

Handprint Challenge–2014 winners from across Asia-Pacific awarded;

College students take the lead in promoting sustainability

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, 24th February, 2015: On 24th February, 2015, winners of the Handprint Challenge-2014 were felicitated and awarded at the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) in Ahmedabad (Gujarat), India. Aimed at promoting sustainability among college students across Asia-Pacific, the Handprint Challenge-2014 is an initiative of the South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN), and supported by the UNEP.

Five colleges, from Nepal, India and Philippines, were awarded Handprint Flags, winning certificates and an additional prize of USD 500 each during the two-day event. These include the Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Tamilnadu (India), Tri-Chandra Multiple Campus (Nepal), St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad (India), Caraga State University Cabadbaran Campus (Philippines) and Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (Nepal). The projects they worked on included creation of a microhabitat for butterflies, developing entrepreneurship through college waste management, site specific art installations to enhance and promote biodiversity, and waste management.



Students fro Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Tamil Nadu, India, showcasing their action project wherein they created a butterfly garden in their campus and identified over 50 species



Students from M.G Science, Ahmedabad, India showcasing Campus Biodiversity park project and explaining their idea of creating biodiversity trails throughout their campus



Team from Nepal showcasing their project which focuses on Waste management and Entrepreneurship

An exhibition presenting the work done by the finalists, and a field visit to one of the Handprint Challenge winning colleges in the city (St. Xavier's, Ahmedabad) - for the participants to witness first-hand the impact made during the Challenge - also formed an important part of the two-day event.

Dignitaries from UNEP, Wipro and other esteemed institutions graced the event, which also attempted at reflecting on the Handprint Challenge journey in its first year and preparing for the next phase. The event ended with the announcement of the next phase of the Handprint Challenge.

About Handprint Challenge-2014

Undertaken as part of the UNEP-UNESCO UNertia campaign, the Handprint Challenge-2014, in its first year, witnessed phenomenal participation from colleges across Asia-Pacific, and especially those outside South Asia, namely – Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia. Teams were asked to identify sustainability issues on their campus and propose an action plan for them to implement in the coming months. 20 teams were selected as challenge finalists after the first round of judgment by an international jury, of which 19 teams eventually completed the challenge. The teams shared the progress reports with the Challenge Secretariat on a regular basis, which were later compiled and shared with the international jury. The preliminary qualifiers were initially given a seed funding of upto USD 750 each to implement their action plans and carry out sustainability activities on campus.