



## News Release

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005, Friday

### We are honored to welcome Dr. Jane!

Friends of the Bagmati is honored to welcome Dr. Jane Goodall, renowned Primatologist and UN Messenger of Peace, in Nepal. During her brief visit to Nepal we were lucky to catch up her gleaming insights of hope and aspirations to make this world 'a real world' with full of tranquility and hope.

Dr. Jane Goodall visited the Friends of the Bagmati (FoB) - Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) project at Teku, Kathmandu on 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2005. On her way to the project site at Teku, Mrs. Ambica Shrestha, Executive Board Member of FoB briefed her about the genesis of major challenges of the Bagmati River and the positive efforts put by various agencies including the Friends of the Bagmati to curb the degraded situation.



Dr. Jane observed composting done by the environmental enthusiasts (women) of the area.

**-- Dr. Jane showed interest to develop a partnership between the Friends of the Bagmati and Roots and Shoots in order to work on the issues of Bagmati River and other rivers of Nepal. --**



Mrs. Shrestha, along with Mr. Siba B. Rajbhandary, Vice-chairperson and Mr. Keshab B. Mathema, General Secretary of the Friends of the Bagmati, briefed her about the NWS project.

Members of the FoB participated in the Informal Talk Program with Dr. Jane at Dwarika's Hotel on 28<sup>th</sup> November. We also had an opportunity to attend the Public Forum on 'Reason for Hope' addressed by Dr. Jane at Patan Museum on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Nepali Times magazine and the Resources Himalaya organized the program.

*The NWS project was initiated with a one-day health camp organized to assess the general health status of the local inhabitants of the area. Majority of them suffered from the effects of unsafe drinking water caused by the unhygienic conditions. Almost 60% of the patients examined were suffering from Diarrhoea, Dysentery and Abdominal pain.*

*Shocked by the findings of the health camp, the women's group then organized a series of riverbank cleaning up programs. Encouraged by the success of the cleaning up programs, they initiated and were also successful in preventing local inhabitants from dumping solid waste along the riverbank.*

*The piles of waste dumped nearby had caused much nuisance and eventually affected the health of the people. Following this, a training to make compost from household solid waste was organized. They have been making compost on the bins provided by the project.*

*Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), United Kingdom funded the project.*

We are very grateful to Roots and Shoots and Mr. Peter Dalglis for providing us an opportunity to meet and interact with Dr. Jane regarding pertinent issues of Bagmati River conservation.