GLOBE ASIA – PACIFIC REGIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE

AP RCO Coordinator - Dr. Desh Bandhu





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Theme Navigating Sustainability: Empowering Communities through Environmental Action (April'23 – March'24)

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

1. Following the regional meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam in April 2023, the AP RCO has spearheaded numerous initiatives for the GLOBE community in the region. 2. Notably, AP RCO facilitated a GLOBE Teachers Training workshop in Bangladesh to re-establish the GLOBE Program after a decade. Additionally, we organized a Learning Expedition to the Sea in Maldives in October 2023, completed Capacity Building Training, conducted a Virtual Wetland Symposium to showcase student research, and hosted webinars to foster regional connectivity. 3. To ensure widespread dissemination and community engagement, AP RCO uploads all webinar recordings to its YouTube Channel and shares details across various social media platforms within the regional community. 4. The presentation highlights some of the key regional achievements and activities undertaken by AP RCO.



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GLOBE TRAINING WORKSHOP IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH (MAY 14-17, 2023)

- The GLOBE Asia and Pacific Regional Coordination Office (AP RCO), in collaboration with the GLOBE Implementation Office and the U.S. Embassy Dhaka, along with Brighters Society Bangladesh (GLOBE - Bangladesh), orchestrated the inaugural GLOBE Teacher Training workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh in May 2023 (14-17). This initiative aimed to re-launch the GLOBE Program in the country.
- The primary objective of the program was to enhance the capacity of GLOBE volunteers and facilitate activities and projects addressing local environmental issues through practical environmental education.
- This project marked the revival of The GLOBE Program in Bangladesh after a hiatus of 10 years. Its goal was to instill genuine scientific curiosity within the school community. Capacity-building efforts were geared towards enabling schools to sustain hands-on environmental activities in the long run.



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GLOBE TRAINING WORKSHOP IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH (MAY 14-17, 2023)



Participants identifying mosquito larva using micro lenses & Observer app during GLOBE teacher training Workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This is the first Training in 10 Years in Bangladesh to reengage **GLOBE** Program



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Group Photograph of the Participants with Coordinator - GLOBE AP RCO, Ms. Sivani Rasanayakam, Economic Officer, U.S. Embassy Dhaka, Dr. R.K. Garg & Ms. Joan B. Callope.



GLOBE CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR ASIA – PACIFIC REGION

Reinventing Community Engagement and Empowerment through Data Literacy and Learning activities of the GLOBE Program

- The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Office (AP RCO) has effectively concluded the Capacity Building Project (CBP) in the Asia-Pacific region. This endeavor comprised two in-person workshops, one virtual workshop, comprehensive training sessions on GLOBE protocols and data visualization, and the production of seven informative online videos. Notably, participants from Maldives utilized their CBP training during an expedition, actively applying GLOBE protocols, and even extended the reach of GLOBE by introducing it to two additional schools.
- Furthermore, AP RCO has promptly submitted the final report to the GLOBE Implementation Office (GIO) and has diligently updated their learning activity page with the most recent resources, ensuring accessibility to the latest educational materials...
- Efficiently executed project initiatives: All scheduled activities, encompassing two face-to-face workshops held in Hanoi and Denver, alongside a virtual workshop, were accomplished with success.
- Robust regional involvement: Countries spanning the Asian region actively engaged in the workshops, indicating a robust regional interest in GLOBE protocols and data visualization.
- **Propagation of knowledge:** Participants from Maldives not only underwent training on GLOBE protocols but also applied them during an expedition, subsequently introducing GLOBE to new educational institutions. This highlights the project's effectiveness in disseminating knowledge.
- Sustained communication with participating countries ensured ongoing engagement and facilitated the exchange of knowledge regarding post-workshop activities.
- Enhanced resource accessibility: The RCO Learning activity page was updated with resources and video materials, ensuring convenient access for future reference and learning endeavors.



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GLOBE CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR ASIA – PACIFIC REGION





Group Photograph of the Participants during Virtual Training of GLOBE Capacity Building Training for AP Countries on 15th February 2023.

Group Photograph of the Participants during GLOBE Capacity Building Training for Asian Countries in Hanoi, Vietnam on 14th & 17th March, 2023.











Group Photograph of the Participants during GLOBE Capacity Building Training for Pacific Countries in Denver, Colorado on 16th & 19th July, 2023.

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2023 GLOBE LEARNING EXPEDITION TO THE SEA

- The GLOBE Asia Pacific Regional Coordination Office, alongside GLOBE-Maldives, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the GLOBE Implementation Office, orchestrated a three-day Learning Expedition to the Sea in Malé, Maldives, occurring from September 30 to October 4, 2023.
- The primary aim of this expedition was to establish a platform for a diverse array of participants to engage in practical learning regarding the repercussions of climate change in the region, utilizing pertinent GLOBE protocols. Additionally, it aimed to foster an environment for the exchange of experiences concerning the GLOBE program and cultural insights.
- A total of 151 participants from seven countries (India, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam) enthusiastically took part in the expedition. These participants actively employed GLOBE protocols to gather data on various environmental factors, including water quality, coral reefs, plankton, among others.
- Furthermore, they were instructed on leveraging GLOBE data to enhance comprehension of the Earth System dynamics and to aid in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Beyond the scientific endeavors, participants were immersed in Maldivian culture through traditional music, dance, and delectable cuisine, enriching their overall experience.



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2023 GLOBE LEARNING EXPEDITION TO THE SEA





Students Collecting GLOBE data on Hydrosphere protocol at the study site in Hulhumalé.

Participating Students gearing up to study the Coral Reefs at Muhiyudheen School in Villingili Island during the Expedition to the Sea.



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2024 GLOBE ASIA – PACIFIC VIRTUAL WETLAND SYMPOSIUM

- GLOBE Asia-Pacific orchestrated a virtual symposium on February 2nd, 2024, in honor of World Wetlands Day. The symposium was themed "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing," spotlighting the crucial significance of wetlands in maintaining ecological equilibrium.
- A total of 90 participants from 10 countries, namely Bhutan, India, Micronesia, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Thailand, convened to deliberate on wetland conservation strategies.
- During the event, 25 projects, led by students, were presented, covering diverse facets of wetland research and management.
- Wetlands were underscored as pivotal ecosystems, serving essential functions such as water filtration, coastline protection, biodiversity preservation, and climate regulation.
- Raise awareness about wetlands and tackle water pollution through collective action.
- Engage students in research projects as an educational tool to inform communities and promote proactive environmental stewardship, facilitated by GLOBE Protocols, fostering global collaboration among students, educators, and scientists to enhance environmental literacy and stewardship.



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2024 GLOBE ASIA – PACIFIC VIRTUAL WETLAND SYMPOSIUM



Group Photo: Commemorating the Participants of the 2024 GLOBE Asia-Pacific Virtual Wetland Symposium as we come together to explore and conserve our wetlands.



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Richmond College students from Sri Lanka present their study on the Coral Reefs of Buona-Vista Coral Reef, situated in Rumassala, Galle, Sri Lanka.



WEBINARS & INITIATIVES

NASA ASIA – AQ:-Dr. Brenna Biggs, Ph.D., NASA ASP Science Communication Head & NASA GLOBE Engagement Coordinator, delivered an insightful talk on the Airborne and Satellite Investigation of Asian Air Quality. Additionally, a GLOBE student from the Philippines presented their research report on 'Investigating the Disparity Between the Correlation of Greenhouse Gases and Urban Heat Pre and Post Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ)'. The event took place virtually via Zoom on March 22, 2024.

The GLOBE Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Office is delighted to announce its initiatives aimed at promoting **Earth Day 2024** in the region. This effort includes organizing a poster competition with the theme "Sustaining Our Globe: Tackling *Carbon, Climate, and Plastics for a Greener Future*." The competition centered on two pivotal topics: "Carbon and Climate" and "Planet Vs. Plastics." For more information about the competition, please refer to the details provided <u>here</u>

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EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT, IMPACT: AP RCO CHAMPIONS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- The RCO remains committed to promoting GLOBE activities through webinars, social media, and other communication channels.
- Accessible Resources: All webinar presentations are readily available on the GLOBE website's "GLOBE AT HOME COVID-19" page, with recordings accessible on the AP RCO YouTube channel.
- Extensive Webinar Program: Since May 2020, the RCO has organized a remarkable 55 webinars in the AP region, fostering knowledge exchange and engagement.
- GLOBE STAR: AP RCO has racked up 10 GLOBE STARs since the last Regional Meeting! These Stars recognize outstanding projects that align with GLOBE's mission.
- Through these impactful initiatives, the AP RCO demonstrates its unwavering commitment to environmental education and citizen science engagement. By empowering students and communities to understand and address air pollution and wetland conservation, we pave the way for a healthier, more sustainable future for generations to come.



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