

Tsunami Education Project (TEP) in Sri Lanka NEWSLETTER No. 6

TEP completed teacher training in Pottuvil, Ninthavur, Sainthamarathu and Karaitivu Divisions

The Team of the Tsunami Education Project in Sri Lanka successfully completed its teacher training workshops in the Pottuvil, Ninthavur, Sainthamarathu and Karaitivu Divisions (Ampara District). In total 30 workshops were held, reaching 590 teachers from Junior, O-Level and A-Level schools in that four tsunami affected divisions.



TEP Local Expert Mr. Rislan explaining the difference between normal waves and tsunami waves for teachers in the Ninthavur Division

During the workshops the teachers are trained about the scientific reasons of earthquakes and tsunamis.

“This educational programme is a very big help for teachers, because now starting from Grade 8 the topic Tsunami is included in the school syllabus and we have to teach about this. Before the TEP workshop we had completely no idea what we could teach about, because so far there are no guidelines from government. Now we understood”, said Mrs. R. Sutharajhan (Social Study teacher in Pottuvil) after one TEP workshops.

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TEP held geography workshop for Teacher Advisors

Besides teachers from Junior, O-Level and A-Level schools, the TEP is also targeting the so called Teacher Advisors or In Service Advisors (ISAs) along the East Coast of Sri Lanka. Teacher Advisors and ISAs are attached to the Zonal Education Offices, with whom the TEP Team is cooperating closely. These advisors are responsible for ongoing teacher trainings regarding different subjects like Geography and Social Studies.



Geography workshop for Teacher Advisors and ISAs inside the meeting hall of the Zonal Education Office Akkaraipattu

On January 24th, 2007 the TEP Team held its Tsunami Education Workshop for all 52 Teacher Advisors / ISAs of the Zonal Education Office Akkaraipattu.

Distribution of new educational material to schools continues

The TEP Team finished the distribution of new geography educational material to schools in the Pottuvil Division end of January 2007. 19 schools in total were equipped by HELP from Germany.

Sandra Laskowski (TEP Team) handing over new geography material to Social Study teachers in the Ninthavur Division



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Parallel to the workshops, the distribution was completed for all 18 Junior, O-Level and A-Level schools in the Ninthavur, Sainthamarathu and Karaitivu Divisions mid of February 2007. Also the above mentioned Teacher Advisors in Akkaraipattu were equipped with new material for their own trainings.



**Thorsten Klose (TEP Team) with
Teacher Advisor in Akkaraipattu**



**Principal of an O-Level school in
the Sainthamarathu Division**

“This geography sets are a very good addition to the workshop, because now we are able to visualize our new knowledge to our students and do lessons more practically”, said Mr. S. Ismail (Social Study teacher in Ninthavur).

Workshop for South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL)

On February 21st, 2007 the TEP Team also held a geography workshop for 48 lecturers and students of the Earth Science Department, Faculty of Applied Science, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL) near Sammanthurai (Ampara District).



TEP Team and participants of the SEUSL after the workshop

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Since January 2007 the TEP Team is cooperating with the Faculty of Applied Science of the SEUSL to spread the scientific reasons of earthquakes and tsunamis as extensively as possible.

South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (SEUSL) exhibited TEP material on the National Development Exhibition in Colombo

Based on the cooperation between the TEP Team and the SEUSL, the Faculty of Applied Science of the SEUSL exhibited the TEP geography material on the National Development Exhibition. It took place from February 4th, 2007 to February 8th, 2007 at the Bandaranayaka Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo.



TEP material on the National Development Exhibition in Colombo

Among other exhibitors all Sri Lankan universities joined the National Development Exhibition in Colombo. The Faculty of Applied Science of the SEUSL took the opportunity given by the TEP to inform the wide audience of the exhibition about the creation of tsunamis.

Evaluation of geography workshops in 2006

End of February 2007 the TEP Team completed the evaluation about the use of already distributed geography sets. Therefore all the 32 schools which were equipped with educational material in 2006 in the Ampara District were visited. The principals, Geography and Social Study teachers have been asked about the use of the new material in their schools with the help of a special standardized questionnaire.

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Sandra Laskowski (TEP Team) during an interview with a principal in Addalachenai



TEP material used in a geography lesson in an A-Level school inside the project area

The first results of the evaluation are very promising and most of the schools which were reached in the Ampara District in 2006 are using the new educational material inside their Geography and/or Social Study lessons.

The teachers consider the material to be very useful. Detailed results will be published later in the final TEP report on the TEP internet page: www.srilankaproject.com.

TEP started workshops in Kalmunai Divisions

On February 19th, 2007 the TEP Team started to carry out workshops in the Kalmunai Tamil and Kalmunai Muslim Divisions and already reached more than 330 teachers.



Beginning of March 2007 the trainings will be completed and then all Junior, O-Level and A-Level schools from all tsunami affected divisions in the Ampara District have been reached by the TEP Team.

TEP Workshop for teachers in the Kalmunai Muslim Division

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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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