thoughts through such activities. Lastly, all I would say is, do your own dirty work and clean it up yourself!"

The clean up program continued for three hours and later all the teams sat down to count the number of trash that they had collected. It is an effort of the Ocean Conservancy to keep a track on the materials that people usually litter on the beach and that way they would understand how the progress is going as well as keeping a record in their database. Each student counted the cigarette butts, beverage bottles, plastics, food wrappers and other items, which they reported to the team leader. The leader had a form, which was designed specifically for such items, and the numbers were being stored. Yves Marre, the founder of Friendship Floating Hospital, was also present in the programme and when asked about how he felt, he simply was overwhelmed by the efforts of the students. "I sailed all the way from France to Bangladesh back in 1994 and later decided to set up a mobile hospital. I am now settled here for good and I really like Bangladesh." He says that people are very hospitable and generous, it only takes the right kinds of approach to make them aware of their doings and if the right message is delivered then it is not hard to get positive feedbacks as well. "Seeing the students working with such dedication makes me feel good. They are the youth and they will make the world a better place to live in. Today, we are celebrating International Coastal Cleanup day, and I would want all the young people to be united in this cause and help to improve our future," he adds.

The locals had very positive views about the students who were working at the beach. Rony who runs a tourism business says, "The tourists are the ones who litter the beach the most. We should put in certain rules, because this is our beach and it is our responsibility to take care of it."

"I am totally impressed with the way students have taken up this initiative," says a surfer from Hawaii, "this kind of act needs to be done and it is so good to see that the Bangladeshi students are taking up the challenge to prove to the world. I have travelled a lot of places and did participate in coastal cleanups. I did contribute this time as well and it feels great to be a part of it."



Bangladeshi students are taking up the challenge to prove to the world. If right approaches are taken then we do can get positive results

The International Coastal Cleanup has indeed made a point in our country and how badly we need it. Along with the students, it is also the responsibility of every tourist to cooperate with the authority and keep the beach clean. If we call ourselves to be educated and claim to have good reasoning and understanding then it is also our duty to help those who are involved in such noble work and change the environment.

Photos: Yamin Tauseef Jahangir