



Contact Detail:

Name Ojas Bhatia

Award Category Individual

Project Details:

Project Title Spread Environmental Awareness

Location of Project Muscat/GCC

One Line Description of Project As an individual to try and spread the message about the Environment to the Youth.

Effectiveness

What were your goals? To spread awareness about the environment to the Youth. To discuss and debate the results of global warming and how clean energies can be deployed worldwide. To discuss what solutions are best suited for the environment and debate about carbon trading. Our aim is to bring about awareness on environment preservation and sustainable development.

How have you measured your success? By making sure that the Youth around the GCC know about topics related to the environment. The measure was to take part in environmental debates at the GCC level and spreading the message through media like newspapers and radio.

Innovation & Creativity

How were innovative methods, strategies or ideas applied? As a student we have discussed about solutions that can be implemented in Oman at a very low cost and can help a lot of people. For example Dean Kamen has made a device which can take any source of water filled with pollutants and can change it to pure drinking water. The device costs around a 1000\$ and can help provide water for over 500 people. We are in talks with the company to deploy this system in the interior of Oman.

Impact

How has the project/initiative /work motivated others to contribute to a greener Oman? Being a student personally, over the years, starting from 2008, there have been youth that have got interested to learn and participate in youth led environmental based activities. The youth are ever more interested and aware

of the activities that are going around them. As a role model for students, they are encouraged and inspired to take part in youth led environmental activities.

Originality and Leadership

How has the nominee demonstrated vision, foresight and persistence?

in 2008, I won the All Gulf inter-college environmental debate in my category.

In 2009, I was chosen by Muscat Municipality to spread awareness among students during environmental week. Now in 2010, I have been chosen to go to the Youth Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York.

Continuity & Sustainability

How sustainable is the initiative carried out?

The youth have been interested in participating in the environmental activities and continue to inspire their fellow students.

Explain how it will be effective in the long term

Since it is the youth that is going to be leading the effort in the future, their empowerment is necessary. They are the ones that are going to come up with innovative solutions that are going to benefit the world.

AMERICAS Disaster: Oil slick reaches US coast

1 Hundreds of kilometres of coastline are under imminent threat in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida — a region that amounts to over 40% of America's ecologically fragile wetlands — as oil from a giant slick washed ashore yesterday, threatening a catastrophe as the government mulls sending in the military to combat the national disaster. > **A12**

OMAN ROP on lookout for drug-runner

2 The Royal Oman Police (ROP) is on the trail of a man who allegedly sought the services of a taxi driver to pass on drugs concealed in a soft drink bottle to a prisoner lodged in a jail. The ROP has advised taxi drivers, and residents in general, to be alert when dealing with suspicious elements and under such circumstances. > **B2**

CRICKET New Zealand chase 135

3 Sri Lanka made 135-6 off their 20 overs against New Zealand in the opening match of the World Twenty20 here yesterday after choosing to bat. Mahela Jaywardena topscored with 81 from 51 balls in the Lankan innings. Meanwhile, New Zealand were 88 for the loss of four wickets in 15 overs while chasing. SEE ALSO > **A13**

ACHIEVEMENT

Ojas says proud to represent the Sultanate at UN Youth Assembly

RAHIMA AL BALUSHI
rahima@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: Young Ojas Bhatia, a graduate from Majan College, is thrilled as he has been chosen to take part in the Annual Youth Assembly organised by the UN.

Ojas, who studied E-business at Majan, will be leaving for New York to participate in the annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations to be held next August.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Ojas said: "The assembly focuses on the millennium goals of the UN. They took my application way back in December. I had to write what I had done and what I am planning to do. It was based on this that they chose me. As of now, I am the only one to have been chosen from Oman."

Ojas says he is interested in environment. In 2008 he won the Inter-College Public Speaking Competition organised by Emirates Environmental Group.

He was also chosen as the environmental envoy by the municipality. He is now looking forward to participating in the youth assembly being organised by the UN.

"The upcoming event of youth assembly will be a once-in-a-lifetime chance as youth from all over the world will be there. We will be doing radio shows and will spread



Ojas Bhatia

awareness among the society. I will concentrate particularly on environment," Ojas said.

Ojas is also a member of an environmental group in Dubai, as well as a member of Y-Peer group in Oman. As a Y-Peer member, Ojas will be training students at schools and colleges in the Sultanate.

Being a member of various youth organisations and taking part in different events, does it not take a lot of your time?

"Nothing is impossible and knowledge is power. I believe that if youth is empowered, we can do a lot of things nationwide. In fact, it does not require much time to involve oneself in social issues. One does not need to work 24 hours a

day and all through the week."

What changes do you envisage creating in today's world?

"My focus is on environment. If you take a look at any nation, you will find it is only the capital that has full resources of water and electricity. And when you move away from the capital city, you will find the living conditions of the people deteriorating. I feel that the right science, knowledge and technology should be provided to support everyone.

"There are a number of scientists who are trying to build cheap-cost technologies for people who live in the interiors in places like Africa, India and in deserts. I will give an example of a scientist who has created a machine in which you can put any source of water and you get pure water from it."

Give one name that strikes you most?

"One name that strikes me most is Bill Gates. He proved money can help people. He is a busy millionaire businessman, philanthropist and to top it all chairman of Microsoft, but finds time to take up social initiatives aimed at eradicating childhood diseases and improving education. He has been trying to educate people on Malaria." > **A2**

OMAN

olidays

Majan College students win again in UAE

with the need to bank or wait in a queue for cash transactions, one has to do it all of the machines selected branches. The channel offers a wide range of services, including a wide range of services. In fact, the Sultanate's first initiative by the Information Technology Authority (ITA), it has been in the facilitating elements Establishing a network of government offices, can has deployed 80 point of sales of acquiring internet access to support the country to support the country and expand rapidly.

positioned to be one million in 2010. BankMuscat is serving the largest number of customers in Oman with products and services at a difference in stage of life, it remains committed to providing a banking solution to the challenge ahead and looking forward to growing with the nation in the future.

at ATF



MUSCAT — Majan College celebrated the accomplishment of two of its students, Ojan Bhutta and Nabeel Al Balushi, who participated and won in the Inter-College Public Speaking Competition organised by Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) on November 20, 2008.

Ojan Bhutta is a final year student of BSc (Hons) in e-Business, while Nabeel Al Balushi is a final year student of BA (Hons) in Business Administration.

The competition is a bi-lingual event conducted under the patronage of Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan, the minister of higher education and scientific research and the chancellor of the UAE University and the Higher Colleges of Technologies.

The session in which the Majan College students participated and won focused on "Green Energy for the 21st Century". Approximately 40 universities and colleges from the AGCC countries participated in the competition. Besides Majan College, the Sultan Qaboos University and the Oman Medical College are the other institutions that took part from Oman.

Dr Rajat Ghosh, the academic representative who accompanied the students to the event, reports that after the contest the judges and the organisers personally congratulated the students for the depth of research that had gone into the presentation and the way the students made convincing points.

He says, "The credit goes entirely to the students, for



the last two months they have been working very hard towards it. The academic staff only guided them by providing feedback." It is a reward for their conviction. The college community reflects with pride that they are enabling their students to contribute effectively to the society by providing an innovative learning and teaching environment.

Ojan and Nabeel's success has to be seen in this perspective as they are the products of this intellectual environment which the college is working hard to provide.

Earlier this year another Majan College student on the BSc (Hons) in Computer and Internet Applications, Mitha Al Balushi, had won the UAE IT Challenge for the best e-Commerce project for her level three dissertation.

The Emirates Environmental Group (EEG)

is a voluntary, non-government organisation (NGO) devoted to protecting the environment through means of education, action programmes and community involvement.

Since its inception in 1991, EEG has been actively persuading the academic community to turn its attention towards the environment. In 2001, EEG took up a cluster of programmes targeting the academic institutions, and many of them evolved into annual projects. The fundamental principle is promoting the concept of sustainable development among students, teachers and management. The common theme of the programme is 'Environment across the curriculum'.

The aim of the public speaking competition was to promote interaction, networking and exchange among the youth communities across the

region and promote awareness on environment preservation and sustainable development. Every year, four critical environmental topics are chosen to be discussed in the competition by the participating teams.

Students were given the choice of presenting their cases in either Arabic or English. The students are evaluated on their clarity of speech, originality of ideas, environmental impact/solution identification and presentation of research evidence. The participants are invited to build and present strong cases relating to the chosen topics. It gives the participants a wonderful opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills and encourages research and problem solving. This year's event took place in hotel courtyard by the Marriott, Investment Park, Dubai, UAE.

Article in the Observer December 16th 2008.
(Winning the GCC Environmental Debate at Dubai)