

Tsunami Education Project (TEP) in Sri Lanka NEWSLETTER No. 5

TEP finished geography workshops with NGO Staff in Ampara District

The Tsunami Education Project (TEP) in Sri Lanka finished its geography workshops for the international and local staff of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the Ampara District in December 2006. During the period of national school examinations and vacations the TEP Team also ran workshops for this target group.



Sandra Laskowski (TEP Team) explaining tsunami waves in a water bowl for the local NGO staff of SWOAD in Akkaraipattu

The TEP Team carried out geography workshops for the staff of HELP from Germany in their field offices in Ampara and Batticaloa and the staff of ABRO (Aid Based Renation Organization) in Pottuvil. In cooperation with the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) in the Ampara District the TEP Team carried out workshops for the staff of SWOAD (Social Welfare Organization for Ampara District) in Akkaraipattu.

In total the TEP Team reached 106 staff members and explained the scientific reasons of earthquakes and tsunamis.

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Cooperation with South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

After establishing a cooperation with the Geography Department of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka (EUSL) near Batticaloa in November 2006, the TEP Team also built up a fruitful cooperation with the Geology Department of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL) in Sammanthurai in January 2007.



The Geology Department of the SEUSL is located inside the Faculty of Applied Sciences in Sammanthurai

Mr. Dr. Balassoriya (Coordinator of the Geology Department) for example assisted the TEP Team in finding a second local expert.

Selection of second local expert at East Coast

On January 8th, 2007 the TEP Team selected Mr. M.F.Mohamed Rislan as the second local expert inside the project. He completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology in 2006 and was already working as an Temporary Instructur at the SEUSL.



Together with Mr. Vasantharajah (first local expert) the project team for 2007 is now completed. The local experts first assisted the TEP Team in translating the workshops, but they already started to carry out workshops on their own.

Mr. Rislan (Local expert TEP)

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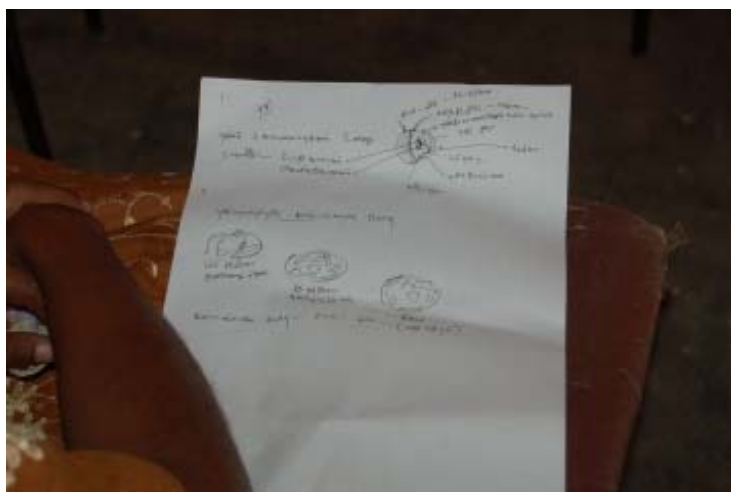
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Continuation of geography workshops for teachers in Ampara District

After the end of the school vacations on January 8th, 2007 the TEP Team started their geography workshops for teachers of all tsunami affected Junior-, O-Level- and A-Level-Schools in the Ampara District. On January 9th, 2007 the workshops started in the Pottuvil Division in cooperation with the responsible Divisional Education Officer Mr. M.L.M.A. Cader and will be completed till January 25th, 2007.



Mr. Rislan (TEP Team) carrying out workshop in Pottuvil DS



A teacher taking notes during a TEP workshop in Pottuvil DS

In 2006 the TEP Team already carried out 26 workshops for 32 affected schools in the Thirukkivil, Alayadivembu, Akkaraipattu and Addalachenai Division. During that time 680 teachers were trained and the schools were equipped with new educational material for their geography and / or social study lessons.

Till the end of March 2007 the TEP Team wants to cover the missing Divisions in Ampara:

- Ninthavur DS
- Karaitivu DS
- Sainthamarathu DS
- Kalmunai DS Tamil; DS Muslim

On January 24th, 2007 the TEP Team will train the so called Teacher Advisors of the Educational Zone Akkaraipattu who are responsible for training teachers in their Divisions about new educational topics.

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Distribution of new educational material in Pottuvil Division (Ampara District)

Parallel to the geography workshops the TEP Team continues the distribution of new educational material to schools, if their teachers participated in the training. So far 18 schools (out of 23) of the Pottuvil Division were equipped with new material last week.

The geography set consists of a geography globe, 5 DIN A1 maps and a so called puzzle map. With the help of the set the construction of Earth, plate tectonics, reasons of earthquakes and tsunamis can be explained. Furthermore, a special teachers guide is included which gives suggestions how to teach about this sensitive topic. In cooperation with UNICEF in Ampara the TEP Team is also using and distributing special flipshirts about the Tsunami.



Thorsten Klose (TEP Team) handing over new educational material to a principal in Pottuvil



Mr. Vasantharajah (TEP Team) handing over new educational material to a principal in Komari

Evaluation of TEP geography workshops 2006

Last week the TEP Team also started to evaluate the use of already distributed geography sets. Therefore the schools which were equipped with educational material in 2006 are visited. The TEP Team wants to know if and how the material is used in geography and / or social study lessons.

Principals, geography and social study teachers are asked about the use in their schools with the help of a special standardized questionnaire.

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General Information

The Tsunami Education Project (TEP) in Sri Lanka is financed by the German NGO HELP from Germany. HELP from Germany is a member of "Aktion Deutschland Hilft – United Help From Germany".

The TEP is a teachers training project and is running from March 2006 till March 2007. The TEP wants to increase the basic knowledge about the reasons of earthquakes and the Tsunami on December 26th, 2004. With the distribution of new educational material, the TEP also wants to improve the geography education in tsunami affected schools in Sri Lanka.

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