

UK-INDIA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Thursday 26th June 2008
House of Commons, London

EVENT SUMMARY

The following is a brief summary of the kick-off seminar of CSM and Tomorrow's Company's initiative on '**UK-India Business Leadership on Climate Change**' held on 26th June at the House of Commons, and kindly hosted by Mr Peter Luff MP (Chairman, Business & Enterprise Committee). A fuller proceedings report is currently being prepared and will be circulated shortly.



The seminar attracted 120 people from companies and organizations as diverse as **AstraZenaca, British Airways, Brunswick, CorporateCulture, Defra, DFID, HSBC, Isha Foundation, Jaguar Land Rover, Hermes Fund Managers, New Philanthropy Capital, Shell Foundation, URS Corporation, UK Trade & Investment** and many others packed into one of the oak-paneled chambers of the House of Commons.

The event was a unique opportunity to hear from India's leading corporate climate innovators and from established UK companies with a strong presence in India. Eye-opening presentations from **Ms Malini Thadani (HSBC India); Dr Paul Brooks (Corus Group) & Mr Brian Woodford (Tata Consultancy Services) of the Tata Group; Mr Rajeev Dubey (Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd); Ms Rose Fenn (Unilever) and Ms Anita Kumar (Hindustan Unilever); and Mr Chris Tuppen (BT Group)** affirmed that corporate leaders have identified climate change as a serious business issue and revealed a variety of institutional responses.



Presentations were followed by remarks from respondents, **Ms Sarah Best (Oxfam)** and **Dr Tauni Lanier (Eco-capital)**, who picked up on the implications of climate change for poorer communities, many of whom were already making discernible changes in their livelihood decisions – e.g. raising ducks over chickens; and that of financiers and entrepreneurs who needed to move into the social enterprise space to support climate-affected communities.

The open-floor session that followed was wide-ranging and included questions over community shareholdings and how best to communicate climate change as a more coherent 'story'; to the need for such initiatives to influence global climate negotiations and key countries such as the US and China; to the role of the government in slowing or advancing progress on climate change.

This kick-off seminar revealed an astonishing array of activities on the climate front – in particular by Indian companies who, as the presentation from the Mahindra Group demonstrated, spoke passionately of the need for a pro-active agenda on climate change, and were not afraid of using the term 'aspiring green warriors' to describe themselves.

With this seminar, this initiative has broken new ground. Our ambition is indeed to create a leadership space for Indian and UK corporate to jointly advance this agenda, and – in the words of Rajeev Dubey from Mahindra - to make "Sustainability & Climate Change the next 'Big Thing' in our countries. That is the challenge." A number of participants expressed an interest in joint engagement in follow-up activities, and we look forward to collaboration with them and others keen to develop UK and Indian business leadership on climate change.

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