

JOY OF READING CHRONICLE

A Quarterly bulletin of news, creative write-ups and miscellany
by the VT-AWIC Youth Library Network, Lohit, Arunachal Pradesh

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Friends, patrons, and reading enthusiasts!

Your e-paper enters its 2nd year - and with a bang! Sri Etalo Mega, Library Coordinator of Bamboosa Library, Tezu, (dear 'Etalo Bhayya' to all reader-activists), has been honoured by AWIC, New Delhi with the 'Librarian of the Year 2012 Award', for his spirited efforts to spread the joy of reading around us - *everyday without break* - for full 5 years! And we also welcome with great joy, a new member to the Network: Hutung Library, at Yatong, a remote little village beyond Mayuliang in Anjaw District.

All through 2012, the Libraries had kept up its tempo of activities that saw its activists growing up in stature and skills, as resource-persons in the community. We also had the pleasure of interacting with keen well-wishers, attending the 2nd Int. Conference by British Council on English Language Teacher Edn & Development at Hyderabad and travel all day up the mountains in pouring rains, to participate in the birth of a new library. As the summer vacation began, Reading Brigades of APNE Library have started for a second year, 9 vacation mini-libraries in remote villages of Wakro circle, capping it with spirited World Book Day celebrations in villages around. And heightening the joy is the news of dear Etalo Mega being honoured with the Uma Maa Sahib award by ASSET, Wakro!

But, we also shall miss someone dear, who's going on transfer from Tezu: Ms Moyum Jini, the spirited torch-bearer of Bamboosa Library, and its Convenor for the last 4 years. Network records its profound gratitude to her for her loving care of the volunteers, and deep commitment to the Youth Library Movement... Best Wishes, Moyum Di for your new assignments!

- Editor

Lohit Libraries' efforts for spreading the spirit of International Year of Forests 2011 remembered! During 2011, library volunteers had canvassed spiritedly for planting shade trees all around, and was pleasantly surprised when in Apr 2012, the teachers of Gyan Sarovar school, Medo, proudly showed 2 healthy tall trees coming up in their campus: Laxmi Taru (*Simarouba glauca*), popularized by Art of Living Foundation, whose saplings were distributed during June 2011 to many schools and individuals. We are waiting for more such stories, with World Environment Day June 5, just round the corner. *Friends, don't miss this chance to make your neighbourhood a more pleasant place to live in!*



AWIC confers Librarian of the year 2012 Award on Etalo Mega! To the great delight of all patrons & activists of the library movement, the AWIC, New Delhi, selected Sri Etalo Mega, the live-wire of the Bamboosa Library, Tezu, for the Librarian of the year 2012 Award, the lone person to receive the award from youth libraries outside Delhi. This is an honour befitting his selfless service to the youth library movement in the state for the last 5 years, without no monetary considerations.



ASSET Wakro has also awarded him in May 2012, the prestigious **Uma Maa Sahib Award** for meritorious contribution to the society.

Several patrons, including former DC Lohit, Prashant Lokhande, IAS have heartily congratulated Etalo and his team for their outstanding achievement, while **VITAES Tezu** felicitated him in a function.

Arpita Dwivdi and Ashish Singh, who form the earliest readers of Bamboosa Library, were also honoured as outstanding library readers.

The prizes were given away by the CBSE Chairman, Vineet Joshi, at a function at Gandhi Peace Foundation in New Delhi.



Arpita Dwivedi



Ashish Singh

First Malayalam book on Folktales of Arunachal published:

In a very memorable function, H.E Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Gen (retd) J.J. Singh, released, on Jan 21, 2012, the first ever book by a Lohit Youth Library activist, titled “Arunachal Natodikkathakal” at Raj Bhavan, in the presence of a galaxy of Arunachali elites, intellectuals, educationists and patrons of Lohit Youth Library Movement.

The book is by Sathyanarayanan Mundayoor, with artwork by Ms Indirm Boo, a Delhi-based artist from Tezu. Published by the reputed group, Mathrubhumi, it is the first of its kind for young people in Malayalam and has since received warm appreciations from many corners.

National Youth Day Contests Jan 12, 2012: The event, organized by the Lohit Youth Libraries drew considerable enthusiastic responses from the students of Tezu and Wakro. At Tezu, a Book reading contest saw students of middle-schools around the town keenly participating. At Wakro, the audience sat thrilled, as the participants spun yarns of fiction, in the creative story-telling contests in English and Mishmi languages. Story-writing contests also brought forth some excellent pieces, two of which received high commendations from a very senior and respected intellectual of Chennai.

2nd British Council Int. Conference on English Language Teaching & Development, Hyderabad:

For the second successive year Lohit Youth Libraries attended the conference, this time by Ms. P. Sreedevi, Library activist with APNE Library, Wakro. Her feedback on the conference can be seen in Arunachal Times dt. March 10, 2012. (link <http://www.arunachaltimes.in/#In>)

Brit Council Book carries an article On Lohit Libraries! The collection of papers of the Int Seminar on ELT held in Jan 2011 has also included a paper, ‘Could reading be such fun?’ by Sathyanarayanan Mundayoor, Coordinator, Lohit

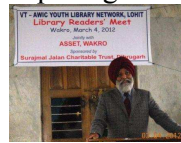
Youth Libraries. This prestigious book was released in March 2012.

Each one, Teach many! Reader-activists of the Bamboosa Library, Tezu (Ms. Arpita, Purabi, Himatsi and Kr. Deep) participated in the Anganwadi Workers training programme by the ICDS Dept, Tezu, on Feb 12, 2012, imparting some delightful sessions on story-reading and rhyme-recitation.

Lohit Library Readers’ Meet: Nearly 40 reader-activists from Tezu, Wakro and Chongkham libraries participated in the meet, organized jointly with ASSET Wakro and sponsored by



the Surajmal Jalan Charitable Trust, Dibrugarh. A series of exciting skits, poetry enactings, story-telling, book-reviews and book reading were held before an audience of nearly 100 students, teachers and the public of Wakro. Ms. Bialu Kambrai & team presented a live skit in Mishmi language, exposing the ill-effects of opium.



Republic Day Celebrations, Wakro 2012: The APNE Library reader-activists won hearty applause for their spirited presentations in English, Hindi and Mishmi languages. Of special mention was the Mishmi language skit on “Dr. Kamla Sohoni” by Ms. Odilu Pul and team.



National Book Week Celebrations, Wakro: The Annual event was inaugurated by HH Rev Kulavadhuta Satpurananda (Khyaapa Baba to his close admirers and disciples). Baba went round the exhibition keenly, sharing many little known interesting facts about books and authors to the visitors around him. He also interacted with the young library activists.

Ms Helena Ngadong presented him a book on behalf of the readers, as a token of their respects.



Khyapa Baba at the Exhibition



Network Welcomes Hutung Library! PAWSO, a charitable society from **Yatong**, a remote village beyond Hayuliang in Anjaw, has become the latest group to join the library Network, with the inauguration of Hutung Library on April 19, 2012. A 10-member team from Bamboosa and APNE Libraries participated in the function, at the invitation of **PAWSO**, a dedicated band of youth activists, presenting skits and poem-recitations before more than 200 villagers, Mishmi tribal elders, guests and officials.



Network has presented a select collection of books in English and Hindi to Hutung Library as a welcome-gesture.

American Library Association honours for Jeenamsi Ngadong! Jeenamsi, a committed reader-activist and upcoming young writer of Wakro, has been conferred the rare honour of having her article, “*How a library changed my life.*” published in the American Library Association’s e-paper ‘I Love Libraries.org’ (link <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/how-library-changed-my-life%E2%80%A6>)

This is indeed a great honour to a rural tribal girl of just class VII and will surely inspire many others to follow suit.

World Book Day Celebrations in Wakro:

The World Book Day, which marks the birthday of William Shakespeare, was celebrated for the second year in succession in Wakro circle by the vacation mini-libraries, named “Reading Brigades” at **Medo, Hooking, Manyuliang, Lamliang, Pukhuri and Kanjang**. The programmes were presented by library reader-activists and the village-children trained by them.

The major celebrations was held at Medo village at the **Gyan Sarovar School**, where the audience numbering more than 150 members attended. The Reading brigades of Hooking (under **Ms. Rubila**), Pomliang (Ms. **Bomanlu**) and Manyulaing (Ms. **Mosamlu**) and APNE Library Wakro (Ms. **Kesilu**) conducted the events, under the guidance of Mrs.

Bihem Lap, advisor, **Medo Library**. Addressing the packed gathering, **Dr. S. Nayil**, SMO, **Chongkham and Patron**, **APNE Library** lauded the efforts of the Reading Brigades and hoped more parents would encourage their children to do wide reading.



Small but spirited celebrations were also held by Reading Brigades at Pukhuri (under Ms **Anajngmai**) and Kanjang (Ms. **Odilu**), in which library activists from APNE Library (Ms. **Jeenamsi, Kesilu, Amilu, Bialu, Tisali and Luckyso**) took a leading part, in spite of heavy rains. The other Reading Brigades in remote villages could not be due to inclement weather.

Important Guests to our Libraries:

The following visitors interacted keenly with the Library volunteers during the session:

Ω **Ms. Leelalu Chai**, an **IT professional** at **Delhi** and a patron of Bamboosa Library from Day-1, took time off to spend a day each with the readers of Bamboosa and APNE Libraries. Her visit has been a source of great joy to all activists.

Ω **Dr Tejum Padu**, **Jt. Director, Dept of Hr. Education**, Itanagar came again to spend quite a time with the APNE Library readers, and encouraging their efforts to popularize literary creations in Arunachali languages.

Ω **Sri. K. S. Saini**, **Suptd Enggr. (WRD), Namsai**, inaugurating the Lohit Library Readers’ Meet at Wakro on March 4, 2012, heartily complimented their efforts to bring out the creative power of books through stage-displays.

Ω 93 year-young writer from Bangalore, **Sri. Ramchandra Borgaonkar**, interacting with the Bamboosa Library Tezu narrated to the thrilled audience, how he overcame handicaps of being deaf from birth, to get an education and employment and his evolution as a writer in English and Marathi.

Ω **Dr. Tana Takum**, **SMO, World Health Organization (Arunachal Pradesh)**, Itanagar, visited Tezu and Wakro libraries and heartily applauded the spirited commitment of the reader-activists.

Ω Old time well-wishers **S/Sri Bishen Mepo** from Roing, and **Pelbang Tayeng**, **Dy. Director, Cooperative Societies**, Lohit visited APNE Library and complimented the efforts of the readers in spreading educational awareness through skits in their mother-tongue.

Ω Sri. T. Gangkak, EAC, Wakro and patron of Lohit Youth Libraries, (and the first to allot a plot of govt. land for the Son Hu Son Chang Library, Chongkham) gave away the prizes of the National Science Day contests at APNE Library, and heartily applauded the spirited reading promotion efforts of the reader-activists in Wakro circle.

Sri. Sokhep Kri, State Editor, Arunachal Gazateer, Itanagar and Gen Secretary, PAWSO has kindly agreed to function as the **Itanagar Convener of Lohit Library Network**. Reader activists are very grateful to him for facilitating their participation in the Hutung Library inauguration and his warm hospitality at Yatong.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

It happened to me....

- Ms. Kishalu Kri
Class 7, APNE Library, Wakro

It was the fourth period. Singh Ma'am teaches us Sanskrit. She was very furious. We all were playing in the class. Suddenly she came and shouted, "What are you doing?" we all became silent and went to our own desks. Then she called Okesi and said, "Today I'll ask you to write some sentences in Sanskrit." Okesi went in front of the blackboard but did not write anything. Ma'am shouted again to her to go back. Okesi went back to her place. After that ma'am called out Disinlu. But Disinlu acted as if she did not hear anything. She was writing something. Suddenly Ma'am laughed loud, "Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!"

All my classmates looked at each other. We were nervous. Then we too began to laugh. "Ha! Ha! Hi! Hi!...!!!" It was very noisy, but she was not angry anymore.

We all enjoyed that day. We hope in the coming days too we'll have lots of fun with Singh ma'am....

That October Day.....

- Ms. Alikmai Kri,
cl. 8, APNE Library, Wakro

I was in my village Namgo. It was October mid-term vacation for our school.

One day early in the morning, I was sitting in my home. It was too boring that morning, so I decided to go for a walk.

As I was walking, I saw a man wearing an orange coloured dress and wooden slippers. When I saw him, I got very scared. I thought he could be a crook. I started to run. Suddenly, he signaled me and gave me a smile and said from where he was sitting. "Baby, why are you running?"

I stopped and went near him. "I am not going to harm you" he said. "I came to visit your village."

'He seems to be a good person', I thought again. Then he asked me my name. "Alikmai Kri", I replied. I relaxed myself and asked him, "Where have you come from? What is your name?"

"Vivekananda" he replied. "I came from Kolkata." "By walking?" I asked. He nodded.

I was surprised. 'Truly? Is he lying? Or he's really a crook?...'

"What are you thinking, Alikmai?" he asked. "If you don't believe me, you can see this photo."

I took the photo. It was the famous Swami Vivekananda. I looked at his face again. I found him to be really Swami Vivekananda.

"Samai.." he said. "Please will you show me around your village?" without thinking anything, I immediately said, yes.

I took him around my village. When we were walking, we talked many things about the people in villages, environment, agriculture, mountains, birds and animals. We met many villagers. He gave many nice tips to the village people. I felt very happy walking around with him and talking to him.

We were tired now and rested beneath a shady tree. We were silent for a while.

Then Swamiji rose. He said it was time for him to go. My eyes filled with tears.

Swami looked at him and said, "Alikmai, why are you crying? I will come back whenever you remember me."

He blessed me and walked away. ...I still remember that October day.....

(A prize winning entry in the creative story-writing contest held on National Youth Day 2012)

Brought out in the cause of Joyful reading by Coordinator, VT-AWIC Youth Library Network, Lohit, Wakro-792104 Arunachal Pradesh.

Your contributions are welcome at lohit.libraries@gmail.com