



### **Primary school students and their Families Gather to Take Environmental Action and Reduce Energy Use**

On November 13, 2009, the Institute for Sustainable Communities sponsored an educational workshop on community-based energy efficiency and sustainable development at Nanmen Primary School, Doumen, Zhuhai, in China's Guangdong province. Some 400 primary school students and their families, teachers and local villagers participated in the evening workshop.

The workshop is one of series of activities of a public awareness and residential energy end-use reduction project, which aims to educate students in schools in order to advocate for a more energy efficient lifestyle and ultimately to achieve the goal of 20% electricity savings in local residences.

The project is part of ISC's Guangdong Environmental Partnership (GEP), and Doumen is one of three pilot communities. South China Normal University is ISC's key partner on the educational part of the partnership, which also involves the U.S.-based Shelburne Farms, and the Local Ecological Activities Foundation for Children (LEAF), an educational organization based in Japan. These activities are supported by USAID, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Citi Foundation, and the Japan

Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

Participants pasted notes to a display panel describing their hopes for children in the next 10 years. Both parents and students took part in this exercise to envision a better future. Students and their parents alike explored how to save energy and lead a more environmentally friendly lifestyle by participating in competitions and games such as "Greenhouse Gas Identification," "Saving the Polar Bear," "Environmental Life Adventure," "Solid Waste Categorizing," "Back to the Habitation," and "Organizing the Biological Chain." Participants who won the games received energy efficiency products such as LED lamps, chopstick cases, and reusable bags. The audience viewed a video about global warming.

In addition, students exhibited innovative calendars in which they record their own behavior, household energy use, and thoughts about saving energy. When Zhao Jingjing showed her calendar to her father, a factory worker, he said, "I'm so proud of my daughter and her calendar and I would like to get involved. What you are doing really means a lot to us."

In coming months, ISC and the community will collaborate on publications like a calendar that families can use to record their energy-saving measures and a poster that schoolchildren can disseminate on tips of saving energy.

More than 20,000 families and students in three pilot communities will undertake similar activities over the next two years.



Students from Nanmen Primary School launched the workshop with a lively performance.



Young children had great fun at the workshop.



Children write their thoughts on how they would like to be in ten years, and pasted the "sticky notes" on the display panel. Parent also shared their own hopes and expectations for their children in the same way.



Younger children view the work that senior graders recorded on their calendars.



The best calendars were displayed at the workshop.



Children learned a lot about the environment while they played games.



Students received energy-efficient products as prizes at the end of the workshop.