



India Development Coalition of America

(Chicago, IL, USA. www.idc-america.org, 630-303-9592, info@idc-america.org)

Press Release

IDCA Organizes an Inspiring Water and Sanitation Forum for India

Hinsdale, IL: India Development Coalition of America (IDCA) held their Water and Sanitation forum on 24th July, 2010 at Hinsdale Public Library, Hinsdale, IL..

Four speakers presented and explained different water, sanitation, education and health related projects undertaken in different parts of India with their coordination with local public and different organizations.

Dr. Prakasam Tata, past President of IDCA, and also president of Bharthi Theertha, Naperville, IL provided presentation on a \$43,000 Water and Sanitation project funded by Indian Americans, Rotary Club of Naperville, and Rotary International, and Rotary club of Vizianagram, for a small Harijan (untouchables) village near Vizianagram, in Andhra Pradesh. The projects provide safe drinking water to villagers using Reverse Osmosis technology. It also includes construction of 10 latrines and 10 bathrooms each for the male and female members of the community. The male and female blocks are separated by a garden. The drinking water plant produces 10,000 liters of water everyday out of which 7500 liters is being sold to generate Annual income of about \$3000. In addition the project provides employment to 4 people to maintain the facility. The income generated is available for other community development projects. The plant became operational on March 23, 2010, in presence of Dr. Tata.

Several years earlier he designed and implement a low cost waste water treatment plant of \$500,000 in Vizianagram in cooperation with the local government. This resulted in a cleaner lake and regeneration of fish and other lives in the lake. This lake used to stink before because of discharge of all the waste water in it. He was dreaming for it for more than a decade. He had distinguished career in Chicago in Water and Sanitation area of more than 50 years.

Rotarian Godrej Billimoria of Winnetka, IL, spoke on water and health related projects executed in Billimora town of 100,000 people in Gujarat state and other locations in India. He became member of Rotary Club of Winnetka in 1982 and has done 35 projects of about \$50,000 each in many parts of India. He funded a kidney dialysis machine in Udaipur. These projects were funded by himself, members of Rotary clubs in US and India, and Rotary International Foundation. In 1998, he decided to fund a water filtration plant in Billimora. He raised over \$300,000., and completed the plant in just over \$200,000 in 2004. The filtration plant was running well. However, after few years the water in the river dried up and there was need to bring water from a nearby dam. This resulted in one of his biggest project of water supply pipe line of 4 km to Billimora, In this project he managed to get cooperation from local, state and central governments of India to allocate \$2.5 Million based on Rotary contribution about \$125,000. He was very appreciative of the cooperation he got from Government of Gujarat. Local governments were fully involved in completing these projects. He asked everyone to join Rotary and do projects in India

Dr. Sundresan Subramanian, President, International green Consultant, Buffalo Grove, IL presented various water, sanitation and industrial waste treatment and reuse projects completed in different parts of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu states. Few of these projects were completed with financial funding by USAID and are self sustainable on the payback of investment. Chrome removal from wastewater of cluster of textile and tanneries was one of the key projects coordinated by Dr.

Subramanian to conserve river water quality. He is a U.S. Green Business Council's LEED Green Associate, USA; Got his B.E. in Electrical Engineering, University of Poona, India., Masters in Production Engineering and Plant Engineering, London, UK.; Obtained Advanced Technical and Management Training in Japan, USA, Philippines, and Vietnam; Received .Ph.D. (Hon.), University of Berkley, MI, USA. He worked as a Program Director, "State Environmental Initiative," Council of State Governments (CSG), USA and directed a \$5.6 million grants program funded by USAID; Launched 30 US-Asia energy/environmental projects in six developing countries (India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam). He also worked as a Director, US-Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP), American Consulate General, Chennai, India and Promoted U.S. green expertise to address critical environmental issues. Spearheaded EPA programs. He will present some of the innovative water management initiatives.

Another speaker (not in picture) was Jacqueline Vasan of Working Bikes, Chicago, IL, spoke about and demonstrated a very Low Cost (\$30.) Water Disinfection System for Rural households." www.workingbikes.org. They give away bikes to poor kids in developing countries. Ms. Vasan demonstrated the bike in working condition that generated electricity which lighted up a UV lamp, which in turn disinfects the water. The duration of biking required is based on the amount of water.

Upcoming Events:

August 14, Second East Regional Conference at The Johns Hopkins University, Rockville, MD, on ***Working Together to Eradicate Poverty and Mitigate Climate Change India***. Speakers include: Padma Bhushan Emeritus Professor P V. Indiresan, IIT Delhi, former director of IIT Madras, Chairman of Netaji Institute of Science and Technology, Prof. Vinod Jain of University of Maryland, and President of India-Us Institute of World Affairs, DC, Dr. Prakash Ambegaonkar of Bridging Nations, DC; Mr. Virendra Singh, Founder/president, Pardada Pardadi Education Society, VA; Mr. Mark Medema, President, The Beautiful Tree Fund, DC; Ms. Meena Radhakrishnan, Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development, DC; Mr. Manish Bapna, Managing Director, World Resources Institute, DC; Ms. Neha Misra, IDCA Renewable Energy Committee, and Washington Chapter Coordinator; Dr. Kewal Likhyan, President, Crush Poverty Now, Delaware; Mr. Jay Sehgal, Managing Trustee, Institute of Rural Research and Development, India

August 25, 2010: A presentation by Padma Bhushan Emeritus Professor P. V. Indiresan, IIT Delhi, former Director of IIT Madras, currently Chairman of Netaji Institute of Science and Technology, new Delhi. Topic: ***Eradicating Poverty by Promoting Inclusive Development in India***. From 6 Pm to 9 PM Tentative Venue: Saffron Restaurant, 6100 Cass Avenue, Westmont, IL. Call 630-960-2425 to confirm.

IDCA provides a forum for networking and cooperation between non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals that are interested in alleviating poverty while mitigating climate change through scalable sustainable development projects primarily in India. IDCA and its members are addressing one or more issues. For the present the focus has been on five core issues i.e. Water, Education, Livelihoods, Healthcare and Energy & Environment.

IDCA advocates that in order to eradicate poverty one needs to create real wealth by addressing and improving many basic needs of people as represented by the acronym WEALTH: Water, Waste/Sanitation; Education, Energy, Environment; Agriculture, Attitudes; Livelihoods, Leadership;

Technology, Trade, Transportation; Healthcare, Housing. IDCA also stands for information, Inspiration, Empowerment and Engagement.

Mr. Porus Dadabhoy, appealed everyone present to consider becoming a member of IDCA and also encourage their friends and family to join. We invite all NRIs, PIOs and others who are interested in this cause to get involved with IDCA to help developmental projects being under taken in India. More information to become an IDCA member is available in the website: www.idc-america.org/membership.htm . You can also contact us at: info@idc-america.org and 630-303-9592



Above: Dr. Patel, Dr. Ava Billimoria, Mr. Godrej Billimoria, Mrs. Subramanian, Dr. S. Subramanian, Ms. Jacqueline Vasan, Working Bikes, Dr. Prakasam Tata, Mrs. Kiran Kumar of Milwaukee, Dr. Minu Patel, Kiran Kumar, Porus Dadabhoy, and Chetan Kale.

Below: Left to Right: Speakers: Mr. Godrej Billimoria, A Rotarian from Winnetka, IL;

Dr. Sundresan Subramanian, Buffalo Grove, IL; Dr. Prakasam Tata, Naperville, IL.

Mr. Porus Dadabhoy, IDCA. Downers grove, IL.

