



ASIAN PANORAMA SCREENINGS

4:30 pm – 7:30 pm, 22 November 2005, Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Timber to Tibet, Nepal

Mohan Mainali's Nepali Kath Tibbettira (Timber to Tibet) portrays the contrasts between the pro-conservationist tradition of the people and their compulsion to cut down a priceless Himalayan forest. The people of Bhotkhola in Northern Nepal believe that the gods placed Bhotkhola among the mountains so that it remains undisturbed. That is why, they say, it should be preserved and protected from human defilement. However, the same people have turned to destroying trees that has taken hundred and fifty years to mature.

Nepal Forum of Environment Journalists has produced the film with support from ICIMOD. The director, Mohan Mainali, is one of the few Nepali journalists possessing in depth knowledge on Nepal's ongoing deadly conflict. He is also director of the Kathmandu based Centre for Investigative Journalism.

One Water, USA

The film dwells on the state of potable water in our world. It has been screened and discussed at several venues including colleges and high schools in the United States and in villages of India, Bangladesh and Ecuador. Recipient of two awards at the Broadcast Education Association, it has been screened at the United Nations headquarters in New York as part of the 12th Commission on Sustainable Development.

Sanjeev Chatterjee, producer and director of One Waters, is a media maker and professor at the School of Communication, University of Miami. He has been involved with numerous non-fiction projects over the past 20 years addressing a wide array of issues such as identity within the South Asian Diaspora, the Yugoslav war, the environment and wildlife.



Saving the Karakorams, Pakistan

The Karakoram Mountain range attracts 70 percent of all mountain related tourism in Pakistan. Tourism generates income for the local community but it also increases human activity, which if left unmanaged cause irreversible ecological damage. It was to mitigate the effects of tourism in this fragile eco zone that the Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization developed a integrated management program that accrues economic and social benefits to the local communities and provides a permanent base to monitor and prevent environmental degradation.

The film has been produced by Qazi Asif and directed by Aisha Khan, an ardent conservationist who has been successful in initiating and successfully completing several projects in the Karakoram Mountain Region. Aisha is the President of Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization, a Pakistani NGO that works for the preservation of the mountain environment, ecology and wildlife. She received the Himalayan Environmental Trust Award 2004 in recognition for her outstanding contribution to the cause of environment.

Moving Mountains, Phillipines

Directed by Boyette Rimban and produced by Philippine Human Rights Information Centre (Philrights), Moving Mountains tackles the destructive effects of large-scale mining on the lives, culture, and environment of communities in Cordillera. After playing host to these mining companies they remain poor, their resources depleted and their place destroyed. In contrast, small scale mining in Balbalan, the Banao tribe effectively manages it.

Once this was my Home, Pakistan

Directed by Samina Aslam for Eveready Pictures, the film dwells on how a natural phenomenon has affected the lives and livelihoods of the indigenous people of the province of Sindh. People are forced to move out to unknown destinations in search of food, shelter and livelihoods.

Hammer and Flame, India

Vaughan Palikar's film is an imaginative documentary that depicts the ship breaking industry at Alang, Gujarat. Alang has come to epitomize environment and human exploitation. Though the film deals with these issues at an implicit level, it eschews the didactic style of conventional documentary and focuses on the visual power of Alang itself.

Vaughan Palikar is the founder and artistic director of Unruowe. His film Mummers was nominated for the Der Leo at the 2004 Braunschweig Filmfest and was awarded Best Sound at the Film stock Festival, England.

Planet Earth Once, Israel

Mahar Nikne Od Kadurha'aretz (Planet Earth Once) captures a month long traveling campaign by members of the Megama Yeruka group. In the midst of the scorching July heat, they leave their comfortable urban setting to deliver a powerful and compelling message to the people. They travel in a large and colourful truck throughout the countryside urging people to focus on

the health of the environment. During their month long journey, the construction of the Trans-Israel Highway is completed, a project which they had tried to stop with the support of many friends using every possible means. This traveling festival creates fascinating human encounters and brings new dimensions to the daily life in towns and villages they visit.

The film has been produced and directed by independent filmmakers Miri Urman and Amit Miller. Miri Urman has served as assistant director for Israel Educational TV for 10 years besides directing many projects. Amit Miller teaches in 'Jump Cut' school for editors.



23 November 2005

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Sand and Water, Bangladesh

Jibon Jole-Bele (Sand and Water) traverses the viewer to the adversity of a group of farmers, inhabitants of Gabshara Union, a small district in Bangladesh. "The deadly paradise" is how the people of Bangladesh refer to it. The district consists of a group of tiny islands in the middle of river Jamuna. During the monsoon, the river floods nearly all the islands, eroding ones it created a few years previously and pushing up new ones elsewhere on the riverbed. This same place turns into a desert like landscape in winter, a time when the struggle of the inhabitants is not against, but for water. The film portrays the struggle of the people in these extreme natural conditions, and how they cope with the "moods" of Jamuna, which is also a source of their livelihood. The film uses minimal narration but is rich in its poetic imagery of a fragile world. It has to its credit Grand Prize at El festival del Riu (Spain) and has also been graced with three awards in German film festivals.

Shaheen Dill-Riaz, a German director of Bangladeshi origin, has been active in the Bangladeshi film community, working with the Film Society and the Dhaka International Short Film Festival. Jibon Jole-Bele is his graduation film.

Environmental Art, Philipines

This film from Philipines is an experience that would last in everyone's memories. It carries the message that there is a gallery of colourful, different species under the sea waiting to be seen. It is a journey worth taking. The picturesque and breathtaking scenes below our shores are a feast to the eyes and a delight to the senses.

Environmental art has been produced and directed by Lili Arivara, an award winner in the advertising category at the Cannes Advertising Film Festival



Orange Alert, Thailand

Across the pesticide-intensive orange growing regions of northern Thailand, thousands of villagers are falling sick; victim to some of the most toxic chemicals in the world. In response to the assault of the state's chemical intensive, export-oriented agriculture drive, thousands of farmers across Thailand have shifted to organic, pesticide free farming practices. The film zooms into one such affected village, Nong Bua Ngam in Chiang Mai province's Mae Ai district and takes the viewer to a journey into the life of Phanomkorn Namchan, a farmer and the organic farmer's movement.

The film has been produced and directed by Teena Amrit Gill who has made two films for Help Age International. Her film *Young Hopes in Elderly Arms* was premiered at the XV International AIDS Conference (IAC 2004) in Bangkok. She is presently working on a documentary on Women in Buddhism.

Children of the Mountains, Philipines

Meet the Agta tribe in Philippines, one of the last hunter-gatherer tribes in the world. The original forest dwellers have lived peacefully with the land since time immemorial. They are the first people to have come to Philippines shores and have lived a peaceful existence living on the beaches and forests of the Sierra Madre Mountain range. The film narrates the story of an amazingly rich country that has squandered almost all their natural resources. Philippines, recognized belatedly as having one of the richest biodiversity on the planet has less than three per cent of old growth forest cover left.

The director, Boyd Pickup, is a pioneer in many environmental education initiatives. He has two films to his credit *Return to Apocalypse* and *Children of the Mountain*. The film has been co-produced by Jukka Holopainen and Marge Babon. Jukka Holopainen currently heads Center for Environmental Awareness and Education (CEAE) and *Apocalypse Point Productions*. He has pioneered numerous environmental education initiatives in Philippines.



24 November 2005

2:30 pm –4:30 pm, Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Awaiting the Cranes Return, Pakistan

Directed by Samina Aslam, the film focuses on Badin, one of the country's richest areas in natural reserves ironically has the poorest inhabitants. Frequently struck by natural disasters and hardships of the aftermath, the deprived people eagerly await god-sent help through NGOs and donations by multinational companies, hoping for the "Cranes" and prosperity to return soon. The film has been produced by International Union of Conservation of Nature.

Meltdown in Nepal, Nepal

The film focuses on the impact of climate change in the glacial ecosystem of the Himalayas and its people. The phenomenon of climate change is happening and people have started to feel its impacts on their lives, but decision makers are still hesitant to take decisive steps towards combating climate change - the problem still seems too far away. The film has been shot entirely in Solukhumbu district, Nepal's biggest tourist draw with its access to several of the world's highest mountains, including Mt. Everest.

Director Naresh Newar is a freelance journalist and documentary filmmaker. He has gained vast experiences as a filmmaker, activist and journalist. The film has been produced by WWF Nepal programme.

Planer Earth Once, Israel (second screening on popular demand).