



Centre for Environmental Research and Education

13th July 2006

Mr. M. K. Shrivastava
Addl. Municipal Commissioner (Projects)
Mumbai Mahanagar Pallika
3rd Floor, BMC Annexe Bldg.
Mahapalika Marg
Mumbai 400 001

Subject: Education Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. Shrivastava,

The Centre for Environmental Research and Education (CERE) has been working in the field of Environmental Education and has also assisted Mr. M. C. Mehta advocate Supreme Court in his petition on Environmental Education, which is now a compulsory subject across India. CERE constantly endeavours to improve the scope and effectiveness of Environmental Education. We have recently been informed that you are forming an advisory committee on Education and I am extremely keen to represent my organization on that advisory committee. I hereby request you to please allow CERE to be a part of that Committee.

You would be interested to know that CERE has a lot to offer in the field of education. CERE has recently published an 18-book Reader Series that is being prescribed to by over 26 schools across India. My organization is also in the process of establishing an Environmental Resource Centre in Mumbai city that will stock a range of learning resources and audio-visual aides for schools and other institutes to avail of. On our website (www.cere-india.org) we have uploaded free learning resources on the subject of environmental education. Presently, we are working on a national level project entitled Art-n-Craft from Waste that gives children an opportunity to express their creativity and also address the issue of waste management – this project was recently documented and aired on Doordarshan in their serial called 'Bhoomi'.

There are many such educational projects that we have worked on and we would like to be on the committee to contribute and disseminate this information to as many teachers, schools, learning institutes and children so that they can avail of all these innovative learning ideas and methodologies. We do hope that you allow me to represent CERE on the advisory committee.

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours,

Kitayun Rustom

Kitayun Rustom
Dy. Director & Co-Founder, CERE

cc. Karmayog

CEE Central

Centre for Environment Education, Central Regional Cell
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July 12, 2006

To,
Shri. M. K. Srivastava,
Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects)
BMC Building, 3rd floor,
Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai 400 001



Sub: Education advisory board for new BMC schools

Dear Sir,
Greetings from Centre for Environment Education (CEE).

CEE is a national institution engaged in developing programmes and material to increase awareness about the environment and sustainable development. CEE was established in 1984 as a Centre of Excellence in Environment Education, supported by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi. It is affiliated to the Nehru Foundation for Development.

CEE's primary objective is to improve public awareness and understanding of the environment with a view to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of nature and natural resources, leading to a better environment and a better quality of life. To this end, CEE develops innovative programmes and educational material, and builds capacity in the field of education for sustainable development (ESD). To test the validity and effectiveness of its programmes and material, CEE undertakes demonstration projects in education, communication and development that endorse attitudes, strategies and technologies which are environmentally sustainable. CEE is committed to ensuring that due recognition is given to the role of education in the promotion of sustainable development. More information about CEE is available at www.ceeindia.org

In the area of school based education, CEE is working with the NCERT, the National Council of Teacher Education, all State Education Departments, several NGOS, schools and other education institutes as well. The scope of work includes development of syllabi (with NCERT), development of teacher education material, capacity building for EE, development of teachers handbooks, teaching learning material, teacher training workshops etc.

CEE staff are part of Board of Studies of Environment Education and Textbook Writing Committee for Environment Education Committee for Environment Education appointed by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education.

In Mumbai, we are currently involved with MCGM through the project 'Developing communication strategy for effective solid waste management in Mumbai city' which is supported by USAID and ICMA. Some of the prominent activities carried by CEE are listed in a separate sheet attached with this letter.

Through 'karmayog' website developed and maintained by R. O. Somani Charitable Trust and our subsequent interactions with Mr. Vinay Somani, Convenor of NGO Council, CEE learnt about BMC's ambitious and much needed plan of setting 85 new schools. CEE would like to congratulate BMC for this future oriented decision and extend our full support in all the terms. We learnt that advisory committees that would be set up to guide this entire project and would like to know more about the process and be part of it. We feel there are a number of areas where CEE can offer its expertise and experience to this project.

At Mumbai, our contact person is Mr. Laxmikant Deshpande, Programme Officer, 3/12, Meeuant Apartment, Kosamgo Nagar, S. V. Road, Borivali (west) Mumbai 400092 (Ph: 9833097560/28061193) and at Pune, Ms. Sanskriti Menon, Regional Coordinator, A-10, Garden Estate, 167/1 & 168/1, New D P Road, Aundh, Pune, 411 007 (Ph: 25898447, 98224 55250).

Hoping for positive and continuous interaction,

With warm regards,

Mr. L.T. Deshpande

Laxmikant Deshpande

Programme Officer, CEE.

CC To: Mr. Vinay Somani, Convenor, NGO Council

CEE activities in Maharashtra:

- EE in over 500 schools in 8 districts and 2 municipal corporations, through 19 EOSE projects, 4 NEEPS clusters, GLOBE, EESS, and other programmes.
- 10 School-EE publications in Marathi (of CEE)
- 17 School-EE related workshops organized directly by CEE attended by over 270 teachers and educators from NGOs and govt. agencies in the state
- Facilitated EESS in 100 schools of the State, particularly in the development of green text books, teachers training and in mainstreaming.
- Nature trails in local gardens for municipal schools in Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
- Regular column titled Web of Life in a month newspaper for children
- Development of 'Chala Pranisangrahalayat' - the Marathi translated-adapted edition of the CEE publication 'Wild at the Zoo,' in participation with schools and the Bahinabai Choudhuri Prani Sangrahalaya and the Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park.
- Regular Post graduate five-credit course on Environment and Development at University of Pune
- Faculty Orientation Programme for colleges affiliated to the University of Pune, for teaching of the six-month compulsory course in Environmental Studies as part of undergraduate courses
- Training of 61 deputy or additional CEOs of zilla parishads and other government officers on Renewable Energy Policy with Maharashtra Energy Development Agency
- Training on biodiversity issues for 5 NGOs
- Training on Wildlife Act and biodiversity issues for NGOs reaching about 30
- Training for journalists and others on Climate Change issues reaching about 40 individuals
- ENVIS Training for Web Designing and Database Management for ENVIS Centres and Nodes, April 2003
- WSSD consultation review of perspectives with 10 local organizations
- Film Festival on environmental films in Pune, organized in collaboration with Fergusson College Geography dept, and a workshop on the use of films at Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research
- Directory of EE agencies
- 19 NGO projects on organic farming, livestock diversity, biodiversity, climate change etc, through SGP
- 5 small projects with NGOs on biodiversity
- Hospital Waste Management activities initiated through survey of 140 establishments in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad and training workshop for doctors and administrators
- Educational material in Marathi on Hospital Waste Management
- Western Regional Workshop on "Biomedical Waste Management- Status, Analysis and Planning for the Future"

- Development of perspectives on sustainable agriculture in agricultural research in four state agricultural universities in Maharashtra, through study, survey, and discussion with research staff, NGOs and farmers.
- Training of 40 agriculture officers on Sustainability in Agriculture, at the request of the Commissionerate of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra.
- Industry Initiatives: US Solvent Sector Services – Survey of awareness and capacity building among small-scale industries to help them prepare for ODS Phase out requirements and providing alternatives to Carbon tetrachloride
- Air Quality Management Awareness Programme initiated with support from the USAEP and in collaboration with the Pune Municipal Corporation.
- Solid waste management programme initiated in one ward in Pune Municipal Corporation, with support from SKF India Ltd and as part of Waste Matters, a consortium of NGOs in Pune.