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*Atomic Energy for peace and development
or for destruction*

WORLD HEALTH DAY

7th April - 2008, Mumbai

MUNA observed No Horn Day in Mumbai on the occasion of "World Health Day" on 7th April 2008.

The Mumbai Traffic Police, Awaaz Foundation, an NGO campaigning against noise pollution in Mumbai along with Maharashtra United Nations Association (MUNA) successfully took up a unique initiative to curb high noise levels by having a 'No Horn Day' on 7th April 2008. They chose 7th April since it is also 'World Health Day'. This was the first time in the country such an experiment was undertaken with participation from the Mumbai Traffic Police, NGOs and the corporate sector.

Awaaz Foundation supported the enforcement campaign of the Traffic Police by allying with the Maharashtra United Nations Associations (MUNA) and organizing more than 50 grass-root NGOs, Citizens Groups and Advanced Locality Managements (ALMs) to boost the Traffic Police and spread messages to create awareness about the 'No Horn Day'; on this day the Police enforced Noise Rules for unnecessary honking and the Maharashtra United Nations Associations, NGOs, citizens and others joined hands with them to promote awareness of the campaign by putting up posters, banners and stickers on cars and by spreading awareness messages through schools, colleges, taxi and auto rickshaw unions, churches, and other community based institutions. Volunteers also stood on important road junctions and requested motorists to refrain from honking and to paste a 'Non Honking Today' sticker on their cars.

On 9th April 2008, Awaaz Foundation, the Maharashtra United Nations Associations Association (MUNA) and other NGOs recognized the role of the Traffic Police by presenting them with a plaque at a ceremony held at the Mumbai Traffic Police Headquarters. The participating citizens' groups were also presented with a rose to recognize their contribution.

After the No Horn Day, it was discussed with the Traffic Police and agreed that the Police campaign to reduce noise from traffic would continue and be stepped up in various ways including stricter implementation of laws for offences such as illegal use of shrill, multi-tone and reverse horns, unnecessary honking at night and in Silence Zones.

Maharashtra United Nations Associations (MUNA) and all those who participated in this first step to reduce noise levels in Mumbai and look forward to continuing and stepping up this initiative in the months and years to come as they have done a remarkable job.

Mr Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh Member of MUNA under the guidance of Mr A. A. Syed - Secretary General of MUNA has taken the Initiative to collaborate MUNA with this event on the eve of World Health Day. President Mrs. Pheroza J. Godrej and Ms. Mohini Mathur - Executive Chairperson supported the cause and appreciated the efforts and hard work done by Members of MUNA in this event.

The following NGOs participated in the event.

Awaaz Foundation, AGNI JAAG Chembur, AGNI G North Ward, AGNI JAAG K East, Ambience Publicis, Anjuman-i-Islam Schools, Anti Noise Pollution Committee, Association of Medical Consultants, Bandra Band Stand Residents Association, Bandra West Residents Association, Bandra Reclamation Citizens Association, Bazaar Road ALM, Chimbai Residents Assn, Chuim Residents Associations, Civil and Political Cell, St. Vincent de Paul, Datak Vastri Samanvaya Sanstha, D'monte Street ALM, Ekta Manch, F North Citizens Federations, Gandhinagar Residents Association, Gul Mohar Societies Welfare Group, Guzdar Bund ALM, H/W Federation, Hill Road Residents Association, International Human Rights Foundation, Juhu Citizens Welfare Association, Juhu Scheme Residents Association, Khar Residents Association, Maharashtra United Nations Association, Maiti Adhikari Manch, Malabar Hill Residents Association, Manav Arogya Seva Sanstha, Marathi Vidnyan Parishad, Marine Drive Residential Association D Road Association, Mira Baug ALM, Money Life Magazine, NSS Volunteers of Kirti College, NSS Volunteers of Wilson College, Nagriksatta Ward 63 Association, Organization for Protection of Children's Rights, P. K. Ravindranath, Pali Hill Residents Association, Perry Road ALM, Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South District 3140, St. Martin's Road ALM, Sanskar India Foundation, Senior Citizens Club, Shivaji Park Dakshata Samiti, Sudhir Badhami, Union Park Residents Association, Zonta Club of Bombay - III