

4S FESTIVAL 2013



 WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY | 2013

THINK-EAT-SAVE

FESTIVAL4S 2013 THEME

Save Planet
Environment
Life
Future

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Foreword

The main aim of the World Environmental Day is to remember us of our "**Existence**". It means the dependency of mankind on our earth planet and our relationships, responsibilities towards protecting, saving our **Oxygen**, without which we can't live. This day has assumed a greater place in our lives by tuning attentions from comfortable living to the very foundation on which our entire mankind has been residence. We may have different opinions on various issues but our planet, environment doesn't. If we imagine that there is no planet, environment, then where is the discussion to fight for comfortable living. Whatever we are, however we are, whatever may be our strength or the development, does not equated with our lovely planet and its environment. We are just a single drop of this entire ocean called universe.

All our relations are desperately related with and subjected to the very effects of this world. Almost we have damaged our environment for our selfish need (development) by thinking that we are the owners of this planet. But we are just the guests on this planet and we have so many responsibilities to save, protect the place in which we are being given an opportunity **only to live**. If we are forgetting of being guests and starting doing damage (already made colossal damage) as the owners, then this planet will throw us out through its disastrous effects caused by us which are beyond our control and the only way out may be to **extinct** for no gain. The Environmental Day remind us not only to create awareness, carving out developmental strategies, just holding brain storming sessions, but also ordering us for immediate action to protect environment and the planet.

World Environment Day is an excellent concept that is much needed due to today's negative environmental impact on our planet. Our planet is changing at a fast pace and without intervention our society will use up all the resources that we use to function. Our planet is not replaceable and in order to leave behind a planet that is habitable for future generations, then societies the world over must work together to improve the quality of our planet. The United Nations General Assembly set -up World Environment Day in 1972. It is held annually on June 5th and serves to make the world alert about the environment and create political action to address the needs of protection for our planet. By celebrating World Environment Day Festival 2013.

Background

The United Nations General Assembly setup World Environment Day in 1972. It is held annually on June 5th and serves to make the world alert about the environment and create political action to address the needs of protection for our planet. The Environmental Day remind us not only to create awareness, carving out developmental strategies, just holding brain storming sessions, but also ordering us for immediate action to protect environment and the planet. World Environment Day is an excellent concept that is much needed due to today's negative environmental impact on our planet. Our planet is not replaceable and in order to leave behind a planet that is habitable for future generations, societies the world over must work together to improve the quality of our planet.

Environmental Facts:

Pakistan is on the edge of major climatic change due to environmental disaster, which includes increase in temperature, soil erosion, migration of fauna and depletion in varieties of flora. A nation with a population of 177 million has an average population density of 222 persons per sq km, higher than many other developing countries. With an estimated 37 percent of its population living in cities, Pakistan is the highly urbanized country in South Asia. Serious risks of irreversible damages are in offing due to air and water pollution, mismanagement of solid waste and destruction of fragile ecosystems.

All three partners, AJK-EPA, ACT & ECO, believes that all these issues are solely related with the life of citizens of this country but unfortunately from today's situation our policy makers are not looking like the citizens of this country, they even don't want at least to know the situation and its drastic impacts on our future generations.

Major Environmental Challenges of AJ&K:

- Deforestation
- Air quality deterioration
- Contamination of drinking water sources due to sewage mixing.
- Poor state of solid waste management. Inefficient collection and zero safe disposals.
- Sedimentation of water bodies due to unchecked dumping of excavated material into rivers and streams; a serious threat to the life Mangla Reservoir.
- Land sliding/degradation due to uncontrolled infrastructure development activities.

About World Environment Day Festival at Muzaffarabad 2013:

With an aim to educate and sensitize the society on environmental issues and the challenges facing the planet, the Environmental Protection Agency Govt. of AJ&K (AJK-EPA), ACT International and ECO have planned to observe 'World Environment Day' on June 06, 2013 in Muzaffarabad, the Capital of the State by arranging a mega event in the form of FESTIVAL.

Theme

The theme of the festival is "Festival 4S: Save environment, save planet, save life, save future."

Date

June 06, 2013 (Thursday)

Overall Goal

The overall goal of the programme is to educate the children, youth and communities on environmental issues and garner the support from public and private sector stakeholders for protection of environment and the planet. The event would attract the society towards their role and responsibilities in protecting and preserving the planet who are mainly focused only on their own development, advancement and well-being.

Expected Outcome:

We envisage the following key impacts of WED Festival 4S 2013;

- Sensitized communities to act responsibly for a safer and healthy environment;
- Apprised children and youth to behave meticulously and take care of the mother earth;
- Political leadership to be responsive in formulation of environment-friendly policies;
- Efforts for a clean and green globe to get a boast in this part of the world;
- Future generations and living species to have a safer planet;

About the Organizers:

1. Environmental Protection Agency, Govt. of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK-EPA)

Established under AJ&K Environmental Protection Act, 2000:

Environmental Protection Act, 2000, provides for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of environment, Prevention & Control of pollution and, promotion of sustainable development in AJ&K. The functions of the Agency, EPA, include;

- To administer and enforce the provisions of Act, Rules & Regulation.
- Preparation and implementation of environmental policies & NEQSSs.
- Encourage NGOs and communities for environment protection.
- Render advice and assistance to Govt. and other agencies in environmental matters.
- Environmental Screening of the development project to promote sustainable development.
- Establishing system and procedure for pollution control and promote mass awareness on environment.

2. ACT-International:

ACT International is a not for profit rights based organization which is striving to empower communities to recover, progress and advance by building peoples' engagement, capacity and partnership focusing women and children for a better tomorrow. It pursues its mission through grassroots institutional development and networking with local civil society groups and organizations; Sustainable economic development, education, health, environment, youth development, child development that integrates child rights, protection and improvement of service provision to reduce neglect, abuse and exploitation, emergency relief services and recovery and rehabilitation initiatives that assist people affected by conflict or disaster.

ACT-International sees that today's humans are focused only on their personal development but least bothered about the planet despite the fact that both are interconnected. Today we find ourselves at a point where our planet has been severely damaged, from its ecosystems, to the ozone layer. ACT is striving for preserving this planet for the future generations by educating people - children and youth on sustainable development, sustainable living and sustainable future. It aims to give a human presence to environmental problems, empowering citizens to engage in projects to heal the earth and prevent further damage, help communities understand that it is their responsibility to make changes and that they can do it together, and to implore people to become partners in the cause of protecting the environment.

3. Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO)

Established in Feb. 2013, the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) is a non-profit, non-political and non-discriminatory organization that has been registered under the Society ACT 1860/21.

ECO's primary goal is to improve the quality of citizen's life through environmental protection and conservation. ECO believes in serving humanity irrespective of their age, gender, religion, race and nationality, thereby fostering a society that respects human rights and treats all individuals equal as postulated in the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). ECO aims to render services mainly in environmental conservation, social development, and provision of clean drinking water, capacity building and dissemination of information on environmental and other social issues.

Other Stakeholders:

Other concerned stakeholders include;

- Forest Department,
- Education Department,
- Tourism Department,
- Health Department,
- Wildlife Department,
- Agriculture Department,
- Municipal Corporation,
- NGOs working on environment,

are the key stakeholders to exhibit their works/roles in addressing the environmental challenges.

Participants

The target audience included school/college from public sector and private systems (boys/girls), university students, community elders, parents/teachers as well as government officials, representatives from national and international organization.

Venue

The proposed venue for the event is Neelum View Hotel, Muzaffarabad.

Program Activities:

- Inauguration of the Festival at 5:30 pm
- Round to the enclosures set up by the concerned departments
- Airing of the documentaries on environment and the planet at video house
- Presentations, lectures and discussion forums at different enclosures
- Recording of live audio/video messages by the visitors/participants
- Painting environment live by university students
- Skits by the children and youth on environment
- Environment song by children
- Live theatre on the theme of the festival by local artistes
- Concluding/prize distribution ceremony at 8:30 pm followed by the dinner
- Signing of the mural and pledge document



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