

**SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**September 13, 2007, Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre,**  
**New Delhi, India**  
**Time 09 30 am to 6:00 pm**

**Organized as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> CMS VATAVARAN –Environment and Wildlife Film Festival**

**Background**

The broad agreement among scientific community that global temperatures will continue to increase has led nations, states, corporations and individuals to implement actions to try to curtail global warming or adjust to it. There is ongoing political and public debate on a global scale regarding what, if any, action should be taken to reduce or reverse future warming or to adapt to its expected consequences. Serious discussions are underway in several countries about the cost of adopting alternate, cleaner energy sources in order to reduce emissions in view of the synergies between climate mitigation strategies and development policies in areas such as energy efficiency, fuel substitution, renewables, afforestation, and land and waste management. The climate science community and policy makers are now converging at a concept of combining mitigation efforts with climate adaptation measures and strategies.

Adaptation refers to all those responses to climate change that may be used to reduce vulnerability (Vulnerability is susceptibility to harm or damage potential – it considers such factors as the ability of a system to cope or absorb stress or impacts and to “bounce back” or recover). Stresses from climate and climate-related events and phenomena that could be exacerbated by future climate change are already being felt by most countries through extreme weather and natural disasters in the region. The benefits of adaptation can be immediate, especially when they also address climate variability. A compelling reason for assessing adaptation in India, a developing country with large population, is to inform policy makers about what they can do to reduce the risks of climate change. To fully account for vulnerability to climate change, an assessment of impacts needs to account for those adaptations that are likely or even reasonable to assume to happen. Adaptation practices require extensive high quality data and information on climate, and on environmental, ecological and social systems affected by climate, with a view to carrying out realistic vulnerability assessments and looking towards the near future. Early warning and risk management systems are obvious and efficient contributors that can facilitate adaptation to climate variability and change.

There remain formidable environmental, economic, informational, social, attitudinal and political barriers to implementation of adaptation. Adaptation can take place at many levels, essentially ranging between tangible interventions at community and enterprise level and national and international efforts to strengthen the enabling environment. It is informative to undertake regional assessments of adaptation, even though most adaptation interventions need to reflect local conditions, including local adaptive capacities. This underscores the need for research at national and local level that will help reduce barriers to implementing responses that reduce climate related risks, including adverse consequences for sustainability. The priority themes include making optimum use of predictive capabilities, characterising the linkages between climate change and sustainability, implications of the required rates and magnitudes of adaptation, institutional responses that enhance adaptive capacity, use of new and traditional technologies, the multiple dimensions of social responsibility, and enhancing the enabling environment for adaptation at the community and enterprise level. A better understanding of these issues will, in turn, help address much needed improvements in quantifying the costs and benefits of adaptation, prioritising adaptation options, assessing sustainable development tradeoffs, and monitoring the success of adaptation initiatives.

Climate change today is high on the agenda of every government, corporate sector, scientists, civil society groups, creative people, farmers, youth and common man. The same is well reflected in the media, which is highlighting the various issues concerning this global phenomenon. Amidst various apprehensions about the likely impacts of climate change on the people, food security, ecosystems, etc., nations are preparing to adapt themselves to this unprecedented threat. The government of India

has formed the National Council for Climate Change to prepare a roadmap for energy efficiency and sustainable development and coordinate national action plans for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change

### **The Summit**

In view of the far-reaching consequences of the climate change in India, 4<sup>th</sup> CMS VATAVARAN – Environment and Wildlife Film Festival (to be held during September 12-16, 2007) has declared the theme for this year's festival as "Climate Change" and has decided to organize a one-day "International Summit on Climate Change" scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

The summit will particularly focus on climate change concerns in India in the context of its impacts on the water, agriculture, human health and biodiversity sectors as also implications for energy, social and economic structures including the infrastructural, natural resources and financial challenges besides the issues of climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness

### **Objectives of the Summit**

- To integrate the cohesive view points of atmospheric scientists, sociologists, economists and people's representatives from India and abroad on critical aspects of the climate change science, potential impacts of climate variability and change in India and pathways on incorporating these in India's broad development agenda for sustainable development;
- To increase awareness of the research community, technocrats and professionals, civil society, representatives from the government and corporate sector, legislators and parliamentarians about climate change and related issues with a view to enhance overall national coping capacity;
- To identify ways and means to introduce clean and efficient technologies in its industry and services sectors more vigorously to protect its natural environment and ecosystem (seeking international finances under clean development mechanism); and
- To formulate a plan of action for corporate sector and central and state government personnel to facilitate their actions on internalizing climate change in their progressive development framework

### **Targeted Participants**

CMS VATAVARAN would invite a select group of academicians and researchers from natural science discipline, technocrats and engineers, economists, architects, urban planners, socio-economists, journalists and specialists in advocacy, governance and international policy, Entrepreneurs etc to engage themselves in active participation in this Summit through discussions, interactions and deliberations and thus facilitate in fulfilling its objectives

### **Sessions**

- I. Inaugural**
- II. Understanding the Climate Change**
- III. Impact Assessment – Facing the Challenges in India**
- IV. Integrating Climate Change in National Development Agenda**
- V. Panel Discussion: Recommendations & Concluding Remarks**

### **PROGRAMME**

**Facilitator: Prof Murari Lal, Chairman, CESDAC**

09:30 am – 10: 00 am	Registration
<b>10 00 am – 11.15 am</b>	<b>INAUGURAL SESSION</b>
10.00 am	<b>Welcome Address: Dr. N. Bhaskara Rao, Chairman CMS</b>
10.05 am	<b>Chief Guest and Inauguration: Mr Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament and Former Union Minister</b>
10.20 am	<b>Principal Partner Address: Ms Therese Wagle Bazard, Counsellor, Royal Norwegian Embassy</b>
10 :35 am	<b>Keynote Address 1: Climate Change and Swiss Cooperation in India Mr Dominique Dreyer, Swiss Ambassador to India</b>
10 :55 am	<b>Keynote Address 2: India’s View Points on Climate Change Issue Mr Jayant M. Mauskar, Joint Secretary, CC (Incl. L CDM &amp; UNFCCC), Ministry of Environment and Forests, GOI</b>
11: 15 am	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>11:30 am – 1:00 pm</b>	<b>SESSION – I UNDERSTANDING THE CLIMATE CHANGE</b>
	<b>Chairperson: Dr P S Goel, Secretary, MoES and Chairman, Earth Commission, Govt of India (Invited)</b>
11:40 pm	<b>Demystifying the Climate Change Science Dr G Srinivasan, Director, Indian Meteorological Department and Programme, Manager Climate Change</b>
12:00 noon	<b>Science of Climate Change – Global to Local Scales Dr. Gregor Leckebusch, University of Berlin, Germany</b>
12:20 pm	<b>State of the Environment – Implications of Climate Change Dr Sarath Guttikunda, Consultant, World Bank</b>
12: 40 pm	<b>Discussions: Climate Change: Where Are We Heading? Mr Darryl D’Monte, Chairperson, Forum of Environmental Journalists of India (FEJI)</b>
01 00 pm	Lunch Break
<b>2:00 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>SESSION – II IMPACT ASSESSMENT - FACING THE CHALLENGES IN INDIA</b>
	<b>Chairperson: Dr R Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to Prime Minister and Member National Council for Climate Change (Brief Introduction to the Session Theme by the Chair)</b>
2:10 pm	<b>Critical Issues in Assessing the Climate Change Vulnerability and Impacts Dr Anand Patwardhan, Executive Director, TIFAC</b>
2:25 pm	<b>Presentations on National Approaches to Sector –Specific Impact Assessment Agriculture and Food Security: Dr Shivdhar Singh, IARI</b>
2:40 pm	<b>Climate Change - Ground Realities of Water Availability and Management in India Prof Syed Iqbal Hasnain, Senior Fellow, CPR</b>
2:55 pm	<b>Climate Change and Human Health: Dr Rais Akhter, JNU</b>
3:10 pm	<b>Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Context of India Dr Sumana Bhattacharya, Winrock International, India</b>

3:30 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>3:45 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>SESSION – III INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA</b>
	<b>Chairperson: Dr Prodipto Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, TERI and member, National Council for Climate Change</b> (Brief Introduction to the Session Theme by the Chair)
4:00 pm	<b>Implications of Climate Change on India’s Economy in the context of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</b> <b>Prof Kanchan Chopra</b> , Director, Institute of Economic Growth
4:15 pm	<b>Conflicts over natural resources and Climate Change</b> <b>Dr Nilanjan Ghosh</b> , Sr Vice President, MAX Academia of Economic Research (MAER)
4:30 pm	<b>Role of Financial Institutions in Adapting to Climate Change –</b> <b>Ms. Malini Thadani</b> , Head Group Public Affairs and Corporate Responsibility, HSBC
4:45 pm	<b>Climate Change and Energy Security in India</b> <b>Dr Ajay Mathur</b> , Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, GoI
<b>5:00 pm – 6:00 pm</b>	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION RECOMMENDATIONS &amp; CONCLUDING REMARKS</b> <b>Panelists:</b> Chairpersons of Sessions I, II and III and Mr, Adrian Marti, Dy. Country Director, SDC Mr. J. K. Dadoo, Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi ( <b>Invited</b> ) Dr Juergen Bischoff, Director, GTZ - ASEM, ( <b>Invited</b> ) Dr Nilanjan Ghosh, Sr Vice President, MAX Academia of Economic Research