminar on Folklore & Intangible Natural Heritage (12 – 14 Jan-2013)

A three day national seminar on folklore and intangible natural heritage was organized from 12th to 14th January in collaboration with Folkland-international centre for folklore and culture, Kasargod, INTACH, Bhubaneswar, CIIL, Mysore. The themes were Nature worship and folklore, ecology, modernization and folklore, displacement, migration and nature, documentation of folklore in the digital world, voices of the voiceless and intangible heritage etc. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH delivered the key note address on the theme Museums, traditional knowledge , Intangible Heritage and folklore. The seminar was inaugurated in the presence of Dr.



*Director, NMNH addressing the gathering at the National Seminar on INH*

Sivaramakrishna Head, Centre for Lexicography & Folklore, CIIL, Dr. S. N. Barman, Former Director, CIIL, Dr. Mahendra Kumar Misra, Eminent Folklorist of Odisha, INTACH, Shri Anant Mahapatra, Advisor, INTACH, Shri A. B. Tripathy, Convener, INTACH-Odisha Chapter and Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH, New Delhi. Shri G. N. Indresha, Scientist-C & H.O., RMNH, Bhubaneswar welcome all the dignitaries and guests followed by the introductory address by Dr. V. Jayarajan, Chairman, Folkland International Center for Folklore & Culture.

## Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 for JNVs of Odisha



*Students of JNV engrossed in writing Written Quiz*

Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 for JNVs of Odisha was held at JNV, FCI, Talcher, Angul District on 18th January-2013 and at JNV, Surangi, Ganjam District on 20th January-2013. The programme included a written quiz on environment of 30 minutes duration followed by film show on nature, environment & wildlife of 30 min. duration, presentation on poisonous and non-poisonous snakes and interaction with the participants. A total no. of 202 students participated in the quiz competition and about 980 students took part in the interaction session about the nature conservation,

biodiversity and ecology through Power Point Presentation by Scientist-C & H.O. The winners of each school were awarded with cash prize of Rs. 1,000/-, Rs. 750/-, 500/- as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively along with 05 consolation prizes of Rs. 200/- each and certificates in the presence of the Principal and staff of the respective schools.

# **Regional Museum of Natural History, Sawai Madhopur**

## **Development of Exhibition**

The development of the Exhibition on "Biodiversity of Rajasthan" is in the final stage.

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**Coordinator:** Naaz Rizvi, Scientist D, National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi-110001

**Co-coordinators:**

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