

INVITATION – CSM'S "CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS"

You are invited to a film screening and panel discussion session on **Climate Change: Impacts, Implications and Opportunities** organised by the **Centre for Social Markets (CSM)** in association with the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune**.



Event Organiser



Event Sponsor



Event Partner

Climate Change in India: Impacts and Implications Film Screening and Panel Discussion

3:00pm – 6:00pm

Friday, 6 July 2007 AT Le Meridien (Regal), Pune, India

Chair: Malini Mehra, Founder & Director, CSM

Climate change represents the greatest civilisational threat to human beings and life on Earth. Freshwater shortages; declines in food production; plant and animal extinctions; more deaths from floods, storms, heat waves and droughts; economic and political instability... The list of potential impacts of climate change is long and urgent. The scientific evidence is overwhelming and the need for action now understood to be greater than ever. Poor countries are at the greatest risk and will suffer the most.

*On World Environment Day (5 June 2007), the Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, noted: **The threat of climate change is real and unless we alter our lifestyles and pursue a sustainable model of development, our future will be at peril.***

*This event is part of a nationwide initiative, **Climate Challenge India**, to raise awareness and generate positive energy for action against climate change – addressing both the threats and the opportunities it raises.*

*The film, **Climate Change: An Untold Story**, is a series of four short films made by young Indian filmmakers under the UK environment film fellowship. They have been funded and produced by the British High Commission and the British Council in India. Focusing mainly on sea-level rise, erratic monsoons, glacier meltdown and rising mountain temperatures, the films put the spotlight on some of our climate hotspots. They will be followed by a moderated **Panel Discussion** and audience interaction to explore the issues, implications and opportunities raised for India.*

*The entire event will be filmed as part of a Documentary to be produced under the **Climate Challenge India** initiative.*

About the films

Climate's First Orphans by Nila Madhab Panda – centred around the spate of natural disasters that have hit Orissa from 1999 to 2005 starting with the terrifying super-cyclone and ranging right up to submergence from sea level rise, the film echoes the warning of scientists that what has happened so far in Orissa over the past few years in terms of loss of lives (close to 30,000 people killed) and internal displacement (close to 1 million people displaced) may just be a dress rehearsal for a far more grim future.

A Green Agony by Geeta Singh – this film focuses on the Sundarbans, the unique mangrove delta on the Bay of Bengal and a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the havoc that is being wrought on the biodiversity as well as the people of the area. The film especially highlights the beneficial role played by the mangroves in soil and biodiversity conservation and the threat to these mangroves due to salinity and sea level rise and the knock-on effect that will result, especially by making ecological refugees of the people.

A Degree of Concern by Syed Fayaz – shot in the treacherous mountain terrain of Ladakh, this story is about Ice Man Chewang Norphel, an observant and innovative villager who in a bid to battle with the short winters, the receding snow and the poor availability of water for agriculture (which guarantees their yearly quota of food) has over the course of the past ten years, with his team of dedicated fellow workers, built five artificial glaciers and succeeded in tackling climate change in his own home-grown way. The film is, in a sense a tribute to the human spirit of resilience.

The Weeping Apple Tree by Vijay S Jodha – the subject of this film is the famed apple tree of Himachal Pradesh, growing in the Kullu valley. This short film shows how the warming of the mountains and the vanishing snowfall have led to progressive decline in and shifting of the state's apple growing area, and the resulting shifts in the people's fortunes.

Programme

3:00 – 3:10	Opening remarks by Prof B N Goswami, Director, IITM, Pune
3:10 - 3:20	Introduction to Climate Challenge India by Malini Mehra, Chair and Founder & Director, CSM
3:20 - 4:30	Screening of 'Climate Change – An Untold Story'
4:30 – 4:45	Refreshment Break
4:45 – 5:30	Panel discussion on issues raised by films and impacts and implications for India

Panelists:

- **Dr R R Kelkar**, Director General of Meteorology (Retd) & ISRO-Chair, Dept of Atmospheric and Space Sciences, University of Pune
- **Dr C D Thatte**, Former Secretary, Government of India

5:30 – 6:00	Open Discussion
6:00	Thanks and close

About CSM (www.csmworld.org)

The Centre for Social Markets (CSM) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to making markets work for the triple bottom line - people, planet and profit. Founded in 2000, CSM has pioneered a focus on indigenous industry in emerging markets and the Asian diaspora globally –mobilising these constituencies on corporate citizenship, sustainable development and human rights issues. CSM works through offices in India and the UK and an international network of likeminded associates and partners. Climate change forms a central part of CSM's analysis and work. In 2007, CSM initiated the **Climate Challenge India** campaign to promote a progressive response to climate challenges in India. This event is being held as part of CSM's campaign which seeks to educate and create positive energy for climate action in India.

About Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (www.tropmet.res.in)

The Indian Institute for Tropical Meteorology has been functioning as a national centre for basic and applied research in all aspects of the tropical atmosphere-land-ocean system, to contribute to the improvement of weather and climate forecast in India. IITM routinely provides input to the Indian Meteorological Department for the national forecast of the seasonal monsoon rainfall. In view of the need for a reliable extended range prediction of monsoon and to establish India's stand on issues related to global warming and climate change, IITM has planned new programmes like climate dynamics and extended range prediction of monsoon, and basic physics through observational programmes with development of essential infrastructure, while nurturing some of the existing projects on basic research. IITM also works to popularise meteorology.

For further information and to register for this event, please contact:

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