



CLEAN-India celebrates World Water Day 2009 With children of National Bal Bhawan, Delhi

'sharing water, sharing opportunities'

More than one in six people worldwide do not have access to safe freshwater - Schoolchildren show the will for sharing water and create awareness about water conservation

Nearly 1 billion people across the world do not have access to freshwater. Growth, population and energy demands are leading to overexploitation of this natural resource. Indifference and irresponsible consumption is adding to the scarcity.

Schoolchildren and CLEAN-India, Development Alternatives celebrated **World Water Day 2009**. The theme was **Sharing safe drinking water and Conservation of this life force**. The event was organised by **Development Alternatives** in partnership with National Bal Bhawan to highlight the increasing significance of water scarcity worldwide and the need to cooperate for fair management of water.

More than two hundred children from schools across Delhi gathered at Bal Bhawan on this occasion and showed their commitment towards generating awareness about water conservation and sharing water. They shared their understanding of the issue, concerns and some solutions through creative expression of music and paintings.

The programme started with a song on water sung by all the participating children. They were addressed by Ms. Amita Shaw, Director, National Bal Bhawan and experts from Development Alternatives. Development Alternatives also presented an exhibition on water – water quality monitoring and purification techniques.

The paintings by children were a riot of colours – Blues, reds, greens, yellows, and browns, the dominating colour being blue. The artistic representations of the issues were wide ranging conveying their view of the issue, concerns and some interesting solutions.

The story telling session by Ms. Surekha Panandiker, from The Childrens Book Trust brought in the values of water sharing. The stories brought home the aspects of water conservation and sharing of this precious resource as a traditional practice in our country. The programme concluded with a pledge by students and prize distribution.

