



BASF advances Water Education project in Mangalore

- Water laboratories established in two nodal schools
- Focus on water education, handling water responsibly and equipping schools and students to test water quality
- Project targets at benefiting 5000 students from 25 schools in Mangalore
- UN-Habitat and TERI: Key partners in the drive

Mangalore, India – December 13, 2011 – As part of the project “Promotion of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Education and Water Quality Monitoring in Mangalore City, India”, water quality testing laboratories are being jointly established by BASF, UN-Habitat and TERI in eight schools in Mangalore.

The groundwork for water laboratories at two nodal schools - Vidyadayini High School, Surathkal and Jilla Panchayath Model Higher Primary School, Katipalla, 7th Block is now completed. Mr. Purandar Shetty, Sr. General Manager, BASF Mangalore Works, today unveiled the water laboratories in the presence of senior officials of BASF, UN-Habitat, TERI, Management of Vidyadayini School and the students.

“The new water testing laboratories will enable students and teachers to test drinking water quality in strategic locations and selected communities in the cities of Mangalore and Surathkal,” said Mr. Shetty in his inaugural address. The laboratories are equipped with glassware, reagents, apparatus, laboratory equipments and resource materials on water education. These will enable students to analyze the physical and chemical aspects of water, track impurities as well as acquire skills on how to purify water. “The aim is to bring about behavioral change among young students regarding water use,” Mr. Shetty added.

“With the expertise of TERI and the specially designed water quality testing kit, the schools will be well-equipped to examine the quality of drinking water. Several awareness generation activities will also be conducted throughout the duration of the project,” said Ms. Ranjana Saikia, Director, Educating Youth for Sustainable Development, TERI. “The focus of these activities will be creation of an environment-friendly cadre of youth in the targeted location,” she emphasized.

Commenting on the good progress of the project, Dr. Pradip Nandi, Chief Technical Advisor, Water for Asian Cities Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Program said, "It is my privilege to be present here on this occasion. We are thankful to TERI for their sincere effort and intellectual input. This is a first step towards achieving the goal of creating an informed community through a school-led community water quality monitoring program. This will hopefully facilitate the community having no access to safe drinking water to adopt adequate measures to minimize water borne diseases."

BASF, in partnership with UN-HABITAT, launched the Water Education project in May 2011 this year. The project is funded by BASF Social Foundation and TERI is chosen as the implementation partner. Targeting 5000 students from 25 schools in Mangalore, the project aims at focusing on water education, handling water responsibly and equipping schools and students to test water quality in schools as well as communities in the nearby vicinity over the next two years.

Out of the 25 schools, eight schools will be equipped with "water laboratories" to facilitate water quality monitoring and two schools will have "water classrooms" to educate students on water cycle and water conservation methods. Specially trained teachers will train students throughout the project duration.

About BASF

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and agricultural products to oil and gas. As a reliable partner BASF creates chemistry to help its customers in virtually all industries to be more successful. With its high-value products and intelligent solutions, BASF plays an important role in finding answers to global challenges such as climate protection, energy efficiency, nutrition and mobility. BASF posted sales of about €63.9 billion in 2010 and had approximately 109,000 employees as of the end of the year. Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com or in its Social Media Newsroom at newsroom.basf.com.

About BASF in India

For more than a century, BASF has been partnering India's progress with its vast knowledge in the field of chemistry and high quality products that cater to a wide range of industries. As a dependable partner to stakeholders, BASF offers innovative, hi-tech and safe solutions. BASF in India is currently engaged in the business of manufacturing & marketing of Styropor®, tanning agents, leather chemicals and auxiliaries, crop protection chemicals, textile chemicals, dispersions and specialty chemicals, performance plastics, automotive and coil coatings, construction chemicals, polystyrene and polyurethane systems. BASF is also involved in marketing a wide range of intermediates, catalysts and other chemicals for life sciences, chemical and allied industries in India.

About UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT is the United Nations agency for Human Settlements mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable communities, towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all and sustainable development.

About TERI

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a non-profit, policy research organization working in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development. It was established in 1974, with the purpose of tackling and dealing with the problems that mankind is likely to face in the future. Over the years the Institute has developed a wider interpretation of this core purpose and its application. Consequently, TERI has created an environment that is enabling, dynamic and inspiring for the development of solutions to global problems in the fields of energy, environment and current patterns of development, which are largely unsustainable.

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