



## Climate Change Community



### Community Update No. 54: 30th May, 2014 In this Issue

#### FROM THE RESOURCE PERSON

Dear Members,

Greetings and best wishes for a healthy and safe summer!!

We are delighted to present the 54<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Community Update, today. We are really overwhelmed by your continued cooperation and support in making this unique knowledge sharing platform complete five years next month. Reflecting back it looks like we began our journey with you only yesterday. It has been indeed a very exciting journey for me personally and I hope you also enjoyed our knowledge sharing ideas and innovations.

Over the years, the thematic area of climate change has increased in importance significantly. Consequently, the Government in India has just a few days ago changed the name of MOEF to **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**. We would like to thank each one of you in highlighting relevant issues in this area and highlighting the great importance of this field.

The Action Groups that is presently active is on **Easy (not so easy) Solutions to Address Climate Change**. The Compendium will include:

- Material that is home based and easily understood and usable by people- to include basic details of where to get it from, cost, advantages, its impact on climate change etc.
- Simple indexing
- Already available material can be collated together.
- Simple solutions for mass utilization to be highlighted in the compendium.

Please send us your comments and suggestions to improve the Community Update. As always, we look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks & best regards,  
Ramesh Kumar Jalan  
Resource Person & Moderator  
Climate Change Community,  
Solution Exchange-India  
United Nations Development Programme  
New Delhi

#### DEVELOPMENT IN THE SECTOR

## **National contributions to observed global warming**

The abstract is available at:

[http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/1/014010#.U2Frn7m\\_NvY.email](http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/1/014010#.U2Frn7m_NvY.email).

The paper is available at:

[http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/1/014010/pdf/1748-9326\\_9\\_1\\_014010.pdf](http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/1/014010/pdf/1748-9326_9_1_014010.pdf) .

There is considerable interest in identifying national contributions to global warming as a way of allocating historical responsibility for observed climate change.

This task is made difficult by uncertainty associated with national estimates of historical emissions, as well as by difficulty in estimating the climate response to emissions of gases with widely varying atmospheric lifetimes.

Here, a new estimate of national contributions to observed climate warming is presented, including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels and land use change, as well as methane, nitrous oxide and sulfate aerosol emissions.

While some countries' warming contributions are reasonably well defined by fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, many countries have dominant contributions from land use CO<sub>2</sub> and nonCO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions, emphasizing the importance of both deforestation and agriculture as components of a country's contribution to climate warming.

Furthermore, because of their short atmospheric lifetime, recent sulphate aerosol emissions have a large impact on a country's current climate contribution.

It is also shown that there are vast disparities in both total and per capita climate contributions among countries, and that across most developed countries, per capita contributions are not currently consistent with attempts to restrict global temperature change to less than 2 deg. C above preindustrial temperatures.

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## **India rain woes grow bigger, scientists worried (FEEDBACK of Devendra Sahai, GWRC, New Delhi).**

India, historically, a well-watered land, is facing a very serious water problem, gradually aggravating since 1947 as our population has quadrupled to 125 crores and is still growing. **What is wrong with this? Is it a bane and not a boon? How has it harmed India?**

1. With unprecedented growth in population, agricultural holdings have been fragmented into unviably small plots, incapable of sustaining the owners. PM Manmohan Singh himself declared this to be prime cause of the decline in our Agriculture. This has forced the peasants to massively invade and encroach into the forests for land, fodder, fuel or timber for house building or furniture. As a result of this sustained and ever increasing pressure, our forests have been decimated. This process is continuing unchecked. I was witness to a large gathering, near Uttarkashi, of village Pradhan's from all parts of Uttarakhand, where a demand for official permission to encroach further into the forests was loudly raised. The reason given was that their land holdings had become fragmented, small and unviable. I was obliged to counter this and tried to make them aware of facts described earlier. This tragic situation is not realized or understood by the post-independence generations, who have not seen the green, pristine pre independence

India. The great forests of the Terai and Bhabar, the Eastern and Western Ghats and Central India are history today.

2. With the trees gone, the forest floor has become exposed to the fury of the monsoon rains. First, the rich layer of humus and then the now exposed top soil has been washed off by the lashing rains. The soil, which is the very flesh of the land, has settled in and silted the beds of rivers, making them shallow. This has reduced the carrying capacity of rivers and resulted in cyclic floods and droughts.
3. The silt has also found its way into reservoirs of Hydel Dams, reducing their storage capacity and thus the project life. High silt content in Mountain Rivers has also affected the performance and life of the turbines of Hydel plants due to increased erosion. Indeed plants, such as Nathpa-Jhakri had to be shut down last summer due to high silt content in the river. While the turbines are designed to handle specified silt content, continued deforestation upstream of the dams has resulted in silt content exceeding designed value.
4. The struggle for water is not limited to individuals alone. States too fight over water. The Kaveri water dispute is well known. Punjab is reluctant to part with water to Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan.

The following suggestions may be considered for greening India which would alleviate the water woes of India:

- Pilgrims and other visitors to places of pilgrimage may be encouraged to plant a sapling each. This will not only result in greening but also green the minds of people.
- Student groups may be involved in greening denuded land. The first group may dig the pits and then depart. The second may prepare the earth / manure / water mix and fill in the pits and then depart. The third group may plant the saplings and water / care for them till the Monsoon takes over. Each group may spend up to two weeks during their summer vacation, making it a total of maximum six weeks. The timing should be planned to complete the exercise by the beginning of the Monsoon. The Forest Department of the State concerned should organize this and make all necessary arrangements. I have witnessed such an exercise at Bhim Tal in the Kumaon hills many years ago. The Government should provide budgetary support.
- Retired Armed Forces personnel should be involved in tree plantation as well as population stabilization. With their discipline, training and leadership qualities, they can not only perform personally but also carry the village populace with them.
- Since we Indians have a respect for holy places, forests should be planted around these and herbivores introduced after the trees have grown. These should then be declared as legally protected sanctuaries or "ABHAYARANYAS". History records the existence of such ABHAYARANYAS in ancient India. Reviving them should be a natural priority.
- Our National Parks are in a very sad and poor condition. They must be regenerated on highest priority. The necessary steps are well known. Lack of political will and corruption on a massive scale are the problems preventing positive action.
- A public Awareness campaign on a sustained basis and on a national scale must be organized with the aim of positively and actively involving the public as well as creating public opinion which alone will force the politicians to act.
- The "Chipko" movement must be revived. The cooperation of Chipko leaders may be sought.
- Village folk including Gram Sabhas or Gram Panchayats and their leaders, Gram Pradhans, must be involved in this holy task of planting and protecting trees. I have personally witnessed that Himalayan forests, which are under the Gram Sabhas, are in pristine condition, while the forests under the Forest Department are severely degraded. This is obviously due to the personal interest and involvement of village folk in protecting their forests.
- During the National Seminar having the theme: "Save Ganga – Save Himalaya – Save

India” organized by DEEP Trust on 1 and 2 Oct 2004, Begum Ayesha Khan, Pakistan’s leading environmentalist and wife of the then Pak High Commissioner, gave a presentation on her work in preserving the ecology of Pak held Himalayas ( Saltoro – Baltoro range ) by involving the local populace and devising schemes which provided income while preserving the ecology.

- It is very important to save the ecology of the high Himalayas, including the glaciers and the high mountain forests and other vegetation. This can best be done by restricting the movement of non-essential people to these areas. For example, no one must be allowed to go near Gomukh glacier. Movement of the public beyond Gangotri must be banned.
- The Media should play a positive and active role in spreading public awareness.
- NGOs should build tree plantation into their regular activities.
- The very important truth that MOTHER EARTH AND MOTHER INDIA HAVE A STRICTLY FINITE CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINING HUMAN POPULATION must be conveyed to every human.

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## **Problems for Facilitating Aquaculture Insurance in India**

### **Members are urged to provide suggestions / comments and share their experiences for facilitating aquaculture insurance in India.**

Major risk that affect the successful conduct of fish culture operation and fish farmer enterprise profitability are accidents, natural calamities and fish diseases that negatively affect the health and physical well-being of the fish farmers themselves, working conditions, farm production assets and the production of fish and other aquatic organisms and incomes .

The introduction of appropriate insurance arrangements that assist aqua-culturists in sharing the risks involved in aquaculture production will certainly enhance the economic and financial viability of the sector. Insurance will further facilitate the adoption of newly introduced measures and regulations that aim at promoting the environmental and social sustainability of aquaculture and the better use of aquatic resources.

The inland fisheries resources provide full time vocation to 1.24 million inland fishers, producing around 5.3 million tons of fish during 2012-13 .India planned to enhance fish production to a level of 7.9 million tons by end of 2016-17 with 8% annual growth under five year plan of Government of India. India is the third largest producer of inland fish in the world (after China and Bangladesh) and the sector plays a great role in nutritional security and employment potential.

India is basically a carp country with more than 75 percent of the production being contributed by carps alone. The other significant contributor in recent years is Pangasius species. **India is now the third largest producer of Pangasius in the world after Vietnam and Thailand.**

Since the early eighties, development of brackish water fish culture has gained prominence. About 1.2 million ha has been estimated as amenable for brackish water aquaculture in the coastal areas of the country but only 15% amenable area is under culture. Besides tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*), the exotic white leg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) is also becoming a popular species. Farmed shrimps contribute a sizeable percentage to the total exports from the country.

The possible recommendations for the development of aquaculture insurance in India are:

- **Need to enhance awareness on aquaculture insurance by conducting awareness programmes for all stakeholders:** Since many stakeholders are still not

yet fully aware of the merits and value of aquaculture insurance to increase sustainability of the sector, production process and aqua-culturists' livelihoods, there is scope for more awareness raising. This should be carried out as a joint effort by insurance companies, government agencies and aquaculture producers associations and cooperatives.

- **Government support for aquaculture insurance is required to support the service in its early stages:** In Japan, aquaculture insurance is very popular among aquaculture farmers. Associations provide insurance cover with government assistance in the form of subsidies on the premiums paid. In India insurance companies are reluctant to provide insurance for aquaculture due to high risks of failure involved. Part of this reluctance could be lessened by some government support to aquaculture insurance companies, particularly in the pilot stages. Central and state governments provide 20 percent subsidy for purchase of inputs for aquaculture. Aquaculture insurance should be considered as one of the input for sustainable aquaculture while providing subsidy to aqua-culturists.
- **Lower premium and parity with agriculture:** The National Fisheries Development Board of India (NFDB) is working out modalities with insurance companies to introduce cover for shrimp and fish stocks at lower premium on lines of agriculture and livestock insurance. The insurance premium for aquaculture is between 3.0 -7.5 percent of sum insured. However, it is only 2.5 percent for agriculture farmers. The small and marginal farmers get 10 percent subsidy on premium which is shared between the Centre and respective state governments. It is important to fix premium rates for aquaculture sector on a par with agriculture to enhance fish production.
- **Provision for partial loss claims:** Insurance companies generally do not compensate damages that are less than total losses; partial losses are not compensated for. Since many of the losses made are only partial, the current insurance policies are often less attractive to aqua-culturists. There is need to cover partial losses.
- **Reinsurance:** In an era of globalization, reinsurance services are available from international reinsurance companies such as Munich Re, Swiss Re and through Lloyd's. In order to decrease their risks, national insurance companies should become more active in exploring the possibilities of international reinsurance.
- **Linkage between credit and insurance:** There is a need to establish direct links between insurance and credit programmes so that insurance cover can form part of the collateral for a loan and insurance premiums are included in the loan itself and similar linkages. Appropriately linked credit and insurance arrangements will greatly enhance the scope for taking full advantage of new development opportunities and prospects in the aquaculture sector. Microfinance sector provides great opportunity for linking insurance with credit support to Self Help Groups (SHGs) in India.
- **Support from international organizations:** Support needed from International Organizations for preparation and implementation of pilot project on aquaculture insurance in India.
- **Inclusion of insurance premium expenses for international organization funded projects of aquaculture:** The World Bank provides about 100 million USD for aquaculture activities in India and provide aquaculture inputs as grant for two to three years for improving fish production but this grant is not linked with insurance policy hence it is recommended to include insurance premium under input cost while providing grant to fish farmers under World Bank funded projects.

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### **Questionnaire for Developing a tool to assess Carbon Neutral and Sustainability of educational campuses.**

TERI University is developing a tool to assess Carbon Neutral and Sustainability of educational campuses, supported by UNDP. Based on your expertise, we kindly request you to spare some

time and fill this questionnaire.

The objective of the study is given below. We kindly request you to fill the questionnaire below, which will help us in developing this tool.

A group of researchers at TERI University is working on a UNDP sponsored project titled "Carbon Neutral and Sustainable Campuses". The objective of this study is to prepare a manual for carbon neutrality and sustainability of educational campuses.

It comprises of two parts- the calculation of the net carbon footprint of the campus and the assessment of the campus sustainability. The Carbon Footprint analysis comprises of five indicators. While for the assessment of the sustainability of the campus we are deriving a Campus Sustainability Index which comprises of four main components and 30 indicators.

To develop this index we need to determine which of the selected components and indicators are more important for the assessment than the others and assign different importance scores to each component and subsequently the indicators.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to seek your help in assigning these scores to:

- The carbon footprint analysis, and
- The campus sustainability analysis which comprises of four major components and 30 indicators

Based on the scores you assign we will apply statistical tools to determine the final weightage for each component and indicator and form the carbon neutral and sustainability index.

Please click on the link to complete the questionnaire: <https://bit.ly/1j5IpS7> .

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**Position paper of Watershed Organisation Trust entitled "Towards Resilient Agriculture in a Changing Climate Scenario – Building Response Capacity of Small-Holder Producers"**

**Members are urged to provide suggestions / comments and share their experiences in this regard.**

Watershed Organisation Trust is pleased to announce the release of its position paper – Towards Resilient Agriculture in a Changing Climate Scenario – Building Response Capacity of Small-Holder Producers. It is available at: <http://wotr.org/publications/towards-resilient-agriculture-changing-climate-scenario>.

The publication is a part of a series of 12 position papers being formulated by the organization as it works towards catalysing insights, learnings and experiences from multiple stakeholders involved in its Climate Change Adaptation project.

Apart from papers on Food & Nutrition Security, Biodiversity and Energy that are already available on our website, the series would eventually cover the sectors of Watershed Development, Water, Livestock, Disaster Risk Reduction and Risk Prevention, Economics and Livelihoods, Health, Gender and Governance.

The paper, "Towards Resilient Agriculture in a Changing Climate Scenario – Building Response Capacity of Small-Holder Producers", captures the ground realities of small- holder farmers in rainfed Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

It presents WOTR's approach towards climate-resilient agriculture. The paper also suggests recommendations for policy that will help increase the response capacity of farmers. It also draws attention to the need of enhancing the resilience of the ecosystem so as to reduce risks posed by climate change.

You can download Towards Resilient Agriculture in a Changing Climate Scenario from: [http://wotr.org/sites/default/files/WOTR Agriculture Position Paper.pdf](http://wotr.org/sites/default/files/WOTR_Agriculture_Position_Paper.pdf) [PDF 0.99 MB]

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**BIG DATA CLIMATE CHALLENGE: Using Big Data to Make the Case for Climate Change Action.**

**Apply now using the link:** <http://www.unglobalpulse.org/apply-now> .

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN**

**BIG DATA  
CLIMATE CHALLENGE**  
**CLIMATE SUMMIT 2014**

UN Global Pulse and the Secretary General's Climate Change Support Team are hosting the Big Data Climate Challenge (BDCC) to bring forward data-driven evidence of the economic dimensions of climate change. The BDCC is an initiative of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit to be held in September 2014.

There is a need for fresh evidence that strengthens the economic case for action on climate change to show where such action is feasible, affordable and effective. The 2014 Climate Summit represents a turning point from climate change awareness to action. Therefore the BDCC calls upon the international academic, scientific, technology and policy communities to highlight data-driven evidence to drive climate action.

The BDCC will source projects from around the world that use Big Data and analytics to address real world impacts of climate change. This initiative will help build public understanding of how Big Data can reveal critical insights for strengthening resilience and mitigating emissions.

**How the BDCC works**

We encourage multidisciplinary initiatives from all relevant fields to apply, seeking recently implemented or published projects and initiatives that use Big Data and analytics to show the economic implications of climate impact and opportunities to manage climate risks.

A Technical Advisory Board with high-profile experts from both the UN System and fields of Big Data, climate and sustainable development will evaluate submissions and help select the winning projects.

Winning projects will be showcased at the 2014 Climate Summit at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Qualified submissions deemed relevant by the Technical Advisory Board will be shared globally through UN and Climate Summit media and broad public outreach.

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## **Worldwatch Institute's 2014 State of the World Report entitled Governing for Sustainability**

Preview of the publication is available at:

<http://www.worldwatch.org/bookstore/publication/state-world-2014-governing-sustainability> .

Worldwatch Institute's 2014 State of the World Report entitled **Governing for Sustainability** was recently released.

### **About Governing for Sustainability**

Citizens expect their governments to lead on sustainability. But from largely disappointing international conferences like Rio II to the U.S.'s failure to pass meaningful climate legislation, governments' progress has been lacklustre.

That's not to say leadership is absent; it just often comes from the bottom up rather than the top down. Action—on climate, species loss, inequity, and other sustainability crises—is being driven by local, people's, women's, and grassroots movements around the world, often in opposition to the agendas pursued by governments and big corporations.

These diverse efforts are the subject of the latest volume in the Worldwatch Institute's highly regarded State of the World series.

The 2014 edition, marking the Institute's 40th anniversary, examines both barriers to responsible political and economic governance as well as gridlock-shattering new ideas.

The authors analyse a variety of trends and proposals, including regional and local climate initiatives, the rise of benefit corporations and worker-owned firms, the need for energy democracy, the Internet's impact on sustainability, and the importance of eco-literacy. A consistent thread throughout the book is that informed and engaged citizens are key to better governance.

The book is a clear-eyed yet ultimately optimistic assessment of citizens' ability to govern for sustainability.

By highlighting both obstacles and opportunities, State of the World 2014 shows how to effect change within and beyond the halls of government.

**This volume will be especially useful for policymakers, environmental nonprofits, students of environmental studies, sustainability, or economics—and citizens looking to jumpstart significant change around the world.**

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### **Climate Change as a State Issue or a Central Issue, or Both?**

The article is available at: <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/planetpolicy/posts/2014/05/05-modi-india-climate-change-antholis>.

With Narendra Modi winning the polls in India, fueled by the economic success of his home state of Gujarat, many wonder how he would govern. His economic successes occurred, in part, from delivering high quality reliable energy in Gujarat at a fair price, including virtually 100%



household-level supply of electricity in rural areas. With national rural electrification rates approaching 70%, this is no mean feat. He also has billed himself as a climate change activist. He created a state-level ministry for climate, and published a book on Gujarat's Response to Challenges of Climate Change with low-carbon investments.

Given India's huge energy demands and the domestic availability and low cost of coal, are the two goals compatible?

	Central	States
<b>Energy Reform</b>	<p>Streamline government agencies</p> <p>Move forward grid modernization</p>	<p>Build state capacity for price reform and fee collection</p> <p>Improve service delivery</p>
<b>Climate Action</b>	<p>Promote renewables, natural gas, nuclear</p> <p>Hold states accountable for climate action plans</p> <p>Adopt proactive national goals</p> <p>Play a constructive role in global talks</p>	<p>Create state-level action officers (either high in energy ministries or as free standing)</p> <p>Complete state action plans</p> <p>Begin implementation</p> <p>Establish linkages with state and provincial counterparts in the United State, European Union, etc.</p>

He could empower states to supplant central plans and regulations, as he did in Gujarat on solar installations, oil and gas pricing, and coal allocation. But that means investing significantly in state capacity. In Gujarat, he personally oversaw the staffing, rule-making, and implementation of reform. India's thirty-odd states range widely in their administrative capacities. **Reforming states is the right thing to do in the long-term, but will not provide immediate economic results.**

### Climate Change

Again, he faces a choice. An overhaul of central government ministries, with an emphasis on climate, would favor nuclear, renewables, natural gas, and a major investment in smart grid technologies. He could demand that the states take on this challenge. In exchange for central resources, they would have to complete their state action plans for climate change – few of which have been completed.

**On energy and climate change, he faces hard choices. It will not only be interesting to see which he chooses – it will be vital. India's growth and the world's climate hang in the balance.**

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## **India's misplaced energy ambitions: Energy security is a complex process that even organized countries find hard to achieve**

The paper is available online at:

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/1Ry7tapORIG1RpIdFVew7L/Indias-misplaced-energy-ambitions.html> .

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has rightly dubbed India's plan to become energy independent by 2030 as "very ambitious" and "idealistic".

In an interview, IEA executive director Maria van der Hoeven said that, "Where 300 million Indians are lacking access to electricity and where per-capita electricity consumption is one-fourth of the world's average, this is a very, very ambitious and huge challenge. It is not easy. There is a dependency in India on oil and gas imports and that's something that shouldn't be forgotten either."

As India grows and lifts more citizens out of poverty and as income levels increase, the demand for energy will rise further. The demand side of the energy equation is obvious; it is the supply side that is clouded.

The target is to reduce crude oil imports by 50% by 2020, 75% by 2025 and energy independence by 2030.

For this to happen, India needs to undertake three difficult steps:

- First and foremost the country needs to get its energy pricing right. India has not been able to do this and any steps that are taken occur with fits and starts. For example, in the last 10 years, there has been a marked resistance to increases in diesel and petrol prices. The corrective steps taken in the last 12 months have been due to fiscal considerations and not from the perspective of long-term planning for energy security.
- Second, India needs to get its energy mix right. At the moment, there is no coherence in its fuel and energy consumption mix. Imported fuels are being used largely in the transport sector (for example, diesel) but they are also used to generate energy (for example, LNG). This mix can be changed by increasing hydropower generation. In the last decade, hardly any effort has been made to increase the latter source. If India goes for hydropower in a big way, the problems associated with thermal power generation—shortage of domestically produced coal and dependence on imported coal—can be alleviated as well. This requires close cooperation between environmental authorities, state governments and the power ministry. In recent years, the relationship between different stakeholders has turned adversarial and increasing India's hydropower generation looks like a distant dream.
- Finally, if India is to realize zero independence then domestic production of crude oil has to go up greatly. For this, a host of steps are needed. Quickly speed up the Open Acreage Licensing Policy that will allow bidders to bid for blocks at any time of the year as compared with the current system of periodic bidding under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP). The NELP has only had moderate success. Further the design and administration of production sharing contracts (PSCs) needs to be revisited. Appropriate tax breaks can further boost the exploration effort.

India has a roadmap for all this. The first part of the Vijay Kelkar committee report on "Roadmap for Reduction in Import Dependency in Hydrocarbon Sector by 2030" was released in December.

So far, there has been no visible effort to implement the recommendations made by Kelkar.

Energy security is a complex process that even organized countries find hard to achieve. The US managed a supply-side solution only after the discovery of large-scale shale hydrocarbon deposits. In Europe, a combination of demand management and alternative clean energy sources has tempered a reduction in foreign energy dependence.

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### **From Watershed Development towards Climate Resilience: Reflections from Watershed Development projects implemented by WOTR**

The article 'From Watershed Development towards Climate Resilience: Reflections from Watershed Development projects implemented by WOTR' can be downloaded from: <http://wotr.org/sites/default/files/From%20WSD%20towards%20Resilience.pdf> .

To know more about Watershed Development, Climate Change Adaptation or WOTR, please send an email to: [news@wotr.org.in](mailto:news@wotr.org.in) .

Maharashtra suffers recurrent spells of drought. A drought during the rabi season in 2011-2012 extended to rabi 2012-13 making it one of the worst droughts in Maharashtra affecting domestic needs, agriculture, livestock, and livelihoods of millions.

Despite the obvious, a few villages in the drought hit regions of Ahmednagar and Marathwada managed fairly well despite the prevailing circumstances, with access to quality drinking water and enough water resources for human and livestock.

Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) through the Indo-German Watershed Development Programme (IGWDP) and other funding sources had supported participatory watershed development that strengthened the resilience of the inhabitants of these villages.

Watershed Development (WSD) programmes are designed to enhance the natural resource base, however, if resilience of the resources and inhabitants in the face of climate variability is included, sustainability is more ensured. The article gives an account of the adjustments required to adapt and maintain the eco-systems resilience, by adaptive management of the resources and sensitizing people to the impacts of climate change.

The article also explains WOTR's watershed development approach in the context of climate change that incorporates activities to build both hard as well as soft resilience within communities against disasters.

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### **How does climate change alter agricultural strategies to support food security?**

The paper is available online at: <http://eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/climate-change&id=68183&type=Document> .

The purpose of the above paper is to identify how climate change affects how people should approach the process of transforming agricultural systems (including crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry) to support global food security and poverty reduction in a sustainable way.

Five major categories of responses are identified within agricultural transitions that can be taken to respond to climate change:

- Increasing the resilience of production systems
- Diversification
- Expanding the use of no regrets technologies and planning,
- Better use of information for risk management
- Utilizing the co-benefits from mitigation.

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### How Japan Plans to Build an Orbital Solar Farm

The paper is available online at: [http://spectrum.ieee.org/green-tech/solar/how-japan-plans-to-build-an-orbital-solar-farm/?utm\\_source=energywise&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=050714](http://spectrum.ieee.org/green-tech/solar/how-japan-plans-to-build-an-orbital-solar-farm/?utm_source=energywise&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=050714).

No matter how good the solar panels on your roof are, they aren't good enough to collect energy at night.

However, researchers at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have hatched a plan to harvest the sun's energy nearly 24 hours a day.

The idea is to launch solar-energy collectors into geosynchronous orbit. Mirrors in orbit would reflect sunlight onto huge solar panels, and the resulting power would be beamed down to Earth.

The special satellites would beam microwave energy down to an array of tiny rectifying antennas that would convert microwaves into DC electricity.

Sounds far-fetched but the JAXA team says that technical advances such as improvements in wireless power transmission, along with heightened public concern about the burning of fossil fuels, are providing the impetus to make their seemingly sci-fi vision a reality in the not-too-distant future.

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## MEMBER POSTINGS

### Workshops and Conferences

#### Upcoming:

**FICCI Quality Forum is organizing third edition of Indian Conference on Life Cycle Management (ILCM 2014) on 29-30 September in New Delhi.**

ILCM is a flagship event of FICCI which aims to promote Life Cycle Thinking in India. For more information, you may refer to <http://www.indialca.com/>.

The deadline for the call for abstracts for ILCM 2014 is fast approaching, i.e. 1 July 2014.

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**The Resilient Cities conference** - the Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation – is taking place in Bonn, Germany, on 29-31 May 2014. The programme is packed with very interesting

### EVENTS

**International Biological Diversity Day celebrated on May 22, 2014**

The article is available at: <http://echoofindia.com/port-blair-intnl-biological-diversity-day-celebrated-57445>.

The Administration of A&N Islands is committed towards promoting sustainable and inclusive growth while being sensitive to our fragile ecosystem and keeping the concerns of our particularly vulnerable tribes to the fore, said the Lt Governor, A&N Islands, Lt. Gen (Retd) A K

and practical sessions. People who cannot attend can still follow the event on twitter (#ResilientCities or @ICLEI\_ResCities) or through the conference blog: <http://resilientcitiesblog.iclei.org/>.

The conference website:

<http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/bonn2014/resilient-cities-2014-home/>

ICLEI South Asia will be there to present a number of projects from the region; we have collected all the relevant sessions in a newsbit on our website:

<http://southasia.iclei.org/resources/news/article/iclei-south-asia-resilient-cities-2014-bonn/>

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### **First Global Conference on Climate Change and Health.**

Further details are available at: <http://climate-l.iisd.org/events/first-global-conference-on-climate-change-and-health/>

This three-day conference, hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, will bring together leading experts in the fields of health and climate change.

The Conference aims to articulate a shared vision on how the health sector can best prepare for climate change, and to give voice to the health benefits of climate actions.

The outcomes will inform the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit 2014 in September, as well as discussions on Climate Change and Sustainable Development taking place this year.

The salient aspects are given below:

**Dates: 27-29 August 2014**

**Venue:** WHO headquarters

**Location:** Geneva, Geneve, Switzerland

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### **The 2014 Millennium Development Goals Congress in Asia to be held in Hiroshima, Japan from August 6-8, 2014**

Further details are available at the link:

<http://www.esdfocus.org/millennium-development-goals-congress/>

**The 2014 Millennium Development Goals Congress in Asia** is scheduled to be held in Hiroshima, Japan from August 6-8, 2014.

The 2014 Millennium Development Goals Congress in Asia invites

Singh while speaking at the International Biodiversity Day celebrations. The theme for this year's celebration was 'Island Biodiversity'.

Addressing an august gathering consisting of researchers, representatives from United Nation Development Programme, A&N Administration and NGOs concerned with biological diversity conservation programmes from across the country, the Lt Governor said that while living in the present we must care for our future generations. Educating people on biodiversity conservation is very important today, the Lt Governor said expressing happiness that the children of today are becoming aware about the importance of protecting and conserving biodiversity and natural resources.

The Lt Governor stated that the amazing works related to biodiversity conservation done in these islands should also reach the nation and the world as well. While informing the gathering about the geographical conditions of the islands, the Lt Governor also stated that the islands are in right sense, Mini India, reflecting the true spirit of our Constitution.

The Lt. Governor gave away the India Biodiversity Awards 2014 recognizing excellence in biodiversity governance. The Lt. Governor also released publications & a CD brought out by the IUCN, ZSI & BSI.

The publications included 'Coral Reefs: Rain Forests of the Ocean' and 'India's Coastal And Marine Treasure Chest' both brought out by IUCN while 'Protected Marine Animals Of India', 'Status of Sea Cucumber in the Territorial Water of A&N Islands', 'Threatened Amphibians of India' and 'Agariciids of A&N Islands' were brought out by Zoological Survey of India. The CD 'Coastal Mangrove Flora of Andaman & Nicobar Island' is created by BSI.

In his introductory remarks, the Addl. Secretary, MoEF, GoI, and Chairperson National Biodiversity

scholarly interactions among academics, researchers, doctoral students, and representatives from industry, entrepreneurs, and non-profit and non-governmental organization professionals.

Authors are welcome to submit from a range of topics, perspectives, and disciplines. The range of research submissions may include conceptual, empirical, experimental, and case studies.

The congress theme of **The Future We Want: Perspectives on the Millennium Development Goals for Asia** seeks to explore such issues and their links to the notion of sustainability through the combined and holistic lenses of an interdisciplinary approach.

Asia MDGs 2014 is an international, peer-reviewed congress. Full papers are welcome, but not required. Registered participants with an accepted abstract and/or refereed full paper will be published in the Asia MDGs 2014 Congress Proceedings.

Authority (NBA) Mr Hem Pandey said there cannot be a better place than these Islands to observe this Day as these islands possess rich biodiversity, fragile eco-system and are abode of endemic species.

In his address on the occasion, the Chief Secretary A&N Administration, Mr Anand Prakash said that these islands constitute hot spots of biodiversity. He further underlined the need for conserving and protecting the fragile eco-system existing in these Islands. The Chief Secretary said that conservation of biodiversity is being given high priority and strategies and state action plans have been devised for protecting biodiversity.

In his address, the UNDP Country Director, Mr. John Sorensen gave an overview about the India Biodiversity award. He further informed that UNDP India is a partner with National Biodiversity Authority in organizing the event in this scenic and biodiversity rich pristine Islands. Citing example of Nepal where community participation is very high in conserving bio-diversity, Mr. Sorensen underlined the need for replicating the same in India for biodiversity conservation.

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## ***Announcements***

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**International conference on Development, Biodiversity and Climate Change: Issues and Challenges" from 3-5, October, 2014.**

More details are available on web page of the conference: [www.conferencechamba.com](http://www.conferencechamba.com) and also from Mohinder Slariya at: [mkslariya@gmail.com](mailto:mkslariya@gmail.com)

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### **BioPower India - Issue 1; Period Jan - Mar 2014**

BioPower India is issued every quarter. This newsletter provides a range of information relating to the biomass energy sector including how to tap rural markets, barriers to scalability and the outlook for global renewables.

This issue can be downloaded from the following link:

[http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/environment\\_energy/bioenergy\\_india2/](http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/environment_energy/bioenergy_india2/) .

The importance of biomass as a renewable source for generation of energy and power is well established. However, the challenge remains in making the sector viable and sustainable. It is well known that knowledge and experiences bridge the gap between current obstacles and future

opportunities.

BioPower India is an endeavour to provide a much-needed platform for voicing constructively critical perspective and creating a repository of knowledge. The magazine has been designed to bring an all-rounded perspective and information on the biomass power sector. One of the important sections that the magazine will cover is updates on national/international policy and tariff guidelines and technological developments for the sector.

In addition, BioPower India will feature quarterly updates on MNRE and states' initiatives in promoting biomass power; and feed-in-tariff for biomass power generation systems offered by the central and various state electricity regulatory commissions within the country. It will also bring to the readers a snapshot of national and international news and events.

In this issue, the lead articles brings you experiences from Thermax in the area of advanced biomass gasification technology for power generation and the performance of Cummins producer gas engines. The case study section captures the fuel supply institution established by IL&FS for its 13 MW biomass power plant in Aurangabad.

This issue analyses the latest German biomass policy; and the path-breaking judgment by the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity that has allowed revision of biomass fuel prices by the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission.

The aim of this publication is not only to provide information and knowledge, but also to pro-actively engage with members of the climate change community. Towards that end, members are earnestly invited to provide their comments and feedback

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### **Latest report on the development of India's Green Industrial Policies by Council on Energy Environment and Water.**

The report can be downloaded from:

[http://ceew.in/pdf/India-Green-Industrial-Policy\\_APRIL17.pdf](http://ceew.in/pdf/India-Green-Industrial-Policy_APRIL17.pdf) .

### **This report focuses on the wind and solar sectors in India.**

It reviews Indian policies for raising the share of renewables in the energy mix within the context of multiple social, economic and technological objectives.

Based on this analysis, the report concludes that "green" rather than "industrial" elements have been best supported by policy to date.

Impacts are most clearly seen in energy security and access, avoided health costs and abatement of GHG emissions, while the industrial policy element has fared poorly in comparison.

Integrating the two elements more completely will allow the benefits of a renewable energy manufacturing sector and environmental protection to be successfully realized.

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### ***Renewable Energies for Developing Countries: Environmental Necessity – Economic Opportunity***

Presented by [CIFAL Scotland](#), UNITAR, University of Strathclyde in partnership with the Scottish Government; **8 September to 27 October 2014 ; Register your place [HERE](#)**

*"Sustainable energy—energy that is accessible, cleaner and more efficient—powers opportunity. It grows economies. It lights up homes, schools and hospitals. It empowers women and local communities. And it paves a path out of poverty to greater prosperity for all."* (UN Sustainable Energy for All)

This on-line programme will give a comprehensive overview of renewable energy as a means to enable sustainable development and explore how renewable energies represent at the same time an environmental necessity but also an economic opportunity for developing countries.

The course aims to enhance the capacity of local decision makers, energy/sustainable development officers and other personnel, from Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, South-East Asia and Pacific regions, to make an informed decision on which renewable energy technologies will meet their own needs or the needs of their countries, communities, villages or neighborhoods. It aims to provide an overview of clean, secure and sustainable technology options for the development and offer insights into the management of renewable energy projects, from small scale, through to major projects. The course is aimed at those in the business, non-profit, public and academic sectors who wish to install renewable energy systems in urban and rural settings or simply make their contribution to reducing carbon emissions through energy efficiency and use of sustainable energy sources.

### **Methodology**

Learning activities are based on UNITAR's sound adult learning pedagogical principles. They include, among others, readings, a case study to apply knowledge practically, quizzes and online group discussions. They are distributed in such a way to ensure the achievement of the learning objectives in a flexible manner: learning materials can indeed be consulted in a non-linear way so as to provide participants with a high degree of flexibility in choosing the learning pace that is the most adequate to them. Recognized experts from the University of Strathclyde will moderate the course.

### **Course Outline**

Module 1: The Role of Energy in Society

Module 2: Selecting a Sustainable Energy Solution

Module 3: Elements of a Sustainable Energy Solution

Module 4: Solar Energy and its Applications

Module 5: Wind

Module 6: Marine and Hydro

Module 7: The Role of the Public and Private Sectors in Ensuring the Development of Low Carbon Energy Solutions

For more information contact: [e-learning@cifalscotland.org](mailto:e-learning@cifalscotland.org)

Full information about the course is available at [here](#) and in the course flyer. **Deadline for registration is 1 September 2014.**

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### **Al Gore's Climate Leadership Program: Training In Australia.**

For further details, please contact: [aditya.pundir@outlook.com](mailto:aditya.pundir@outlook.com) .

So apply today to join it in Melbourne June 25-27, 2014. This is the opportunity of a lifetime: make sure to get your application in today.



Droughts. Flash Floods. Cyclones. Landslides. Heat Waves. Delayed Monsoons. The Indian sub-continent has seen it all -- and the above are just a few examples of the last few years alone. As our climate warms, such extreme weather events are likely to increase in both severity and frequency. And it's time for us to take action.

And while there are lots of ways to make the world a safer place to live, today you're invited to become a member of a very special group of change-makers: The Climate Reality Leadership Corps.

Today, nearly 7,000 Climate Reality Leaders are educating communities in over 100 countries around the world about the climate crisis and what we can do about it. They're inspiring everyone around them to help us cut carbon pollution and create a healthy and prosperous future powered by clean energy.

But they need help -- your help. That's why we're excited to announce that The Climate Reality Project and the Australian Conservation Foundation, along with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, will be hosting a Climate Reality Leadership Corps training in Melbourne, Australia from **June 25-27**. This is the opportunity of a lifetime: make sure to get your application in today.

During the course of these three days, you'll work with world-renowned experts in climate science, communication, social media, and grassroots organizing. You'll emerge as an energized and skilled communicator with the knowledge, tools, and passion to lead your community in taking on the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced and building a healthy and prosperous future powered by clean energy.

You know how vulnerable the entire Indian sub-continent is to devastating extreme weather events. As these events continue to become more frequent and severe, first responders to these emergencies will bear the brunt of the hard work, pain, and suffering. The training this June in Melbourne will take a closer look at what a warming climate will mean for these heroes, the communities who rely on them, and the physical infrastructure that supports us all. The training will also explore the clean-energy solutions we have today.

**So apply today to join us in Melbourne June 25-27, 2014.** You'll come as a leader ... and leave as a Climate Reality Leader. We're counting on you. Our planet is counting on you. Future generations are counting on you.

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### **Visuals Showing How Rising Sea Levels Will Submerge Coastal Cities Worldwide**

The article is available online at: <http://bit.ly/1syCk10> .

A scenario featuring higher than previously expected sea level rise was described this week by NASA as being almost inevitable following new research finding that a rapidly melting section of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet **"appears to be in an irreversible state of decline, with nothing to stop the glaciers in this area from melting into the sea"**.

The vigorously examined evidence incorporating 40 years of observations indicate that glaciers in the Amundsen Sea sector of the West Antarctic have "passed the point of no return", according to glaciologist Eric Rignot. The glaciers contain enough ice to raise global sea level by 4 feet (1.2 meters) and are melting faster than most scientists had expected.

A study of the Thwaites glacier by the University of Washington in the journal Science also said it

may have begun an unstoppable collapse. The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says it is at least 95 percent probable that warming is caused by human activities, led by the burning of fossil fuels.

Last week a separate study published in the journal *Nature* suggested a part of the far bigger ice sheet in East Antarctica may also be more vulnerable than expected to thaw.

These rises must now be added to estimates of total sea level rise from all combined sources of melting ice by the IPCC, which warned earlier this year that the global sea level could rise as much as three feet by the end of this century. The new findings suggest the situation is likely to get far worse in subsequent centuries.

A disappearance of the Thwaites alone would raise world sea levels by 60 cm (1.96 feet) but the "glacier also acts as a linchpin on the rest of the ice sheet, which contains enough ice to cause another three to four meters of sea level rise", Science said.

If the entire West Antarctic Ice Sheet did melt, sea level would rise 11 feet (3.3 meters), according to previous research.

Even under a worst-case scenario the entire ice sheet would not collapse for between 200 and 1,000 years, depending on future warming, but Richard B. Alley, a climate scientist at Pennsylvania State University, told the *New York Times* that while a large rise of the sea may now be inevitable from West Antarctica, continued release of greenhouse gases will almost certainly make things worse by destabilizing other parts of Antarctica as well as the Greenland ice sheet, potentially causing sufficient sea-level rise to force the abandonment of many of the world's coastal cities.

Climate Central published research in 2012 which found that a rise of less than four feet would inundate land on which some 3.7 million Americans live today. Miami, New Orleans, New York and Boston are all highly vulnerable.

"More than half of the area of 40 large cities (population over 50,000) is less than 10 feet above the high tide line, from Virginia Beach and Miami (the largest affected), down to Hoboken, N.J. (smallest). Twenty-seven of the cities are in Florida, where one-third of all current housing sits below the critical line — including 85 percent in Miami-Dade and Broward counties," it says.

It has published a tool, *Surging Seas*, which shows what the cities would look like. Google has also produced a tool using Google maps which allows users to examine any part of the world and observe the effect of different levels of sea.

All of these mean that farsighted administrations and planners should already be thinking about sustainability of low-lying areas. The prognosis is particularly dire for Bangladesh and China.

Climate Central notes that: "The predicted sea level rise will take a long time to unfold. The scenarios listed here do not represent immediate or literal threats. Under any circumstances, coastal populations and economies will reshape themselves over time. But the new research on West Antarctic Ice Sheet decay — and the amount of humanity in the restless ocean's way — point to unrelenting centuries of defence, retreat, and imagination of life along our coasts."

Meanwhile, it's business as usual, as the Conservative-led government of Norway has announced that it wants to let companies drill for oil and gas in offshore Arctic seas made accessible by thawing ice. Greenpeace immediately condemned the announcement.

### **Call for Proposals: Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF).**

**The geographical focus of the proposals should be the central Indian tribal belt in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Please note that at the present time there is no deadline for submitting proposals. It is an ongoing process.**

Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF), an independent Society set up to upscale civil society action in partnership with the Government, invites proposals from prospective partner organizations.

The geographical focus of the proposals should be the **central Indian tribal belt** in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

More details are provided in the documents indicated below:

- **The Call for proposals** is available at:  
<ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/BRLF-Call%20for%20Proposals.pdf>
- **The concept note** is available at:  
<ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/BRLF%20-%20Concept%20Note.pdf>
- **The List of Blocks**, indicating the Geographical coverage of BRLF is available at:  
[ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/BRLF-%20List%20of%20Blocks%20\(2011-rural\).pdf](ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/BRLF-%20List%20of%20Blocks%20(2011-rural).pdf)

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### **National Workshop on Migration and Global Environmental Change in India organized by UNESCO**

The article is available online at: <http://bit.ly/1oVTo0M> .

Within the framework of UNESCO's activities under the Internal Migration in India Initiative (IMII), UNESCO, along with UK Government Office for Science (GOS) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID), held a two-day workshop on Migration and Global Environmental Change in India on 4-5 March 2014 in New Delhi at India Habitat Centre. The workshop helped to document existing research on anticipated impacts of global environmental change on population mobility in India and advance knowledge on the need to incorporate migration influenced by global environmental change, both internal and international, into planning.

The international study titled "Migration and Global Environmental Change", published by Foresight in 2011, reveals that the major challenges associated with migration and environmental changes have been underestimated. By focusing solely on the population that might leave vulnerable areas, we risk neglecting those that will be 'trapped' and those that will actually move towards danger. Development policies will be better able to deliver if they take account of the links between global environmental change and migration, as well as recognize that migration can be part of the solution.

The workshop explored how the findings of the GOS Foresight report and other analysis, could inform the thinking of key stakeholders in policy, academia and civil society with a specific interest in this topic. Head of Foresight, Professor Sandy Thomas says "Migration in the context of

climate change is an ever-growing challenge which poses major questions for society at all levels. The UK Government Office for Science is very pleased to work with UNESCO, DFID and leading organisations which provides a unique and valuable opportunity to explore how the Foresight report on Migration and Global Environmental Change might support decision-making in the development of sustainable policy and research in India."

The expected outcomes of this project are to increase awareness, engagement and advocacy on the topic of migration and global environmental change, based on evidence. Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO Representative to Bhutan, India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka stresses that "it is mainly the government responsibility to anticipate and plan for migration induced by global environmental change while at the same time addressing the needs of the current internal migrant population".

Indian economy is inextricably tied to climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, which are already facing multiple stresses, and global environmental change could further exacerbate these stresses. Migration and especially internal migration, is already a challenging question and the current discourse does not adequately address pertinent issues such as seasonal and circular migration, portability of rights and social entitlements, lack of formal residency rights, lack of identity proof, lack of political representation, low-paid, insecure or hazardous work and extreme vulnerability of women and children to trafficking and sex exploitation. Global environmental change could aggravate the situation.

India has a long, densely populated low lying coastline, an under-developed and fragile Himalayas, a vast arid region. Water stress and access to non-polluted fresh water is already a significant problem in large parts of India, which negatively impacts on agricultural production. Areas of North West India dependent on intensive agriculture are expected to be significantly affected and changing precipitation regimes will impact food security. Rising sea level will affect coastal regions where several megacities, such as Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, are located. Flooding along the major rivers along with storm surge impacts and greater salt water intrusion is likely to affect a large number of people due to high population density and poor urban planning. Further, the Himalayan region that has 51 million people practicing hill agriculture whose vulnerability will increase as a result of melting glaciers coupled with an intensification of the monsoon.

The 5th IPCC Assessment Report predicts a median temperature increase of 3.3 degree C, a general weakening of the monsoon system, a decrease in the number of rainy days and an increase in the intensity of extreme rain events for India. The findings have implications for a broad range of policy areas in India, well beyond the migration and environmental spheres. These include sustainable development, urban planning, climate change adaptation, eradication of poverty, human rights, social protection (welfare schemes), employment, public health and humanitarian assistance.

Millions will be 'trapped' in vulnerable areas and unable to move, particularly in under-developed regions. People will increasingly migrate towards environmentally vulnerable areas. Rural to urban migration is set to continue, but many cities are already grappling with infrastructure challenges, with flooding, water shortages and inadequate housing.

Cities such as Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are high risk areas in the context of global environmental change. People will increasingly be living in urban coastal floodplains in these cities by 2060, through both natural population growth and rural-urban migration.

The article is available online at: <http://www.commonfloor.com/guide/innovations-in-green-buildings-42168.html> .

Globally, buildings are responsible for one-third of greenhouse gas emissions. Why are buildings such large contributors to greenhouse gas emissions? One, buildings typically rely on conventional energy sources for their power. And two, most buildings don't use energy efficiently.

Because buildings are such a big part of the problem, they're an equally big part of the solution. To create [greener buildings](#), we need to improve energy and [water efficiency](#), reduce waste and pollution, transition to renewable energy sources, and use sustainable buildings materials. These strategies can reduce energy consumption in buildings by 30-80 per cent.

So what's holding us back from constructing green buildings and retrofitting existing buildings? Some of the main impediments to green buildings are town and city ordinances that make green construction difficult. In some cities, for example, consumers must go through a cumbersome permitting process in order to install solar panels on their homes. By rethinking city ordinances, we can remove the bureaucratic obstacles to green building and encourage, rather than discourage, energy efficiency.

Rigid and outdated building codes are also impeding progress. By updating codes to consider the entire structure's performance, cities can reward buildings that do exceptionally well in areas like energy and water efficiency, and then give them more flexibility to manoeuvre within the broader outlines of municipal zoning and ordinances.

Finally, financing hurdles often stand between consumers and more energy efficient buildings. In order to really grow the green building market, incentives for designers, contractors, and individuals must be available. Already, rewards exist for adopting sustainable building plans. These include expedited permitting, tax credits, fee reductions or waivers, grants, and even technical and marketing assistance. Rewarding developers and homeowners who choose to build green is an effective way to encourage the adoption of best practices in design, construction and operation.

There are many benefits of green buildings and green development. To name a few:

#### **Environmental Benefits**

- Enhance and protect biodiversity and ecosystems
- Improve air and water quality
- Reduce waste streams
- Conserve and restore natural resources

#### **Economic Benefits**

- Reduce operating costs
- Improve occupant productivity
- Enhance asset value and profits
- Optimize life-cycle economic performance

#### **Social Benefits**

- Enhance occupant health and comfort
- Improve indoor air quality
- Minimize strain on local utility infrastructure
- Improve overall quality of life

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**INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION AT THE SECOND WORKSHOP ON MAKING THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORK: HOW TO BUILD AN EFFECTIVE REVIEW MECHANISM ON 15 MAY, 2014.**

The article is available online at: <http://www.iisd.ca/hlpf/hlpfsdw2/html/crsvol221num2e.html> .

Participants engaged in discussion on the five questions identified in the background paper, first through breakout groups and then in a general exchange of views. The breakout groups were not tasked with achieving consensus but with identifying a “spectrum of options” or possible answers to each question.

**1. Who is to be reviewed, by whom and how often? On “who is to be reviewed,” participants considered governments the most convenient unit of analysis.**

- ✓ On “by whom,” some in this group indicated a preference for peer review by Member States (horizontal review), but also saw advantages in input from civil society, the private sector, etc. The group identified the following elements as important in reaching agreement on a horizontal versus vertical review process: whether the HLPF will review only the SDGs or also other parts of the post-2015 development agenda; and whether the quantitative aspects of the targets will be decided at the global or the national level.
- ✓ On the involvement of other stakeholders, the group said questions of how to feed their inputs into the reviews, in what capacity, and at what level were complex issues that need careful consideration. In the general discussion that followed the report of this breakout group, some participants highlighted the need to apply the review mechanisms to all actors and to ensure representation of all stakeholders.
- ✓ On “how often,” participants said the mechanism could conduct more comprehensive reviews less often, or less comprehensive reviews more often, while also considering the possibility of different timelines for different SDGs. They recognized the direct impact of this decision on the number of countries that can be reviewed each year. Some suggested that the HLPF could review reports prepared by other UN entities and/or regional and international institutions, instead of conducting the review process itself.

**2. What is to be reviewed?**

- This breakout group considered whether the scope of the review should be broad or narrow, with some preference for “starting modestly” to ensure concrete results. If a thematic focus is taken, they suggested, the same theme could be the subject of that year’s Global Sustainable Development Report. The review should also consider the goals and targets themselves, and whether they are over-ambitious or not ambitious enough.
- Participants agreed that the review should adopt a positive focus and would be useful as long as countries benefit from and feel ownership of the review. Finally, it should strike a balance between focus on outcome and effort, and between qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- This group also suggested that the nature of the HLPF could be different depending on whether it takes place under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or UN General Assembly, in order to take advantage of the higher level of participation in the latter.

**3. What might be the incentives to participate?**

- Participants considered incentives for both national participation in the review process and high-level participation in the HLPF.
- Regarding the national level, many participants said the “nature of the review” would be a factor in countries’ participation. To this end, they recommended making the review a positive process, safe from criticism, and with an emphasis on learning.
- In the general discussion following the report of the breakout group, other participants noted that accountability should not be associated with “pointing fingers.” Some objected to choosing between positive learning and criticism, and preferred to explore a spectrum of options between these two extremes.
- Incentives realized after the review could include contributions to capacity building and creation of sustainable national review mechanisms.

#### **4. What is the optimal approach for national and systemic reviews?**

- This breakout group emphasized differentiation, highlighting the importance of national ownership of the review process and the accompanying need to build capacity at the national level, including statistical and institutional capacity. Even a national-level, country-owned process must lead to global results, some stressed.
- This will need careful consideration in the context of differentiated targets, which would lead to differentiated plans for implementation at the national level and, therefore, differentiated reports to the HLPF.
- On the nature of the review, participants said it should be oriented toward learning, while also including a focus on accountability.

#### **5. How will the review outputs link to other elements of the HLPF/SDG/Post-2015 puzzle, and to the wider geography of sustainable development endeavor?**

- ✓ This breakout group said their discussion showed that "when you pull on one thread, many others come with it," as the answers to this question relate to the previous four questions, as well as to unresolved aspects of the post-2015 development agenda.
- ✓ Participants addressed the need for both universality and differentiation, suggesting that a thematic or SDG-specific focus would make the review relevant for all countries. However, this assumes that each SDG will equally incorporate the three dimensions of sustainable development. Focusing the HLPF review on a goal that emphasizes one of the dimensions at the expense of the others, would "reintroduce silos" rather than provide integration and coherence.
- ✓ Participants noted that an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda was being discussed, and said this framework should not duplicate the HLPF's mandated review mechanism. They also noted that the HLPF review should not duplicate, but build on, existing mechanisms in the UN system.
- ✓ The breakout group also suggested that the concrete indicators expected to be determined as part of the post-2015 development agenda could help to structure the HLPF's review process. The review should help identify implementation bottlenecks, the group added.
- ✓ On partnerships, some participants said national reviews could be complemented by "shadow reporting" from civil society, UN agencies and others. They added that the HLPF could provide more structured arrangements for global partnerships, which have been ad hoc for the Millennium Development Goals.

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#### **UN CC:Learn e-Course Attracts more than 3800 Participants in three Months, Registrations Continue**

Further details are available at: <http://www.uncclearn.org/news/e-course-3800-participants> . 3,800 people from more than 150 countries (including 34 Least Developed Countries - LDCs) have registered for the UN CC:Learn Introductory e-Course on Climate Change (<http://unccelearn.org/>) since its launch in February. There is a balance of participants from Asia (30%), Europe (26%) and Africa (22%).

UN CC:Learn is very pleased with the uptake so far. The course will be available in Spanish and French by October 2014 and we expect a significant boost in registrations as a result," says Angus Mackay, Head of the UN CC:Learn Secretariat.

The course, which is available for free, is self-paced and composed of six modules, each one taking approximately two hours to complete:

1. Climate Change Science
2. International Legal and Policy Framework for Climate Change
3. Climate Change Adaptation

4. Climate Change Mitigation and Low Carbon Development
5. Climate Change Finance
6. Planning for Climate Change

A short quiz at the end of each module allows participants to verify if they have achieved the learning objectives. Once all six modules are completed, participants receive a certificate.

The modules contain the latest information on climate change and have been peer-reviewed by UN CC:Learn partner agencies. They can also be downloaded as ppt presentations to facilitate face-to-face learning.

**About UN CC:Learn:** It is a partnership of 33 multilateral organizations which supports Member States in designing and implementing results-oriented and sustainable learning to address climate change. The Secretariat for UN CC:Learn is provided by UNITAR.

An important aspect of UN CC:Learn is to support countries develop a National Climate Change Learning Strategy through a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder process.

During the course of 2012-2013, Benin, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malawi, and Uganda are participating as UN CC:Learn pilot countries.

Funding for UN CC:Learn is provided by the Swiss Government.

The mailing address is:

UN CC:Learn  
Chemin des Anémones 11-13, Châtelaine, Switzerland  
Châtelaine 1219  
Switzerland

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### **A renewable energy agenda for the next Prime Minister**

The blog is available at: <http://www.bridgetoindia.com/blog/a-renewable-energy-agenda-for-the-next-prime-minister-part-1/> .

India's GDP growth is being restrained by an acute shortage of energy and is heavily dependent on imports. This affects both the current account deficit and the fiscal deficit, both of which are a drag on the economy. If India is to grow, it needs a better energy strategy. Renewables, especially solar should play a key role

No country has ever achieved prosperity without a commensurate increase in its per capita energy consumption. India has one of the lowest annual per capita consumption of energy at 565 kg of oil equivalent (kgoe) per annum. China's people, in comparison consume over three times as much (1,806 kgoe/annum). In India, the problem has not been on the demand side, but on the supply side. Securing energy supplies and delivering it to consumers has been a significant challenge.

To understand what this means at the ground level, one needs to visit the industrialized state of Tamil Nadu during the summer months. Most industries there face power cuts up to 15 hours a day. This has increased energy costs because it forced them to turn to expensive diesel power. And even diesel is sometimes hard to come by, thus affecting the productivity or even ability to operate. Many factories have shut down as a result. Tamil Nadu is no exception. Businesses in many other states face similar challenges. Not to speak of the millions of households across the



country without grid power.

On the macroeconomic level, also, India's energy crisis is becoming a cause of great concern as it undermines India's credit rating and limits the government's policy options by draining national resources away. This finds expression in the current account deficit (CAD) and the fiscal deficit.

The CAD or the trade deficit is the difference between what the country earns by exporting goods and services and what the country spends on its imports. The CAD for last financial year (2012-13) stood at a negative USD 87.8 bn or 4.8% of GDP. This is well above the safe limits for a developing economy. India imported more than it exported. When this happens, the rupee depreciates against the dollar and reduces dollar reserves held by the country. A weakening currency might be good for exports, but is detrimental to the country's ability to fund its foreign purchases i.e. the country spends more to purchase the same amount of goods. This weakens the entire economy.

The largest contributor to India's import bill, making up around 35% is the import of oil, gas and coal. Crude oil prices have risen sharply in the last few years. The rupee too has depreciated by nearly 20% against the dollar in the last six months. Given the fact that most international oil transactions happen in dollars, this has been a double blow to India's import bill and therefore the CAD.

Coal is the main energy source for firing India's power plants, providing nearly 54% of the electricity. Although India has one of the most abundant coal reserves in the world, a host of scams, poor policy making, insufficient infrastructure and environmental protests have led to a shortage of domestic coal supplies. As a result, India turned to importing coal in ever-larger quantities, mainly from Indonesia.

India's energy woes have also contributed significantly to the fiscal deficit. The fiscal deficit is the difference between what the government earns and what it spends. In India, it stood at an alarming 4.9% of GDP for the period 2012-13. Subsidies make up a large part of government spending and subsidies on fossil fuels major part of that. In the financial year 2012-13, India spent nearly INR 170,577 crore (USD 26 bn) on subsidies for diesel, kerosene and domestic LPG alone. This is 3% of the GDP.

Ultimately, India's economic success is strongly correlated to its ability to secure energy supplies and deliver this energy to critical areas of the economy in a speedy, reliable and cost effective manner.

Renewable energy will play a crucial role in this. India is blessed with good renewable resources (solar, wind and hydro). **Moreover, solar and (to a lesser extent) wind are not location dependent.** That is, they can be installed close to areas where there is a demand, thereby reducing the need for transmission and distribution infrastructure.

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### **The book "Neta, Babu and Subsidy: Roundup 2000 to 2014".**

The author of the book Sandip Sen, IPP Group of Publications mentions @eco thrust on Twitter: "I do not want a pen mightier than a sword but one as soft as a feathered quill that stokes yours mind".

Subsidies do not help get votes as politicians believe. It can even drive you out of business in mature democracies like India where development was recently the clear winner against dole based politics. The ruling Congress party in India that based its campaign on subsidy and rights

got a drubbing securing just 44 seats, while the opposition BJP that based its campaign on development got 282 seats in a house of 542.

The full story of how subsidies wrecked domestic production and the Indian economy is available in the recently published book **Neta, Babu and Subsidy: Roundup 2000 to 2014**.

The book is a sectorial analysis of the Indian economy that principally discusses the energy, food, fertilizer and the financial sector, the effect of subsidies and its effects during the last decade. The book highlights the disastrous effects of subsidies on the Indian economy.

It caused the Indian Rupee to crash during May- Aug 2013 and the Congress Government was voted out by May 2014. It shows the effect of subsidized imports, external debt, the fiscal and current account deficit and how it brought down the Indian Rupee first and the Government a year later

The book revolves around 30 charts and graphs that does the analysis of the decaying economy plagued by subsidies, leakages and procurement scams. It also discusses an alternative form of "inclusive performance based governance that creates low cost deliveries using supply chain efficiencies".

Ten years ago when the Congress Government came to power in India there was no subsidies on petrol and diesel. Only LPG and kerosene meant to keep the kitchen fire burning was subsidized and total subsidies on fossil fuels were down to Rs 54 billion.

The Congress Government reintroduced petroleum subsidies that rose 30 fold during the next decade to around Rs 1600 billion each year by 2013. Along with energy subsidies went up food and fertilizer subsidies to a whopping Rs 3 trillion annually.

Strangely a large part of the energy subsidy was paid out by the public sector oil producers and marketing companies who were drained of resources and hence could not invest in building drilling or storage capacities.

Two chapters of the book focus on the global oil scenario and the recent energy initiatives taken by the US President Barack Obama that has reduced the prices of WTI crude by a fifth to making US oil cheaper than Brent Crude.

It talks about the importance of strategic reserves for creating supply chain stability that OECD nations and even China have created. It leaves India vulnerable, as with no significant storage capacity, it is susceptible to volatility.

Please write to: [eco thrust@gmail.com](mailto:eco thrust@gmail.com) or [sen.sandip@gmail.com](mailto:sen.sandip@gmail.com) with your comments and suggestions on the above highlights.

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### **Call for applications for the IC4HD 2014 Human Development Fellowships for Young Professionals (25-35 years old)**

The brochure is available at:

[ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res\\_info\\_22051401.pdf](ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/resource/res_info_22051401.pdf) .

The deadline for submitting applications is 15 June 2014.

IC4HD has now announced the call for applications for the IC4HD 2014 Human Development

Fellowships for Young Professionals (25-35 years old). The theme of the 2014 fellowships is Social Security in the Global South.

Fellowships are open to young professionals including academics, civil servants and civil society practitioners.

Fellows will be hosted by the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies in Shimla, India, for three months.

Candidates are encouraged to follow the instructions available online at: <http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/presscenter/articles/2014/05/20/IC4HD-HD-Fellowships-2014/> and submit their applications to [hdfellowships.in@undp.org](mailto:hdfellowships.in@undp.org).

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### **New publication entitled: Adapting to Climate Change: Lessons from natural hazards planning**

It is available at <http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/natural+hazards/book/978-94-017-8630-0>

We would like to bring to your notice a new publication entitled "**Adapting to Climate Change: Lessons from natural hazards planning**". It is available at: <http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/natural+hazards/book/978-94-017-8630-0>.

The above publication includes a chapter on lessons learnt from the Indian Ocean tsunami response applied to Cyclone Thane in 2011 written by **Ahana Lakshmi**, R. Purvaja and R. Ramesh, entitled "Recovering from the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami: Lessons for Climate Change Response". It is available at: [http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-94-017-8631-7\\_12](http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-94-017-8631-7_12)

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### **REPORT: Addressing heat-related health risks in urban India: Ahmedabad's Heat Action Plan**

It is available at:  
[http://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Ahmedabad\\_Inside\\_Story\\_final\\_web-res1.pdf](http://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Ahmedabad_Inside_Story_final_web-res1.pdf).

Higher daily peak temperatures and longer, more intense heat waves are becoming increasingly frequent globally due to climate change, and a new scale of coordinated action is essential to prevent the dangerous health effects of heat stress.

A new CDKN case study entitled Addressing heat-related health risks in urban India: Ahmedabad's Heat Action Plan, looks at how city officials, health professionals and community workers in Ahmedabad are preparing to save lives in the city's increasingly frequent and intense hot spells.

The study documents the key findings of the CDKN-sponsored heat health project, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH). A coalition of academic, health and environmental groups partnered to create an early warning system and heat preparedness plan. Ahmedabad is the first city in South Asia to comprehensively address the health threats of extreme heat.

Key messages from the case study:

- Climate change is fuelling more intense and frequent heat waves in India. A new scale of coordinated action is essential to protect communities, especially their most

- vulnerable members, from the dangerous health effects of extreme heat.
- In Ahmedabad, strong local government leadership enabled the highly effective implementation of a pilot Heat Action Plan – the first of its kind in South Asia – and its continuation following completion of the pilot project.
- The Plan, which is based on robust scientific research, builds public awareness of the risks of extreme heat, trains medical and community workers to prevent and respond to heat-related illnesses, and coordinates an interagency emergency response effort when heat waves hit.
- Sharing international experiences and best practices helped change the perception among project stakeholders that heat was not a significant health threat. However, further awareness-raising is still necessary to convince the general public.

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### Asian Cities Emphasize Climate Focus in Capital Investment Planning

The article is available online at: <http://climate-l.iisd.org/news/asian-cities-emphasize-climate-focus-in-capital-investment-planning/> .

Representatives of Asian cities met at the second Seoul Creditworthiness Academy workshop to discuss ways to improve municipal finances and access to capital to achieve low-carbon development, and the need for a “climate lens” in developing capital investment plans. Participants included 39 mayors, city officials and technical experts representing 15 cities and provinces from 12 countries across Asia.

The workshop, which convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 21-26 April 2014, helped officials from subnational governments and public enterprises to develop an action plan to improve their creditworthiness and access to finance for climate-related infrastructure. A broader City Creditworthiness Program will assist cities in implementing the action plan.

During the meeting, attendees participated in training sessions on modules that addressed: **revenue management; climate-smart capital investment planning; debt financing options; and the enabling environment for subnational finance.**

One of the session leaders, Jan Whittington, Assistant Professor of Urban Design and Planning at the University of Washington, said climate-smart building is not only about reducing the impact of carbon emissions or enhancing resilience, but also about making financially-sound decisions. She indicated that she is working with the World Bank in developing a climate-smart capital investment planning methodology that will assist cities in prioritizing municipal financing toward low-carbon, resilient and cost-effective infrastructure investments.

Sameh Naguib Wahba, World Bank Acting Director for Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management, stated that **focusing on climate to improve municipal finances and strengthen capital investment planning will enable cities to deliver better services and improve liveability and resilience over the long term.**

The inaugural City Creditworthiness Academy was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2013, with participation from 54 financial officers from ten African countries. The Academy, part of the World Bank's Low-Carbon, Livable Cities Initiative, aims to help cities improve their finances and access to capital so they can deliver better services and invest in low-carbon development.

The Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) and the World Bank's Low-Carbon Livable Cities Initiative, in collaboration with the C40 Network, the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and the Korean Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF), convened the event.

PPIAF is a trust fund housed at the World Bank that provides technical assistance to governments to support the creation of enabling environments for private sector participation in basic infrastructure services.

**The World Bank's Low-Carbon liveable Cities Initiative supports cities in developing countries in planning low-carbon, climate-smart development and accessing financing to implement these plans.**

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### **New UN Registry to Support Developed Countries Limiting Emissions**

The article is available online at: <http://bit.ly/1nLasWz>.

A new UN Registry which records and matches offers of support from developed nations to the stated plans of developing countries to reduce and limit greenhouse gas emissions has recorded the first such agreed cooperation between Austria and Georgia.

"This first success highlights the enormous potential of the new registry as a transparent, efficient clearing house that matches financial, technology and capacity-building support from the developed world to the needs developing nations have defined themselves to act on climate change," said Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The online NAMA Registry was designed and is operated by the UNFCCC Secretariat, at the request of governments, to record both the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) which developing countries choose to enter into the system and also the offered support available for these actions.

Its objectives are to facilitate the matching of finance, technology, and capacity building support with these NAMAs and to serve as a platform for international recognition of the mitigation actions of developing countries.

In the first recorded match in the registry, Georgia has received a grant from the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment, and Water to implement Georgia's NAMA entitled "Adaptive, Sustainable Forest Management in Borjomi-Bakuriani Forest District".

"I congratulate Georgia and Austria on entering their information into the registry, thereby debuting this important tool. It is a clear invitation to other countries and organizations to continue to populate the registry and boost the international cooperation between developed and developing countries in reducing and limiting greenhouse gas emissions," said Ms. Figueres.

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### **Calls for Entries are now open for the sixth edition of "Quotes from the Earth" - An Environmental Film Festival, 2014.**

Toxics Link and India International Centre (IIC) is organizing "*Quotes from the Earth*" an exploration of films on environment, to be held at IIC, New Delhi, on **5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2014** (Friday & Saturday).

"*Quotes from the Earth*" has been the first of its kind in the Indian capital since 2004. This being the sixth edition, the environmental film festival aims at providing a discursive platform to highlight environmental challenges faced by people at the national and international level through films, which happen to be one of the most powerful medium of communication and discussion.

Since its inception the focus and aim of the film festival has been on awareness creation and is

strictly non-commercial.

The 2-day film festival goes beyond viewing of films. A panel discussion consisting of eminent academicians, vibrant activists, media persons and filmmakers is planned during the festival, apart from the short discussions following every screening.

We would like to call for entries for films/documentaries/animations on the theme of Earth, Water, Wildlife, Climate Change, Mining, Forest, Environmental Justice etc.

For more information please visit our website: [www.toxiclink.org](http://www.toxiclink.org).

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**Call for Abstracts: Round table: Inclusion in the network society – mapping development alternatives, forging research agendas at Bangalore, India from 29th September - 1st October 2014**

The experience of first-generation initiatives in the field of 'ICTs and development' has clearly demonstrated that the question of inclusion in the network society cannot be reduced merely to that of access to technological artefacts or infrastructures. In a globalised social order, the mechanisms of networked, global systems – production chains, finance, scientific and research processes, and the media – structure the rules of inclusion. They determine who has the ability to substantively participate in, and benefit from, the dominant networks of information, knowledge, production, and of cultural and resource flows.

Today, as we witness what has been somewhat glibly labelled the 'mobile revolution', alongside a momentous surge in the use of social media technologies – especially by young populations in developing countries – newer frames to interpret social equity, inclusion and participation become critical for the agenda of development. How does the diffusion of ICTs connect to the democratisation of information, knowledge and culture? Does it offer new pathways for the socially marginalised to have greater control over knowledge and wealth? International Development Research Centre (IDRC), along with IT for Change, will host a round table between 29th September - 1st October, 2014, bringing together leading development scholars and practitioners to contribute to the ongoing dialogues on ICTs and development – particularly from the vantage point of equity and inclusion.

In September 2009, IDRC had initiated a similar dialogue with Nobel Laureates Amartya Sen and Michael Spence, as well as other leading thinkers, at the Harvard Forum on ICTs, Human Development, Growth and Poverty Reduction. Building on the key debates of the Harvard Forum, the round table will explore if, and how, opportunities in the emerging network society are, and can be, 'programmed' into the structures of technological networks. Another key objective of the round table is to build a research agenda that is contemporary enough to tackle the future of the ICTs and development question in the Global South.

**Key issues:**

1. What is the emerging structural-institutional ecology framing inclusion in the network society? What readings of the current paradigms of ICT diffusion, use, production and policy allow us to trace power and exclusion?
2. How do we map continuities and disjunctures in development practice when technology meets society, to build a 'new' narrative in which all people matter?
3. Under what conditions can digital technologies bring about 'equitable inclusion' in the network society? What kind of a structural-institutional ecology can facilitate efforts for 'equitable inclusion' in the network society?
4. What broad questions and specific themes would comprise a pertinent research agenda on networks, development and inclusion? What research methodologies would be appropriate in this regard?

#### Outcomes:

- ✓ Field-building that deepens theoretical inquiry on 'inclusion and equity in the network society'.
- ✓ Research agenda-setting on themes at the intersection of networks, development and inclusion.
- ✓ Network building to explore possibilities for further work to build a systematic body of knowledge.
- ✓ Knowledge products in the form of papers/essays, that can be the basis of a special journal issue.

The event is designed to bring together around 25 participants – leading scholars, development practitioners and thinkers, as well as young researchers and practitioners in the sector who are interested in the theoretical and policy aspects of equity, inclusion and participation, in the 'ICTs and development' domain.

This open call seeks to identify young development researchers and practitioners who can contribute to the debate. Interested individuals need to submit an abstract of 1000 words that will become the basis for an analytical essay, in case it is short-listed for the round table. There is a limited number of travel fellowships for authors of selected full-length essays, to participate in the round table. Selection criteria include a minimum of five years of experience in the development sector, preferably with a focus on ICTs, and two publications. (Criteria may be relaxed on a case-by-case basis).

#### Submission deadlines

Abstracts must be received by **31st May 2014**. Full essays are due by **15th August 2014**.

Please send all submissions and queries to: [networkinclusion@gmail.com](mailto:networkinclusion@gmail.com)

More details at: [www.itforchange.net](http://www.itforchange.net)

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As part of the project **AsianCitiesAdapt** - Impacts of Climate Change in Target Cities in India and the Philippines and Local Adaptation Strategies, a video has been produced that shows how good communication, forward planning and simple actions can help communities to cope in increasingly difficult urban conditions.

The film will be launched at the Resilient Cities conference so it will be available on youtube only after that, but a trailer is already available on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8FTcA3KfR0&feature=youtu.be>. This is our newsbit: <http://southasia.iclei.org/resources/news/article/video-launch-of-knowledge-and-action-climate-change-impacts-in-asian-cities-and-ways-to-adapt/>.

The full video's link will be uploaded today at:

[http://southasia.iclei.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/May2014.html](http://southasia.iclei.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/May2014.html)

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#### *Testimonials*

The mayor of Matale, Sri Lanka, and the one of Singra, Bangladesh, talk about the challenges their cities are facing and how working with us has been helping them. The links are given below:

<http://southasia.iclei.org/resources/news/article/spotlight-on-singra-bangladesh-an-interview-with-mayor-shamim-al-razi/>

<http://southasia.iclei.org/resources/news/article/spotlight-on-matale-sri-lanka-an-interview-with-mayor-hilmy-mohamed/>

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## Awards

**Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT), Kolkata** has begged the **Earth Care Award 2014 (Category 1)** for its efforts towards Community Based Adaptation activities reviving traditional but saline tolerant variety of paddy seeds in Sundarbans Region of West Bengal. The Award is the joint initiative by JSW Foundation and Times of India.

This Award was the fifth edition of the organizers which is exclusively meant for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation initiatives.

LWSIT played the significant role by encouraging the local farmers to promote traditional variety of seeds in the area where intrusion of saline water is a regular phenomenon and dashing upon non-saline variety of paddy. Consequently, local farmers used to incur huge loss over the years. The attempt to revive the saline tolerant variety of paddy was quite successful and local farmers has increased the seed preservation to many fold.

While the Award was jointly organized by JSW and Times of India, on behalf of LWSIT Dr S C Garai - the Program Manager of LWSIT collected the Award. The Award was handed over by the Chairperson of IPCC and Chief Guest of the special function - Dr Rajendra Kumar Pachauri. The function was organized in Mumbai on 30th April 2014. The coverage of the Award is attached herewith for your reference. This Earth Care Award (ECA) contains a Trophy, a Citation and cash prize of Rs 150,000/-

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Team **Green Mantra** along with IIT Jodhpur team has developed Solar PV Powered Portable DC Water Pumping System. The idea for this development is ranked 8th across the globe by jury member of Green Peace. Green Mantra has developed prototype and tested in lab and its performance is excellent considering Indian climatic condition, this pump is excellent for irrigation and other purpose especially in rural area. It has received " **New Innovation Technology Award**" from Greenpeace.

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## Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of Update!

*If you have items to feature in the Updates, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Climate Change Community at : [se-clmt@solutionexchange-un.net.in](mailto:se-clmt@solutionexchange-un.net.in)*

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