

# PLANNING GLOBAL BITES FOR INFORMAL DROP-IN EVENTS

*Fêtes, fairs, coffee mornings, conference breaks – i.e. events where other people will also have stalls or displays, and where people move around from stall to stall, often with little focus except to find something interesting to do.*



- Include something eye-catching to draw people to your stall. It doesn't matter if it isn't really relevant to the activity or issue. *For example, at the Green Scythe Fair we used a wire toy from Ghana to attract the attention of small children, who then visited our stall.*

- Try to negotiate a space which people will pass on their way to somewhere else (particularly the refreshment tent!).

- Make sure you have a kit of string, scissors, strong sticky tape, blutak etc with you so that regardless of the venue you can securely put up any display that goes with your bite.
- If you know the event will be busy, make sure you have enough helpers/volunteers, and brief them in particular about how to generate discussion not just how to do the activity.
- If things are slow, do the activity yourself or get your volunteers to! Seeing busy people will attract them in.
- Put more importance on the discussion than the activity; once a discussion starts, nurture and manage it if you can. Remember that you will learn from the discussion too; if you listen others will. Ask questions rather than give answers. Have sources of information to refer to, and ideally a handout to give as they move on.
- For families, where the children are doing the activity, try to engage the parents in the global issue. Don't underestimate the ability of quite young children themselves to take part in discussions.

## **See also our case studies:**

- *Bath and West Show*
- *Youth Parliament Regional Meeting*
- *Exhibition at a Gardening Show*
- *Fair Trade Coffee Morning*

