

Grooming School Students to Save the World

KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

The Earth Club of North South University organised the grand finale of its “13th Environmental School Campaign” on June 6, 2017 at the university’s Bashundhara campus. The month-long event included various activities for school students to spread awareness on environmental issues.

The campaign began back in March this year. Members of the Earth Club visited different schools in Dhaka – namely Academia, International Turkish Hope School, Prottoy Inclusive English Medium School, Siddeshwari Boys’ High School, Nahar School, Prottoy Ideal School, South Point School and College, Hurdco International School, Mastermind, Playpen, Jaago, Lakehead Grammar School, Happy Times International School, St. Joseph Higher Secondary School – and engaged the students in activities while sharing knowledge about the environment at the same time.

Teams of five students each were formed at every school. Events included documentary show, quiz contests and a special recycling camp. Winning team from each school qualified for the final round that was held at the university campus.

The finalists competed in a gruelling environmental Olympiad followed by an extempore speech. Each team were given the task to find solutions for specific environmental problems, within time limits.



PHOTO: MONDIP RAHMAN

The Earth Club also celebrated World Environmental Day 2016 with an informative seminar and discussion session, held earlier during the finale. Chaired by Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, NSU, the session hosted Md. Raisul Islam Mondal, Director General, Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment & Forests, and Dr. G.U. Ahsan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, NSU, as special guests. The chief guest of the event was Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Secretary, Public Safety Division, Ministry of Home Affairs. Chairman of the Environmental Science and Management department, Md. Jakariya, PhD, was also present.

All the guests pinpointed the issues of global warming, deforestation, sea level

rise and hoped that solutions raised through such initiatives are implemented in the real world via concerned authorities. They praised the wholehearted presence and participation of the school students.

Lastly, medals and trophies were awarded to the winners of the competitions. The teams from St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Academia, and Hurdco International School won the top prizes – 2nd runner-up, 1st runner-up, and champion respectively.

Rubaiyat Rahman Shuvro, student of Class IV and member of the Hurdco team, was ecstatic at their win. “I have learned a lot through this campaign. Now I will start being more environment-friendly

and tell my school friends to do the same,” he said.

“The Environmental School Campaign is one of our biggest events,” mentioned Sifat Rahman, President of the Earth Club, “We try our best to spread the word about environmental issues and its protection and practices through our events. Our next event, ‘Champions of Earth’, promises to be the biggest environmental idea generation competition.”

SHOUT was the Youth Engagement Partner of the event.

Kazi Akib Bin Asad is a Sub-editor at Shout who likes to travel and collect puns from all over the world. Follow him and his adventures on [instagram.com/akibasad](https://www.instagram.com/akibasad)

Stockholm beckons for Junior Water Prize winners

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Team from Mastermind School wins ticket to Sweden as Bangladesh finds her junior water innovators who would represent the country in the international finals of Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

The Bangladesh Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWPBD) is a national competition where the winning team gets to participate in the international finals of Stockholm Junior Water Prize, held during the World Water Week in August. Participants from more than 30 countries compete with their projects that would devise solution to global water problems. The selected finalists get a life time experience as they meet other likeminded innovators to build a lasting network and exchange inspiring ideas and view with one another.

This year, Rituraj Das Gupta, Aniruddha Chowdhury and Arnab Chakraborty from Mastermind School won the title of champions. Their project was on using titanium dioxide photocatalyst in degradation of industrial dyes. The project is designed to be cheap, feasible and an effective method of industrial greywater treatment.



The national competition was organised by House of Volunteers, Bangladesh while WaterAid Bangladesh was a co-organiser in the hunt for scalable water projects by 15-20 years of age school and college students of the country. From a total of 75 educational institutions in Dhaka and Chittagong, 35 teams participated in the competition among which 7

teams qualified as finalists for the national competition. A six-member jury consisting of researchers from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), and WaterAid Bangladesh supervised the competition.

The final round of the competition was held at Bishwa Shahitto Kendro on June 10, 2017. The event was graced by Professor Dr. M. Habibur Rahman,

Chairman of Dhaka WASA, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, BUET as chief guest and Dr. Khairul Islam, Country Representative of WaterAid Bangladesh, as special guest along with Niklas Skogsjö, First Secretary Division of Environment and Climate Change Development Cooperation Section, Embassy of Sweden, Dhaka.

House of Volunteers (HoV), Bangladesh is a youth-led non profit organisation that started its journey in 2007. Although, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) has been facilitating the competition since 1997, it is the third time Bangladesh is holding the competition after successful completion of the national competitions in 2015 and 2016. HoV, Bangladesh organise the competition each year as the nominated national organiser by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

Previously, in 2015, a team from St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, comprised of Navid Haider, Sk. Rifayet Daiyan Srijon, and Labib Tazwar won the competition and Bakhtiyar Zaman Bhuiyan of the same institution became champion in 2016.