



Edhiroli
எதிரொலி
Echo of
Volontariat



**News Bulletin of Volontariat for the Month ,
December-2014**

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Editorial:

Through the December month's newsletter the Editor would like to wish all the staff, children, sponsors, well wishers and readers a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

December is the Tamil month called Margazhi (end of the monsoon). During this month all the temples play devotional songs and hymns during early morning and all the households make Kolam (design with rice flour) with Pumpkin flower in the middle of the design, in front of their houses. Among the 12 months, it is said that God is worshipped most reverently in the month of Margazhi. Hindus dedicate the whole margazhi month only to God's worship and avoid celebrating marriages and other functions in their home. The devotees to the Iyyapan temple in Kerala prepare themselves during 45 days with sanctity for their pilgrimage to the temple of God Iyyapan.

On the 5th of December, the Tamil community celebrated the Karthigai Deepam festival. Karthigai Deepam is the oldest festival of the Tamils. Karthigai Deepam falls in the Tamil month of Karthigai, when the star Krithigai is on the ascendant and usually occurs on a full moon day. This festival is also called as "the Festival of Lights", because only during this festival we light lots of lamps in our homes, whereas in the north it is done on Deepavali.

December is the month of cold waves in the North traumatizing the poor public, especially the homeless who live on the streets. But in the South we have very pleasant weather ranging from around 20° C during the night to 25 or 26° C during day time.

In Volontariat, we had a nice year end and were generally happy with what we have accomplished during the year 2014 and are committed to progress further during the year 2015, with the support and collaboration of the all the stakeholders.

With regards,

Sendil Coumarane, Director, Volontariat

Christmas celebration



The birth of Jesus Christ was celebrated in Volontariat with lots of joy and happiness. All the staff participated in the programme arranged at the Justine Elvire room of Shakti Vihar. The celebration was graced by the presence of the EC members, Mr.Narayanasamy, Mr.Michael Antony and Mr.Dathcahanamoorthy. The European guests and volunteers enjoyed the cultural activities of our Crèche and Kindergarten children. Sweets and gifts were distributed to all the children. We also had a grand celebration at our farm arranged by the Nila

Illam children and enjoyed the spectacular performances of the children at the farm.

Special mention must be made for the gift of 100 kgs of fish, by Mme Sonia Baeriswyl, the President of Volontariat Committee of the Reunion Island. This was served to the staff and children of Volontariat during our Christmas day celebration. She also provided the dessert (Ice Creams) for all the children. Thanks a lot, Madame. I also take this opportunity to thank Mme Josiane Nougaret from Toulouse for her special contribution in equipping the children of Nila Illam with new winter cloths.



Environment Awareness Workshop



A one- day workshop to create awareness and sensitize the public on issues related to environment was conducted on 16th December at Shakti Vihar campus. The programme was jointly organized by Volontariat, Oulgaret Municipality and the Department of Science Technology & Environment. More than 300 persons participated in this programme and were given information on the importance of saving water and related issues.

Year end Meeting

All the staff of Volontariat gathered on the 31st evening to formally bid good bye to year 2014. It was an occasion for greeting each other for the New Year 2015 and to get the motivation from the Volontariat administration for the work and service they are going to take up during the year 2015. Gatherings like this help to build the WE feeling among all the employees of Volontariat and make them realize that they belong to a big Volontariat family.



Thelecherry Goats at TTK Farm

At last, the special Thelecherry variety of milking goats arrived on the farm during the 2nd week of this month. The shed was ready with the required infrastructure, to welcome the 10 goats. We are now getting to learn the special skills in rearing this types of goat and we hope to buy 10 more goats in the near future. The expert from Mango Hill Hotel had started to train our personnel in Cheese making and the initial result seems to be positive.



Conclusion:

The year 2014 has drawn to a close. In the last few years, shocking and tragic events have occurred in December, before we came to the end of the calendar year. Ten years ago, it was the Tsunami. Later, we had the devastating Thane cyclone. This year we had the heart breaking news from the Army School in Pakistan, where 130 children and some teachers were brutally massacred by terrorists, who wanted to hurt the army. We cannot digest this. We have to fight against terrorism; we also have to struggle for the rights of children to have an education and live peacefully. We have to fight against discrimination. We have to fight all kinds of criminality which affect the lives of children.

It is our duty to provide a safe and happy future for all the children of this beautiful world. Let us work towards this objective. Let this be our resolution for the year 2015.