

Project Update: June 2009

World Environment Day Celebration

In keeping with our practice of observing major events in the environment and wildlife calendar, Samrakshan Trust's Meghalaya field Office observed World Environment Day 2009 in collaboration with the Social Forestry Department of South Garo Hills district. The theme of this year's World Environment Day Celebration was 'Anti-mining' and "Wild Animals are not Pets'. The programme comprised a drawing competition for young children and an essay competition for older ones. There was also an extempore speech contest for adults on the theme of the day.

Prior to the competition a brief introduction to world environment day was shared. The drawing and essay contests were conducted simultaneously and were followed by the extempore speech competition, where adults, especially women, participated enthusiastically. The participants spoke forcefully about the ravages of mining as well as leaving wild animals in the wild. Even the judges in the end of the extempore speech competition summarised and shared the main opinions and views of the participants.

The contests were over by noon, after which a general village meeting was organised. The meeting was chaired by Mr. T. Debroy (DFO, Social Forestry Department) and included Mr. D.D. Sangma (Additional Deputy Commissioner, South Garo Hills) and Mr. Anurag Kumar (Superintendent of Police, South Garo Hills). The meeting started with a welcome speech by a community representative. Chief Guest Mr. D.D Sangma in his speech spoke about the environmental threats to Garo hills and also appealed to the community to protect the environment from those threats. After the Chief Guest's speech, prizes were distributed to the winners of the contests. Mr. T. Debroy in his speech focused on the ill effects of coal mining. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the head man of Rongru Asim village.

At the end of the programme we planted some saplings in the school campus and also distributed these among the villagers. As a part of the programme we a cleanliness drive to remove plastic garbage from the locality was also undertaken.



