



Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND)



Presents

2012 World Environment Day Activity Report

Green Economy: Does it include You?

An activity was held with the leadership and students of COSMOS School located at Lapaz, Accra on Thursday, 7th June 2012. The topic was "Achieving Personal Hygiene and Good Sanitation among young people". The objective was achieving Green Economy through social inclusion of young people.

INTRODUCTION

World Environment Day celebration is an annual event set aside on every 5th June to create awareness globally about the environment and to influence political decisions. This is part of an effort to help achieve targets slated under the Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that is, ensuring environmental sustainability.

The theme for this year 2012 is **Green Economy: Does it include YOU?**

The UN Environment Programme defines the Green Economy as one that results in **improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities**. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is **low carbon, resource efficient** and **socially inclusive**.

Practically speaking, a Green Economy is one whose growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. These investments need to be catalyzed and supported by targeted public expenditure, policy reforms and regulation changes.

If the Green Economy is about social equity and inclusiveness then technically it is all about you!

SYND as part of its effort or commitment to supporting this worthy cause organized a seminar with the leadership and students of COSMOS School located at Lapaz in Accra on Thursday, 7th June 2012. The objective was to give young people the opportunity to be “socially included” in the attainment of Green Economy.

EVENT OBJECTIVE

“Achieving Good Personal Hygiene and Safe Sanitation practices among young people”

Chibeze Ezekiel, the Executive Coordinator of SYND was the main speaker for the event and the power point presentation outline has been reproduced below:

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

A. Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) youth-led NGO that is committed to helping to ensure **economic empowerment, good health status and environmental sustainability** among young people by engaging key development stakeholders such as Government, Donor Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, and the Private Sector.



B. What is Personal Hygiene?

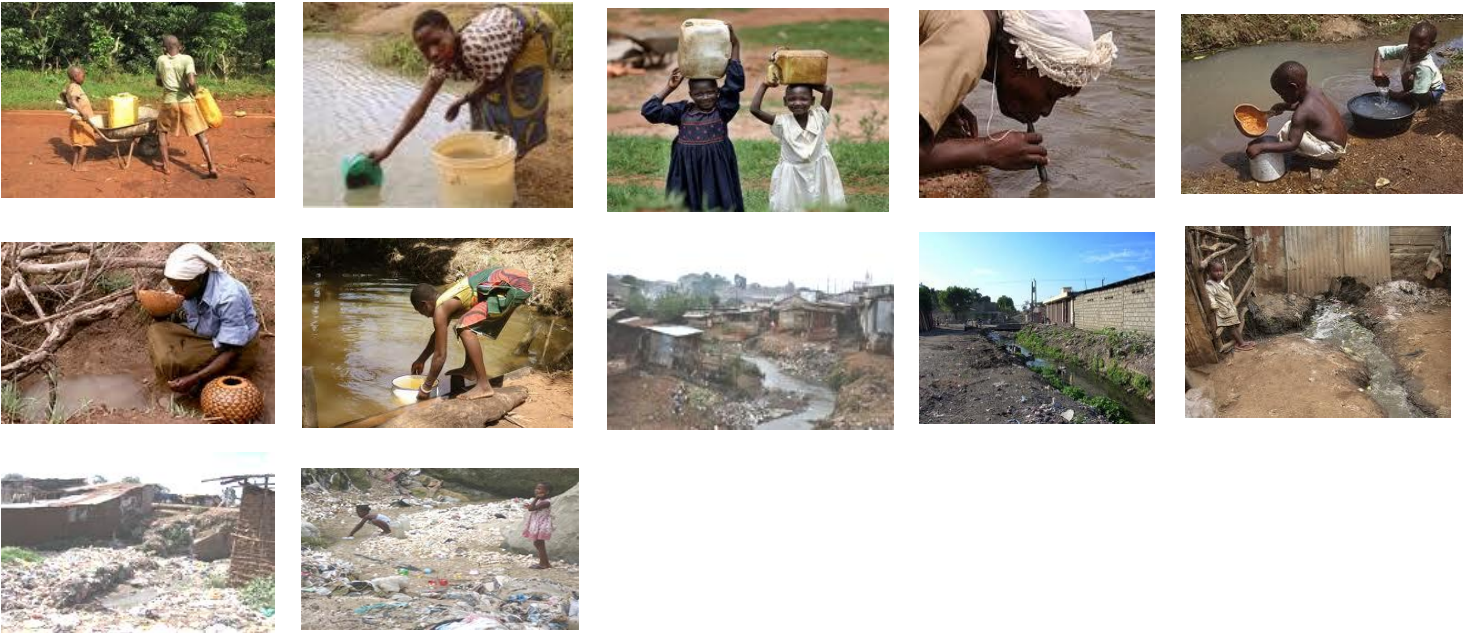
It is the basic concept of cleaning, grooming and caring for our bodies.

Examples of personal hygiene practices include hair cutting, shaving, brushing teeth, bathing daily, nail clipping, etc

C. What is Good Sanitation?

It refers to the appropriate behaviour and practices of the people living in a specific environment

- The people know to avoid contact with human excreta and to hygienically dispose of human waste.
- The people's behaviour displays a responsible attitude towards the hygiene of their families, the community, and the environment. By being a responsible and hygienic individual you make sure that you do not spread diseases. Some current situations among youth are displayed as follows:



D. What are the consequences:

- ❖ Results in diseases such as Cholera and Malaria leading to death
- ❖ Causes flooding when it rains

E. What young people have

- Talents (writing, drawing, dancing, acting, singing, speaking etc)
- Energy (strength, abilities or capabilities)
- Relationships (family members, friends, mentors / role models)

F. What role can young people play in achieving a Green Economy?

1. Take your bath regularly (at least 2 times in a day)
2. Wash your hands properly with soap anytime you use the toilet

3. Do not litter your surroundings
4. Initiate and/or participate in regular clean-up exercises at home and in your community
5. Share your knowledge and experiences with friends through the social media such as Facebook
6. Educate others to practice good sanitation

G. Our expectation benefits

1. Ensure a clean and healthy body.
2. Obtain a clean home and society leading to significant reduction in diseases.
3. Become active participants or change agents in promoting good personal hygiene and safe sanitation.

INTERACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the presentation, students of COSMOS asked vital questions which included:

- What is the difference between organic and inorganic manure?
- How can they identify their talents to support such cause?
- What is the meaning of Green Economy?

More so, the students made some recommendations such as:

- The need to enforce laws or punish people who litter the environment
- The need for other educational institutions to replicate source separation of waste as practice in COSMOS School
- Establish a club in their school so they can participate actively achieving clean environment



CONCLUSION

The event was generally very successful. Engaging young people is become extremely needful to ensure the achievement and sustainability of development effort. It is highly suggested that other young people in schools, churches, communities etc should be educated and encouraged to practice source separation as a key effort to ensuring clean environment.



a dustbin designated for empty water sachets ONLY!

Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) is therefore appealing to all key stakeholders such as Government, Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector and Media to involve youth in all decision-making processes to ensure sustainable development. As future leaders, educating, sensitizing and/or empowering them are very critical for their inevitable roles as policy formulators, law enforcers and decision-makers.

MORE PICTURES FROM THE EVENT





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We wish to express our profound gratitude to the authorities of COSMOS School for the opportunity given us to engage their students. We also want to thank the Board and Members of SYND especially Patrick Senagah, Racheal Kumi and David Ayiboe for their support and commitment to making the activity a success. Indeed, the students of COSMOS School showed a high sense of willingness to support any cause that will lead to development in society. We are very much touched by their overwhelming response to the event. Ultimately, our greatest thanks go to God Almighty for the grace and ability to organize this activity.

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