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## Monitoring and evaluation

SCHOOL VISITS FOR THE PV KITS PROJECT FUNDED BY CFLI

November 2016

by Magdalena Górska

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### BACKGROUND

School visits were a crucial component of the CFLI funded project *Enhancing renewable energy education in Seychelles' schools project* in order to monitor and evaluate the results and interest at school level. During the month of November, 2017, after the teacher workshop to introduce the project, the S4S intern, Magdalena Górska went to primary as well as secondary schools to check if the students were interested in hands-on lessons about solar PV. The visits were also intended to promote the solar PV challenge competition and stimulate the use of the solar PV kits in schools. All teachers who participated in the workshop were contacted and asked if they wanted a school visit. Only a few schools responded due to the busy time of year preparing for exams and the end of the school year. S4S contacted some teachers directly to book a visit with students and teachers during lunch time or lesson time. During school visit Magdalena gave short lessons about renewable energy and in particular solar PV energy. She taught students how to connect a solar PV kit and how to use it. Moreover, students together with a teacher and Magdalena brainstormed ideas for the project, which they could create for the competition. This report provides a summary of schools' visits.

### SCHOOLS VISITS OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the schools' visits were to:

- To build students' knowledge and understanding of renewable energy in particular solar PV energy.
- To familiarize students with the components of the solar PV kit for schools and how to connect and use it.
- To invite and inspire students to take part in the national solar PV challenge.

### SCHOOL'S VISITS:

#### MONT FLEURI PRIMARY

**Date:** Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016

**Time:** 10am-11am

**Science teacher:** Florence Marie

**Tel:** 2533705

**Number of students:** 11

**Class:** P5

**Description:**

Students were very enthusiastic and excited about the solar PV kit. They have learned basic information about solar PV energy and how to use and connect the solar PV kit. They found this hands-on lesson idea fascinating because they can learn new knowledge by doing experiments. All of the students wanted to take part in the competition, after the introduction to the national solar PV challenge and inspiring them by showing some examples of the project. They have divided themselves into two groups and start discussing their ideas for the potential project. It was a very successful visit, and they developed many new ideas for the project.

#### **AU CAP PRIMARY**

**Date:** Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

**Time:** 11am-11:45am

**Science teacher:** Damienne Thomas

**Tel:** 2771731

**Number of students:** 20

**Class:** P4 and P5

#### **Description:**

Students were very enthusiastic and excited about the solar PV kit. They were very curious how it works, and they asked many questions. They learned basic information about solar PV energy. They were focused and motivated to learn new knowledge which was helpful during the brainstorm session. They developed a few interesting ideas about the potential project. It was a successful meeting because they had answered questions which they were not able to answer at the beginning of the visit. I noticed that this hands-on lesson system is very helpful for the students, especially in a primary school. They can gain knowledge faster and more efficiently. They can experiment and visualize use of solar PV which helps to understand how it works.

#### **ANSE ROYALE SECONDARY**

**Date:** Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

**Time:** 1:30pm-2:30pm

**Science teacher:** Vincent Larue

**Tel:** 2570109

**Number of students:** 15

**Class:** S4

#### **Description:**

It was a challenge to teach in this secondary school. Students in that age are very difficult, and it is hard to make them interested in anything. I found it very hard but fortunately it turned out to be a successful visit. I presented the necessary information about renewable energy in focus on solar PV energy. Furthermore, I introduced the students to the national solar PV challenge and showed them some ideas about the projects that they could create for the competition. Moreover, after the brainstorming with each other immediately 11 students signed for the competition.

#### **ENGLISH RIVER SECONDARY**

**Date:** Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Time:** 9:30am-10:30am

**Science teacher:** Sir Philip

**EcoSchools coordinator:** Miss Brenda Andimignon

**Number of students:** 4

**Class:** S4

**Description:**

The visit at this school was very interesting. The four students were very motivated to study. They had already taken part in a science fair where they created a solar cooker.

Furthermore, they were familiar with solar energy. I explained more details about solar PV energy and the solar PV kit. They found it fascinating, and they decided that they can definitely use it for several projects after classes.

### **MONT FLEURI SECONDARY**

**Date:** Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Time:** 12:30pm-1:30pm

**IT teacher**

**Number of students:** 12

**Class:** S1, S3, S4

**Description:**

Those secondary students who took part in the lesson were very motivated to study, and it was easier for me to teach them since they wanted to gain new information. Students were interested in the renewable energy technologies, and they had a basic knowledge about it. The most confusing part was knowledge about electricity. I have taught them the basic information, so they were able to understand how the solar PV kit works. They found it an excellent idea to use a solar PV kit during their classes so they could better understand the topic by experimentation and visualization. After the introduction to the national solar PV competition, almost every student wanted to take part in it. I have shown them a few examples for the project, but they had some other ideas as well. The brainstorm session was very successful.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

- The timing of the outreach sessions was not good for schools as they were all in preparation for end of year exams.
- Nonetheless, most of the meetings took place during class time and carried into break time -the teachers made time for the visits understanding the importance of the topic and the potential interest among students.
- Generally, students from both primary and secondary schools demonstrated that they are very interested in solar PV and motivated to participate in the competition. However, the primary school children seem to be more enthusiastic and excited about using the technology, generally, than the older students in secondary schools.

### **ADVICE FOR THE SOLAR PV COMPETITION**

- The details about solar PV challenge should be planned as soon as possible: the # of participants per team, the system of the judging, prizes, venue of the awards.
- At the beginning of the new school year, the posters about the national PV challenge should be distributed to all of the primary and secondary schools.
- Memo about the details of the solar PV challenge should be sent to schools as soon as possible at the beginning of the 2017 school year.

- If possible, more school visits should be

## PHOTOS

