

## **World Environment Day in Arunachal**

**TEZU:** Trees are an important part of Mother Nature, bringing us a variety of benefits and comforts. Hence protecting them and promoting greenery of our surroundings is every person's responsibility", exhorted DFO Wild-life Kamlang WLS, Koj Tassar inaugurating the "Care A Tree Campaign" in Wakro as a part of the World Environment Day Celebrations. He lauded the Lohit Youth Libraries, the Wakro bazaar members, schools and the other voluntary organizations of Wakro for coming together and launching a year-long campaign to create a green Wakro by people's mobilization in tree-planting. Recalling the motto of the World Environment Day 2014 'Raise your voice, Not the sea level' he reminded the people the disastrous consequences if they remain indifferent to their environment, cleanliness of their neighbourhood and the rampant plastic and chemical pollution of Arunachal's once clean earth and water.

The Coordinator, Lohit Youth Libraries elaborated on the basic idea of the Care A Tree Campaign. "Protecting our neighbourhood and greenery is not Govt's responsibility, but of each one of us. Calling plastic pollution as the worst enemy of Arunachal villages and towns, he reminded them that Wakro was once a salubrious and enchanting little town. Future generations would not forgive us if we did not do our bit to help it recover its past green glory.

Later Luckyso Rangmang, APNE Library reader-activist, presented a set of books as a memento to the Chief Guest.

Thanking the DFO for his ready and generous offer to support the Campaign during the year, the Chairman, ASSET, Wakro lauded Dilip De and other members of the Wakro Bazaar for spiritedly joining the Campaign, agreeing to care a tree in the now barren Wakro market. He also complimented the young reader-activists for spreading the message of caring for trees among their elders.

This was followed by tree-plantation by the Chief Guest and other shop-keepers in the market. Plantation was also done by the State Bank of India staff and the members of Wakro Women's Welfare Committee. The plantation by school students will follow in the latter part of the month, after the schools become fully operational.

The campaign activists hope to rope in large number of volunteers in the programme during the year and to focus on reducing the open dumping of plastic and other garbage around the town.