



## Bamboo Centre Auroville News Letter

July to September 2017



### 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.



Bamboo Centre Auroville as a pioneer in the creative development of sustainable bamboo products, the Bamboo Centre 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 bamboo centre aims to advance the vitality of the planet and it's people.



## Training & Workshops

At the Bamboo Centre Auroville 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

**9 to 13** – Earth & Bamboo workshop

**25 to 28** – Bamboo & Wood furniture Experience

#### November

**1 to 4** – Bamboo & Wood furniture Experience

**9 to 11** – Bamboo Construction Experience (Joineries techniques)

**21 to 25** – Bamboo Construction Experience (Full bamboo culm techniques)

#### December

**6 to 9** – Bamboo Construction Experience (split bamboo techniques)

**13 to 16** – Bamboo & Wood furniture Experience

**26 to 30** – Bamboo Construction Experience (Full bamboo culm techniques)

**During July to September 2017 we hosted a number of groups workshop:**

#### Bamboo Summer Camp Workshop:

The Bamboo Summer Camp is a 3-week immersive learning experience that offers the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of bamboo construction and sustainable living, whilst engaging in a unique self-inquiry in the company of an international team of mentors.





From 11 July to 30 July we offered a 21-day intensive learning program on natural building with bamboo, individual sustainability and sustainable habitat. In this workshop we got five participants from all over India. The participants constructed a bamboo structure and had an Auroville Experience. Auroville Bamboo Centre technicians, with external resource persons, guided the participants through the full program with lots of hands-on and high intensity input sessions.



## Customised Workshop:

We organised a customised workshop for architecture students from Switzerland from 19 to 28 July.



The goal was to build a Seed Bank structure in Sristi village, which is home to Sristi Special School, a school for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Services for children are limited in the rural area and the school aims to provide children with a good basis in education.





## Group Workshops:

On 4 and 5 September we offered a two-day Bamboo Furniture Workshop for 12 students from Pearl Academy in Rajasthan. The students learned joineries and developing new furniture.



On 11 to 14 July we gave a four-day Construction Workshop to a group of 27 students from SKLT College of Architecture in Mumbai. On the first day, we offered a presentation on bamboo and introduced the participants to some basic skills, and for the remaining days we taught the students different skills in the construction. They also got a sense of the Auroville atmosphere and gained some new knowledge of bamboo.

## Visits:

During the past three months we had several schools visiting our centre. On 18 September a group of 35 twelve-year-old children from Kolkota's Sri Aurobindo Ashram School visited our centre in order to learn and experience the creative work done here.



## WORLD BAMBOO DAY-16th Sep:

For World Bamboo Day, Auroville Bamboo Center organised a full-day event called *Bamboo Man*. We used this name because we were inspired by the *Burning Man* festival, where there are structures, including a man-size structure to burn at the end, workshops and parties. So, with Bamboo Center Auroville resources, that's what we did!



In preparation, we planned 13 different workshops at the Mohanam campus, including a bamboo toy workshop, music instrument making and playing workshops, and a jewellery workshop. We also invited different Auroville units to demonstrate their skills and exhibit their products: bamboo pad workshop was organised by Eco-Femme, basket workshop was organised by Well Paper, and we built a rocket stove with Auroperma.



We also had two live art performances: a papier maché panda and a peacock in bamboo.

We also invited some other partners to create a little market in a fair way, i.e. we didn't charge for the stalls and the decorations were free for vendors. At this market Auroville Bamboo Center showed the new *5 elements bamboo soap* and bamboo amplifiers. In the morning, we did a full bamboo presentation in the main dome. We had a bamboo tea ceremony and ate bamboo rice sweets. The Bamboo Center team prepared a bamboo lunch and dinner with bamboo fried rice and bamboo curry. After lunch we projected documentaries. The evening line up included a bamboo concert with the Bamboo Band and a live performance of the bamboo dance. After dinner we began the DJ night with DJ Vikram, who fired the dance floor before we burned the *Bamboo Man*. We finished the party when the *Bamboo Man* was only smoking.



### Ayutha Pooja Celebration:

On September 28th, we celebrated Ayutha pooja. The principal Shakti goddesses worshiped during the Ayutha puja are Saraswati (the Goddess of wisdom, arts and literature), Lakshmi (the goddess of wealth) and Parvati (the divine mother). Apart from various types of equipment; it is on this occasion that weapons are worshipped by soldiers and tools are revered by artisans. The Pooja is considered a meaningful custom, with its focus of specific attention on one's profession and its related tools and it connotes that a divine force is working behind it to perform well and for getting the proper reward.

### Testimonials from volunteers and interns:

During July to September we have 3 Interns who offered their services to our centre.

**Charles Prabakaran**, 4<sup>th</sup> year architect students from school of architecture, St Peter's college of engineering and technology, Chennai: Bamboo centre – A team of talented, hardworking, kind and considerate people of which am glad to be a part of. This centre has kindled an interest in me towards using bamboo. The construction workshops cover the basics and a lot of freedom and guidance is given for personal research. The technicians have a lot of experience and are extremely supportive. The beauty of bamboo centre is that it keeps growing as each volunteer comes and goes. All the experimental structures you see around are a testament to it. My stay here has been amazing in the bamboo centre. Had a great time with the fellow volunteers.



**Rishap** – Third Year Student of the 'Arulmigu Meenakshi Amman college of Engineering' has worked with Auroville bamboo center for a period of three months as an internship programme.

I have been involved in all the various tasks assigned for me during my work stint.

During my work with Bamboo Centre – I was exposed to all the various facets of bamboo and construction making from bamboo also worked on preparing 3d and estimates for our new Solid waste management programme.



'I, **Vasanth Kumar** – Fourth Year Student of the St Peter's University Chennai – has worked with Auroville bamboo center for a period of three months as an internship programme.

I had great pleasure in working with Bamboo centre team of workers and volunteers who were very helpful in teaching me the various works which are possible in bamboo for the past 3 months as well as prepared Social forest, Solid waste management. I had an immense learning experience since this is the first time I am working with bamboo.

Hope to use the knowledge I have gained over the past 3 month in the near future and to have many more great experiences with bamboo.'

