



Climate Change: Challenges for Kolkata and West Bengal

Roundtable Discussion organized by the Centre for Social Markets (CSM) in association with the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)

Grand Hotel (Gharana)
10:00am 2:00pm
Wednesday, June 6th 2007. Kolkata, India

Climate change represents the most profound long-term challenge to human settlements today and needs a proactive response by city leaders. By 2008, more than half of the world's population, roughly 3.2 billion human beings will be living in cities. By mid-century, with current population projections this number could have doubled. Cities will be among the first to feel the heat. The consequences of global warming rising temperatures, floods, storms, droughts, sea-level rise, infectious diseases, etc. will play havoc with urban infrastructure services, public health, economic prospects, social cohesion and stability. Preparing for a future of intense climatic change requires wise and careful planning now.

India's cities are acutely vulnerable to climate change and it is high time that our leadership awoke to the challenges before us. With this in mind, CSM has initiated a **Cities Exchange** programme with leading partners under the banner of our nationwide **Climate Challenge India** campaign.

The **Cities Exchange** programme will focus on awareness-raising, professional mobilization, network development and practitioner exchange for capacity building. Our partners in this endeavour will include national and international planning bodies, other major cities' initiatives including players such as **The Climate Group** and **C-40**, and a range of stakeholders.

The **Cities Exchange** programme will begin with a series of Roundtables held across India beginning with Kolkata and then moving on to each Tier 1 city across the country. They will bring together leading city officials, planners, developers, scientists, academics and community leaders to start a process of more methodical discussion and response to the climate challenge for India's leading cities.

This **Kolkata Roundtable**, which kicks off this national process, is being held in association with the **Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)** - the key civic body charged with the responsibility of responding to Kolkata's civic improvement. KMC provides a range of services to the city including the supply of drinking water, sewerage and drainage, solid waste management, roads maintenance, street lighting and slum development works. With this Roundtable, KMC and CSM take the first step towards a longer-term process of issue identification and response under the **Cities Exchange** and allied initiatives.



PROGRAMME

- 9.30 am 10.00 am** Registration and tea
- 10:00 am 10:15 am** Inauguration & Address by **Guest of Honour Shri Bikash Bhattacharya, Mayor of Kolkata**
- 10:15 am - 10:30 am** Introduction to the morning and Centre for Social Markets' **Climate Challenge India** campaign, **Ms Malini Mehra**, Founder & Director, CSM (Session Chair)
- 10:30 am - 10:40 pm** Screening of Climate Change films set in Eastern India
- 10:40 am 11:00 am** Tea
- 11:00 pm 11:20 am** Presentation by **Ms Yvani Deraniyagala** Manager, Climate Change Research and Training Munasinghe Institute of Development, Sri Lanka *Climate Challenge: Impacts and Adaptation Options for South Asia*
- 11:20 pm 11:50 pm** KMC Responses by:
- Mr Nilangshu Bhushan Basu**, Chief Municipal Engineer (Planning & Development) and Principal Chief Engineer (Civil), Kolkata Municipal Corporation
- Mr Dipankar Sinha**, Director General (Town Planning), Kolkata Municipal Corporation
- 11:50 pm 12:50 pm** Key 'Take-Homes' and issues for Follow-Up Action
- 12.50 pm 13.00 pm** Thanks and close
- 13:00 pm 14:00 pm** Networking Lunch

Programme supported by



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

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Read about CSM in **TIME & FORTUNE**: www.csmworld.org/public/pdf/investing.pdf

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