



To Mark World Environment Day

**U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata
&
Centre for Social Markets**

**invite you to the screening of
Al Gore's Oscar-winning film on
Climate Change**

An Inconvenient Truth

**and a panel discussion on the issues raised.
Tuesday, June 5, 2007, 3.00 p.m. to 6.30 pm
at the American Center, Lincoln Room.**

RSVP: Essential by Friday, June 1, 2007 to :
Dr. Tapati Ghosh, General Manager,
Centre for Social Markets,
Mobile: 9830154487; e-Mail: "info@csmworld.org" or
or
Karuna Singh, Program Manager, American Center,
Mobile: 9831356476; e-Mail: singhkx@state.gov

**PLEASE NOTE: Mobile phones, bags, etc. need to be
deposited at the main gate.
Any inconvenience caused is regretted.**

PROGRAM

P.M.

- 3:00 - 3:15** Welcome Remarks by
Bhaskar K. Rajah, *Deputy Director,*
American Centre, Kolkata
- 3:15 - 3:30** Introduction of "An Inconvenient Truth" by
Malini Mehra (*Chair*) and *Founder & Director,*
Centre for Social Markets
- 3:30 - 5:00** Screening of "An Inconvenient Truth"
- 5:00 - 5:10** Tea
- 5:10 - 6:00** Panel discussion on issues raised by the Film
(With reference to India and West Bengal in particular.)

Panelists:

Yvani Deraniyagala

Manager, Climate Change Research and Training,
Munasinghe Institute for Development, Sri Lanka

S P Gon Chaudhuri

Director, W. Bengal Renewable Energy Development
Agency

Pradip Kumar Basu

Executive Director (Generation),
Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation

- 6:00 - 6:30** Open Discussion

About the topic

The United Nation's most recent report on climate change has underscored that this issue 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 predicted 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. In India, it is predicted that 40% of Himalayan glaciers will vanish; the Ganga delta turn infertile; 25% of wildlife perish; food and water shortages become chronic; and pestilences such as dengue and cholera spread. These environment and health impacts will be joined by human misery, economic dislocation, conflict and security challenges of an unprecedented scale. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has sounded the alarm bell - global emissions of greenhouse gases must reduce to 85% by 2050.

About the film

Directed by David Guggenheim, the Oscar-winning film *An Inconvenient Truth*, is an account of former US Vice President Al Gore's journey of realization about the challenge of Climate Change. Interspersed with bracing facts and future predictions is the story of Gore's personal journey: from an idealistic college student who first saw a massive environmental crisis looming; to a young Senator facing a harrowing family tragedy that altered his perspective, *An Inconvenient Truth* is not a story of despair but rather a rallying cry to protect the one earth we all share. "It is now clear that we face a deepening global climate crisis that requires us to act boldly, quickly, and wisely," Gore says.

The U.S. Consulate General is located at 5/1 Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata 700 071. It serves the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal, and the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Consulate's Office of Public Affairs is located at the American Center, 38A Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata 700 071, and is responsible for public diplomacy activities for the United States Government in eastern India. The American Center plans and organizes seminars, lectures and discussions around visiting U.S. Speakers, Voluntary Speakers, Fulbright Professors and U.S. Government officials. It also organizes longer-term Academic Specialist/Cultural Specialist programs involving American experts and coordinates and implements exchange and grants programs. In addition, the Center arranges cultural presentations and exhibits of works by American artists. The American Center also maintains an extensive state-of-the-art library, and provides current and accurate information about the United States to patrons throughout eastern India through its vast collection of books, journals, newspapers, videotapes and CD-ROMS

The Centre for Social Markets (www.csmworld.org) 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. This event is being held as part of CSM's Climate Challenge India campaign which seeks to educate and generate positive energy for climate action in India. Calcutta is the only Indian city mentioned in the film and this screening marks the first of nationwide screenings and discussions organized by CSM and partners.