

Auroville Bamboo Centre News Letter

July to September 2015



Our Service

Established in February 2009, with the aim to incorporate the following four aspects:

- ❖ Vocational training opportunities for the unemployed youth around the villages of Auroville and transforming them into craftsmen who can produce world class Bamboo products
- ❖ A technical and sociological research component to bring together Indian traditional craft with contemporary world culture
- ❖ Production and marketing of Bamboo craft for income generation and building stronger communities for sustainable living
- ❖ Unending research and development of Bamboo for the welfare of local and international communities



Auroville Bamboo Centre as a pioneer in the creative development of sustainable bamboo products, the Auroville Bamboo Centre (ABC) is committed to generate awareness of environmentally sustainable applications of bamboo through research and education. Employing people from local villages around Auroville, from Pondicherry Union Territory and Tamil Nadu State. The organisation strives to support and revitalise the community in which it is located while serving both domestic and global markets that demand high-quality, eco-friendly bamboo merchandise. Through these initiatives the ABC aims to advance the vitality of the planet and it's people.



Training & Workshops

At the Auroville Bamboo Centre (ABC) we make training accessible to everyone. We invite individuals to participate in a wide variety of workshops, covering bamboo construction and bamboo product development. Architects, designers, students and entrepreneurs attend. They may be interested in new product opportunities, technologies, or designs that use bamboo, or they may simply be curious about bamboo and want to learn about this unique material. All are welcome to take part! We also train local women and have a special program that introduces children to bamboo and its uses. And you may be pleased to know that we can tailor-make courses for groups, even large ones.

Upcoming Workshop Dates

October:

- 7 to 10 – Bamboo Construction Workshop
- 12 to 16 – Earth & Bamboo Workshop
- 22 to 24 – Bamboo Furniture Workshop
- 28 to 31 – Bamboo Construction Workshop

November:

- 4 to 7 – Bamboo Construction Workshop
- 16 to 20 – Earth & Bamboo Workshop
- 19 to 21 – Bamboo Furniture Workshops
- 24 to 27 – Bamboo Construction Workshops

December:

- 8 to 11 – Bamboo Construction Workshop
- 22 to 24 – Bamboo Furniture Workshops
- 28 to 31 – Bamboo Construction Workshops

During July to September 2015 we hosted a number of groups workshop:

On July 16th to 18th we offered a three day Bamboo furniture workshop for 10 students from **Dr. MGR University**. The students learned joineries and developing new furniture.

On August 24th to 28th we jointly offered a 5 day Earth & Bamboo workshop together with Auroville Earth Institute (AVEI) and Auroville Green Practices (AGP). Twenty-eight students from **various places in India and abroad** participated and learned about bamboo construction & earth building development.

On September 14th to 15th, we gave a “Two day Introduction to Bamboo Construction” to a group of 25 students from **Academy of Architecture College**, Mumbai. On the first day, we offered a presentation on bamboo and introduced the participants to some basic skills, and on the second day we took the students to different skills in the construction. Also, they got a sense of the Auroville atmosphere and some new knowledge of bamboo.

On September 21st to 23rd we offered a 3 day Bamboo construction workshop for fifty eight students from **Davinci school of design and architecture, Chennai**. They learnt various construction skills.



On 10th to 13th July, we gave a “four Day Bamboo Construction program” to a group of 12 students from all over India as well as abroad. This included presentations, Architect building visits, and case studies as well as the opportunity to fabricate bamboo joints and construction.



Bending Technique



Introduction about bamboo architecture with Neelam Manjunath



INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS:

I had great pleasure in working with your team of workers and volunteers who were very helpful in teaching me the various works which are possible in bamboo and with the prototype furniture that I had been making for the past month.

I had an immense learning experience since this is the first time I am working with bamboo and in designing any kind of furniture.



Hope to use the knowledge I have gained over the past month in the near future and to have many more great experiences with bamboo.

By Arvinth Sethuraman

I am **Abhinraj nj** .I am an architecture student at Coimbatore .Part of my architecture training I joined in Auroville Bamboo Centre from June 22 to October 7.

During these 4 months i learned several things about bamboo in general and about buildings and furniture with this model. Mainly i designed 3 major project and 2 miner project from bamboo Centre .And also participated in Art installation project, making of panels and in the bamboo construction workshop.

I think Auroville Bamboo Centre is always a good choice learning more about bamboo.

The experience here has been nice. i learned a lot of about a new material for me because in college there are no course about this material . so the only way for learning about bamboo is come I place like bamboo Centre



World Bamboo Congress 2015:

On 18th – 24th September 2015 Balu (ABC Founder and Director) and Walter (ABC Technical Instructor) both participated in the World Bamboo Conference, at Korea 2015.

World Bamboo Fair Damyang, Korea will present everything about bamboo based on the theme of “Bamboo for a Greener Future.

it will be a forum for exchanging knowledge and experience about education, environment, culture, industry, and technology research in regard to bamboo and its applications.

It also is a great chance to network with the Bamboo ambassadors from all over the world and build personal relations with experts.



School Visits:

Last 3 month we had several school visited our centre also they learnt some of the toys and Jewellery.

KIS School Workshop

On 27th September, we gave a "half day bamboo Jewellery, Toys and Musical instrument workshop" to a group of 50 students from KIS (Kodaikanal International School). This included a small introduction about bamboo and its uses.



**Akshara Vidyaashram School -
Cuddalore**



**The Future foundation - an integral school
from Kolkotta**



German Weltwaerts group Visit



Special Guest Visits:

Neelam Manjunath visited our Centre as well as she offered introduction talk for the students on 25th of August she is specialist an Architect, Planner, Activist and Theoretician. She has undertaken the form of designing and constructing several reputed projects in India and abroad.

Neelam buildings have been judged to be simple and direct solutions of problems concerning the general function of the buildings, its economics, its aesthetical and adaptive to the climate in context.



In my buildings I try to be sympathetic to the immediate environment in terms of climate, statement of the building forms, local and green building materials etc. I believe that a building is a living entity that it has to have a spirit and it should be felt like a living entity by the occupants; forever changing with the seasons.



Pondicherry Chief Secretary visits:

Auroville Bamboo Centre was happy to host a quick visit of **Mr. Manoj Kumar Parida** who assumed charge as Chief Secretary of the Union Territory on 8th of August 2015.

Mr. Manoj got a quick introduction to Auroville by Balu and Yuval followed by a tour around campus.

The Bamboo Centre team was delighted to get in contact with the Pondicherry Chief Secretary.



South Indian Cine actor **Mr. Jeeva** visited our centre on 21st September along with his family.





Some Recent Activity photos

