



Chennai Water Forum October 6 – 8, 2016 at Kalakshetra Foundation

Thursday, 6 October 2016

10.00-10.45 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Inauguration Ceremony

Chief Guest: N. Ram, Chairman, Publisher of The Hindu Group

Invocation | Jalatharangam by D. Krishnamoorthy accompanied by D. Ramasubramanian on Mridangam | Lighting of the Lamp | Welcome addresses by Priyadarsini Govind, Director Kalakshetra Foundation, and Helmut Schippert, Director Goethe-Institut Chennai | Speech by Chief Guest N. Ram | followed by first Key Note Presentation from Rajeev Kathpalia

10.45-11.45 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Topography, Urban Ecologies and Water

Presentation by **Rajeev Kathpalia**

This presentation explores the idea of working with Water ecologies, rather than against it. In a certain sense, environmentalists may see any act of building as a violation of Nature. How does one minimize the adverse impacts of infrastructure? How does one create environments that are regenerative? Synthesizing concepts of regenerative cycles of Water, with tangible projects like Nalanda University, Arjun Machan and Smritivan, the presentation opens a discourse on future possibilities.

12.00-12.45 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Blind Spots, Dark Sides, and Hidden Problems: A Critical View on (Water) “Governance”

Presentation by **Petra Dobner**

When the term “governance” first entered the international ecological debate it soon advanced to be a key term in the field. “Governance” promised to overcome all shortcomings of governmental approaches, “global Governance” supposedly bridged gaps between the developing

4 Rutland Gate 5th Street
Chennai 600 006
Tamil Nadu, India

Tel.: +91 44 28331314/2343
Fax: +91 44 28332565
info@chennai.goethe.org
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and developed world regions, citizens and their states, rich and poor, men and women. After two decades of a hyped discussion some sobering thoughts are mandatory, not least about the almost forgotten, yet vivid aspects of *power*.

12.00-13.30 | Coom Room, Kalakshetra

Perspectives on and Learnings from Urban Flooding

Interactive Workshop by the **Indo-German Centre for Sustainability**

(> registration desk)

This event is concerned with the interface of urban development and flooding. Our vantage point is the Chennai Flood 2015 which raised questions, such as: What could be done to mitigate floods? Who could be part of disaster risk management strategies? What kind of water bodies are in our neighbourhood and how do we perceive/treat them? In the workshop, research groups will showcase their work on urbanisation and water conducted by the IGCS in Chennai. We will then use maps for an interactive part to discuss issues about water in the region. Finally, participants are invited to share their notions and issues of water in the neighbourhoods they live in.

4 Rutland Gate 5th Street
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Tamil Nadu, India

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Fax: +91 44 28332565
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12.00-13.30 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Challenges of Flood Management

Interactive Workshop by **S. Janakarajan** (> registration desk)

Lots of water but no water to use and for drinking. No power, no mobile connectivity! People in lower strata, particularly daily wage earners have lost their jobs - they are pushed to the conditions of being at the mercy of others. Most shocking, over 700 people have lost their lives. What can the reasons be? Human negligence? Rainfall of the century? Anything else? The key and the most relevant question therefore is what kind of preparedness does the administration have to handle such extreme events? What lessons have we learnt from past extreme events such as tsunami, series of cyclones etc. which the State has experienced in recent years?

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12.00-12.45 | Emscher Room, Kalakshetra

My City - My Water / Citizens in Action: Eco Restoration around Water Bodies

Presentation by **Nizhal**

12.45-13.30 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Paradise Lost!? - Changing Water Cultures in Chennai and Tamil Nadu

Presentation by **Nanditha Krishna**

Imaginations of a paradisiacal state are rather an expression of our longing for something ideal than of reality. Instead of a glorious past of clean rivers, the chronicles prove that already in the 19th century the Cooum was carrying a lot of sewage emitting a foul smell. But, for centuries the rivers were an integral part of the socio-economic and cultural life of the city. People knew about nature and endowed it with beautiful temple tanks. This has been destroyed only in the last 20 or 30 years, the rivers now being a shame. So, what was the relationship of the Chennaiites to their water bodies? Why and how have the habits changed? Can we (ever) embrace our rivers again?

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14.30-16.00 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Construction, Encroachment and River Flood Plains - Can Chennai Be Flood Ready?

Panel discussion with **S. Janakarajan, Chandra Mohan, Jayshree Vencatesan**

As the State Capital, Chennai has sacrificed a huge portion of its wetlands and floodplains at the high altars of urbanisation. The panel will question the nature of what is termed as construction and development that comes at a heavy environmental cost. The offenders are not always who the media or the general public think, and the various players in this erroneous direction may surprise us. Are the policies and counter measures to prevent flooding effective? Given this situation can Chennai ever be flood ready? Is it possible to reverse some of these damages?

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14.30-16.00 | Cooum Room, Kalakshetra

Water Fault Lines Interactive

Interactive Workshop by **Rajeev Kathpalia** (> registration desk)

Water seems to transform its meanings as it moves from the private realm to the public realm - a glass of pure drinking water, a tank in a home, a private lake reservoir, ground water, a public lake, urban rivers that move into the sea. Each participant contributes to these meanings and memories, as the workshop explores the many ways of relating to Urban Rivers and the fault lines between communities. With several river-front projects on the anvil in India, this collaborative participative visioning could open a broader discourse on the associations with Water.

14.30-15.15 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Traditional Water Management Systems and Structures

Presentation by **Ranee Vedamuthu, Rukkumany R.H.**

The 'Tank Irrigation System' is a water management system that is completely suited to the context of this region. It is crucial to the survival of populations both to alleviate drought and floods. The tanks or the surface reservoirs are found prevalent in the landscape and are the most visible part of the system. However they are supported by other components such as protective vegetation and silt ponds. The efficiency has been increased by these components and a whole gamut of practices around them. These practices are related to the spatial planning, maintenance, connection to larger networks and community management. The presentation describes the various aspects of these traditional water management systems with an emphasis on the components that protect the tanks.

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Tamil Nadu, India

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14.30-16.00 | Emscher Room, Kalakshetra

My City - My Water / Citizens in Action: Urban Lake Restoration - Modern Challenges and the Need for Innovation

Interactive Workshop by **Environmental Foundation of India**
(> registration desk)

Lakes such as Kapra in Hyderabad, Keezhkattalai in Chennai, Dal in Srinagar, Sanjay in Delhi and Selvachintamani in Coimbatore are water

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bodies that are putting up against all human activities. They continue to support life systems. With sustained community efforts there is a strong possibility in reviving these water bodies. The urban challenges stand in the way and innovating accordingly is important.

15.15-16.00 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

A Story of Adyar

Conversation between **Anthony, Susai, Siddhart Muralidharan**

The fishermen Anthony and Susai will talk about the impact of the advancing industrialization and urbanization on the Adyar river and consequently, on their lives. Having lived close to the river their whole lives, they will be able to tell us first-hand about all the damage they have witnessed. Moreover, they will give an insight in how they are coping with the difficulties that the poor state of Adyar entails, especially with respect to them earning their livelihood from fishing.

16.15-17.00 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Practices | Experiences: Transformation through Dialogue & Art - The Emscher River Restoration Project

Presentation by **Leonie Boehmer**

In one of Europe's biggest infrastructural projects the German water-board *EmscherGenossenschaft* rebuilds the 80 km long open sewer Emscher in the Ruhr area of Western Germany into a near-natural river landscape. With a project timeline of several decades it is realized by actively starting a dialogue with the citizens of the Emscher region. Through the exhibition *Emscherkunst* art plays an important role in experiencing the change: In public space alongside the banks of the river renowned artists - like 2016 Ai Weiwei, Tomás Saraceno, Monica Bonvicini or Superflex - explore the conversion of the Emscher, convey it, but also discuss it critically. With more than 290.000 visitors in 2016 *Emscherkunst* is the biggest art project in the Ruhr area.

16.15-17.45 | Coom Room, Kalakshetra

Understanding the Different Functions of a River: Transport, Water Supply, Hydroculture, Recreation, Biotope

Interactive Workshop by **Gregory Egger** (> registration desk)

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Rivers are highly complex organisms. We nevertheless look at them from single, specific perspectives only. In the same way as a human being can only be understood if we take interactions of our organs, of physical and psychological interrelations into account, rivers can only be understood if we look upon them in a holistic way as living water bodies and biospheres. Along topics such as the sediment transport, biotope, water supply, hydro-culture, recreation and flood management this workshop will deepen the understanding of the functions of rivers. Under Gregory Egger's guidance, groups will focus on topics which will be interconnected and interwoven during the workshop.

16.15-17.00 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

The Aesthetics of Water Construction

Presentation by **Georg-Christof Bertsch**

Comparing historical water buildings, such as Indian step wells, Roman aqueducts, or Khmer water basins and Nazridic palace fountains to contemporary hydro-architecture shows a frustrating loss of beauty and aesthetical appreciation of water in our societies. Water has lost its value in a multiplicity of senses. Water has been marginalized when it comes to our architectural and design debate. Re-appreciating water by raising the aesthetical status of water infrastructure projects and urban representation of water might be one step forward for the growth of public understanding of the essential meaning water has for us, not as a merchandize, a material or supply but as the source of all Life on Earth.

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16.15-17.45 | Kosasthalayar Room, Kalakshetra

Biodiversity and Ocean Ecology in Urban Space

Panel discussion with **Ramya Rajagopalan, K. Saravanan, Probir Banerjee**

How is the coastal and ocean ecology affected when it shares space with a major, urbanised metropolis? Apart from pollutants from industries, the amount of solid waste dumped into the sea by city administration, activities of a big port and tourism adversely affect the sensitive ocean ecology. The *International Collective in Support of Fishworkers* (ICSF) will focus on fishing communities and their knowledge on ocean space bringing together some of the studies that focus on documenting the traditional knowledge of fishing communities

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in different parts of India. This will include their perceptions on biodiversity, climate change, management and conservation of marine resources as well. The small-scale fishing communities, living along the coast of India, are the first to be affected by any of the adverse impacts in the marine ecosystems.

16.15-17.00 | Banyan Tree, Kalakshetra

Water and Poetry

Reading by **Marappachi Cultural Group**

17.00-17.45 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Practices | Experiences: Urban Contestations: The River Yamuna in New Delhi

Presentation by **Ravi Agarwal**

Although it is highly polluted, with depleting water flows owing to water abstractions, dams and barrages, built up catchment areas and a rapidly urbanising flood plain, Yamuna river remains the main water source for Delhi. Highly capital-intensive plans to restore it have failed to address underlying causes, and the river has only become more challenged. The talk will trace the history of the river in the city, and critically examine its institutional framework, judicial interventions and current plans for restoration, to help reflect on the future of such key natural features especially in the dense and growing cities of South Asia.

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17.00-18.30 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Room for Reflection in Groups: Impressions and Learnings of the Day

18.00-18.30 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Water, Culture and Society: The Imperative of Change

Prelude to P. Sainath by **Helmut Schippert**

The *categorical imperative* is the central idea in the moral philosophy of German philosopher Immanuel Kant. It has shaped modern concepts of universal human rights and equality. Act only according to that principle that you can will to become a universal law, says Kant. Would you want leading toxic sewage into rivers as a universal law? Or overexploiting ground water and sell for profit? To get out of the *great derangement*,

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which novelist Amitav Ghosh so fabulously diagnoses to us, a new imperative for change is badly needed: Reimagine as civil society the sacred of nature instead of destroying it as ridiculously banal self-maximizers. Can Kant help us?

18.00-18.30 | Kosasthalayar Room, Kalakshetra

A Very Short History of Water Privatisation

Presentation by **Petra Dobner**

In 1992 severe problems in some public water sectors led to one of the most amazing and devastating volte-faces in global public policy: Prior to any substantial analysis, bare of reasonable arguments and in defiance of a worldwide resistance and bloody fights the privatisation of water services was promoted as last and only resort. A quarter century after the invention of the privatisation agenda there is still no success story to be told.

18.30-19.30 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

The Colour of Water

Presentation by **P. Sainath**

What India faces is a mega water crisis, not a simple drought! A crisis significantly driven by policy and human agency! Also, our socio-economic hierarchies find clear reflection in our use and abuse of water. The water sector is where our inequalities stand out most vividly. And the whole mess is set to getting a lot worse.

19.30-20.30 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Concert by the Choir of Madras Musical Association

Conductor: **Augustine Paul**

The 60-strong MMA choir accompanied on the piano by Edwin Roy will render western classical music, showcase a wide spectrum of genres and will entertain the young and the old. The first half will feature great classics from G.F. Handel, W.A. Mozart, F. Mendelssohn, F. Haydn, and the second will be marked by light music to regale the audience. This will include choral versions from The Beatles, ABBA and Lion King.

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Friday, 7 October 2016

07.00 -08.30 | Adyar Poonga

The Adyar Poonga River Restoration Project

Guided Tour by **Joss Brooks and Viswanathan** (> registration desk)

10.00-11.00 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Water is a Multidisciplinary Topic, Always

Presentation by **Georg-Christof Bertsch**

Along his eight-step-model of a multidisciplinary approach for the understanding of the general complexity of water topics, Bertsch will develop an outline of a vision for future water collaborations. This includes spiritual aspects as well as aesthetical, technical and political topics, which must go with sustainable and inclusive water-solutions for future societies. The method follows Harald Welzer's notion that without visionary concepts and "images" we shall not be able to develop a driving narrative for our future. Bertsch's approach was developed in the design context and has been applied in workshops all over the world, from Rio de Janeiro through Jerusalem, Istanbul, Shanghai, Delhi to Berlin, Helsinki or Adelaide, Australia.

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10.00-11.45 | Cooum Room, Kalakshetra

Tools Needed in Concrete Chennai Cases

Interactive Workshop by **Regina Dube** (> registration desk)

The author will briefly explain some aspects of the management tool "Capacity Works", developed by *Gesellschaft für Internationale Entwicklung* (GIZ, German Society for International Cooperation). After that the participants will be divided into groups of max. 8 people. These groups will identify one of their current or future projects and analyse the management of these projects with the help of selected success factors of this tool. After that each group will present their findings to all the workshop participants.

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11.00-11.45 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Reimagining our Lost Rivers

Presentation by **Durganand Balsavar**

Over the last few centuries, humanity has disregarded rivers, more-so in the urban context. This presentation discusses the transformation of our relationship to rivers across centuries - from sacred reverence (in ancient times) to mere exploitation and pollution. As a reaction, urban planners now are gripped by the "Beautiful Cities" theme - and often forget that Indian cities have many different aspirations - from shanties and rural migration to riverine transport, climate change - to celebrating the river as public space. How do we reclaim our lost Rivers for diverse communities as trustees of Nature?

11.00-11.45 | Emscher Room, Kalakshetra

My City - My Water / Citizens in Action: Water Festival 2016 in a PAVC Bioregion

Presentation by **All For Water For All**

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Tamil Nadu, India

Tel.: +91 44 28331314/2343
Fax: +91 44 28332565
info@chennai.goethe.org
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11.00-12.00 | Banyan Tree (starting point), Kalakshetra,

Kalakshetra Tree Walk

Guided Tour by **Nizhal** (> registration desk)

12.00-12.45 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Intentions and Results of Large Scale Flood Management - Wanting the Best, Getting the Worst

Presentation by **Gregory Egger**

With the objectives of flood protection, disease control, land reclamation and navigation improvement, the Upper Rhine River was converted into a single thread channel. There was a consequential loss of natural habitat, biodiversity and a decline of the Rhine fishery. The building of dams and levees resulted in severe consequences: Loss of huge retention areas, river bed erosion downstream of the dams and a dramatic increase of flood hazard far down the river! We need holistic concepts, which integrate flood protection, ecology, society, legal effects and politics. The competence should be on supra-regional river basin level.

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12.00-12.45 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Floral and Faunal Diversity of Chennai Water Bodies

Presentation by **Jayshree Vencatesan and R. Nagendran**

The City of Chennai has been blessed with a number of lentic and lotic water bodies. The enormous biodiversity therein has been well documented. Presenting the list of fauna will serve little in the present context. The discussion, therefore, focuses on the anthropogenic influences on the changing scenario of the Faunal Diversity in select water bodies and the possible citizen contributions to preserve and promote the distribution of critical species and to create awareness of the concept of indicator biota.

12.00-13.30 | Kosasthalayar Room, Kalakshetra

Why Art in Public Space? - Chennai Water Art and Other Indian and German Festivals

Panel discussion with **Ravi Agarwal, Mischa Kuball, Kasha Vande and Helmut Schippert**

Chennai Water Art Festival from January 14 to February 5, 2017, will lead tens of thousands of people back to the Cooum Estuary to celebrate and to imagine change for a better and sustainable future of Chennai's rivers and water bodies. Something similar happened a few years ago in Delhi and the German harbour city of Hamburg in the Yamuna-Elbe Cooperation Project. *Emscherkunst* in Germany, a big River Art Festival, is a powerful change agent in the process of river restoration and redesigning natural landscapes. PondyPhoto 2016 in the Old Port of Pondicherry dedicated 50.000 square feet of big photo prints exclusively to the mega problem of water crises. The powerful role of contemporary art in public space in urban change processes is still new to India and will be discussed in this panel.

12.00-13.30 | Emscher Room, Kalakshetra

My City - My Water / Citizens in Action: Mapping water in Chennai - The Future in Our Hands

Interactive Workshop by **Urban Design Collective** (> registration desk)

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The workshop will be divided into two parts. The first one will be an interactive plenary session to create awareness and also identify gaps, issues and concerns with regard to water protection and management. Questions that will steer this session are: What are the various sources of water in Chennai? Which ones are regulated? What are the scales of water management? How do we organise ourselves around water distribution systems and accessibility to water sources? The second one will be a working group session to arrive at recommendations for improved protection and management of water resources under the group themes: Design and planning, governance, technology, innovations and engineering.

12.45-13.30 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Practices | Experiences: The Adyar Poonga in Chennai

Presentation by **Joss Brooks, Dirk Walther, Viswanathan**

The processes experienced while conceiving the Adyar Poonga Masterplan, its implementation over three years and the consequent maintenance work till date. Some lessons learnt.

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14.30-16.00 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Culture, History and Art along the Cooum

Panel discussion with **Padmapriya Baskaran, Ramakrishnan Venkatesh, Parvathi Nayar**

The Cooum as it flows in the city of Chennai today is viewed as a much debased water body, and is largely a “dead” river being primarily treated as a sewage drain. Rediscover the Cooum as a site of significant socio-cultural and historical events through the travels of historians and heritage enthusiasts Venkatesh and Padmapriya, and contemporary visual artist Parvathi Nayar. The journey will include such unusual discoveries as the existence of the Koova Purana that speaks of the Cooum as a holy river with the power to wash away even those stubborn sins that have not been washed away by a dip in the Ganges.

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14.30-16.00 | Cooum Room, Kalakshetra

Water as a Human Right and a Common

Interactive Workshop by **V. Suresh** (> registration desk)



Over the past 30 years water has no longer been seen as a resource belonging to all, but increasingly considered as a commodity to be traded and sold. This development raises some crucial questions, such as: Whose is the responsibility to tend to water? What principles should govern decisions regarding the use of water? Should water be considered a common resource or should it be treated like a commodity to be sold and profited from? Should we, as citizens, be bothered about the way our water is governed? If yes, then what should be our role? If no, what is the answer to recurrent floods and droughts?

14.30-16.00 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Developing an Environment Education Programme for the Restoration of Chennai Wetlands and Waterways

Interactive Workshop by **Dirk Walther, Joss Brooks, Viswanathan**
(> registration desk)

Developing the Adyar Poonga as a space for Environmental Education and in particular as a training space for practical Restoration Ecology.

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14.30-16.00 | Emscher Room, Kalakshetra

My City - My Water / Citizens in Action: Urban Lake Restoration - Modern Challenges and the Need for Innovation

Interactive Workshop by **Environmental Foundation of India**
(> registration desk)

Lakes such as Kapra in Hyderabad, Keezhkattalai in Chennai, Dal in Srinagar, Sanjay in Delhi and Selvachintamani in Coimbatore are water bodies that are putting up against all human activities. They continue to support life systems. With sustained community efforts there is a strong possibility in reviving these water bodies. The urban challenges stand in the way and innovating accordingly is important.

16.15-17.00 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Practices | Experiences: Bangalore

Presentation by **Leo F. Saldanha**

Bengaluru has evolved in countless ways in the past few decades. Apart from being a major metropolitan state capital, it has mutated into a mega city - IT Capital and Cosmopolitan. Another image that predates all this is that of the "Garden City", of pleasant, cool summers and chilly

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winters, dotted with gardens, lakes and water bodies. What has happened to that Bengaluru now? How did we arrive at polluted lakes, foaming water and dwindling ground water levels? Let's take a look at how this deterioration came to be and some of the battles that have been won. What are the solutions that have worked? Why have they been effective and what is the process behind?

16.15-17.45 | Cooum, Kalakshetra

Water Must Be Shown, not Hidden. It is Beautiful

Interactive Workshop by **Georg-Christof Bertsch** (> registration desk)

What can be done for the inclusion of aesthetical aspects in water-infrastructure planning and projects? The workshop raises the question where and in which conceptual and planning phases the topic of beauty might be included into future water infrastructure planning. It lays the emphasis on the point that aesthetical aspects are less a question of financial funds but much more of a strange disproportion of notions about what water is good for and which role it must play in our societies. The groups in the workshop will work on the improvement of existing projects in Chennai and on process charts about how and when to include metaphors, images, narratives in water-related projects.

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16.15-17.45 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Water Governance: Developing a Knowledge Map

Workshop by **Petra Dobner** (> registration desk)

Water issues are often addressed as a prime example of “persistent problems”, i.e. problems which are hyper complex and therefore impossible to be solved. Nevertheless, politicians, specialists, activists and citizens alike permanently have to deal with water problems at all levels (local, national, global) and with respect to all their (political, technical, ecological, social, cultural...) aspects. The goal of the workshop is of course not to gather all the knowledge needed, but to discuss, outline, and develop a map of the necessary knowledge bases and skills needed in order to promote a more sophisticated access to water governance challenges.

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16.15-17.45 | Emscher Room, Kalakshetra

My City - My Water / Citizens in Action: Water Bodies and Waterways of Tamil Nadu

Presentation by **Neer Exnora**

The presentation will focus on various river basins in Tamilnadu. The total water potential of Tamilnadu in all river basins, the total storage in dams and tanks will also be covered. The importance of restoring the tanks to their original holding capacity will be emphasized. The present attitude of Water Resources Department (Public Works Department) will be critically reviewed. The steps to be taken to save the age old tank irrigation by Government will also be stressed.

16.15-17.00 | Banyan Tree, Kalakshetra

Water and Poetry

Reading by **Marappachi Cultural Group**

17.00-17.45 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Music and Water

Presentation by **T.M. Krishna**

Music is an experience of life. We often relate this directly with the lyrical import of the compositions or the existential contexts that inspired these master pieces of art. But it is also true that music abstracts life and in doing so carries us beyond the literal. It will be fascinating to explore water as a musical idea, where it flows between and beyond notes, rhythms and words.

17.00-17.45 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Room for Reflection in Groups: Impressions and Learnings of the Day

18.00-18.45 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Riversides as Urban Space - Redesigning the Experience of Water in the City

Presentation by **Antje Stokman**

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A. Stokman will show how, within different socio-ecological contexts, our relationship with rivers results in very different urban landscapes and city forms. Facing the current challenges of increasing urban growth, pollution, drought and flood, she will outline a vision how to reintegrate the dynamics of water into urban design and present different place-specific design approaches for urban riversides from different cities around the world.

19.00 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Concert

T.M. Krishna

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Saturday, 8 October 2016

10.00-11.00 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Success Factors in Urban Water Management

Presentation by **Regina Dube**

Learnings of the author from Germany and India in the field of water and sanitation management have led to certain personal assumptions. These assumptions will be shared and explained through examples from both countries. This will result in identification of certain success factors, which need to be met for successful change processes.

10.00-11.45 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Waste, Worth, Water and Climate Change in Chennai

Interactive Workshop by **Nityanand Jayaraman** (> registration desk)

What does waste and worth have to do with water and climate change in Chennai? For that matter, what does our notion of worth have to do with what we discard as garbage, and what we save as treasure? For most of us, the answer to flooding in Chennai lies in better urban planning, better storm water drains and removal of encroachments from water bodies. For most of us, the answer to the garbage problem is better waste management. Is this really the whole story? This workshop aims to help unravel some of the complexities underlying our simplistic understanding of the challenges facing our city. Rather than hurry towards finding solutions, this workshop will try to understand the problems.

10.00-11.45 | Kosasthalayar Room, Kalakshetra

Law and Water

Panel discussion with **Nagendran, T. Mohan and D. Nagasaila**

The fairness of a body politic can be gauged by how resources are allocated and consumed. The governance of critical natural resources such as water has significant implications for such a large democracy. Who owns such a resource, who manages it and who benefits from allocation, are some of the important questions to be addressed in the legal system. With central, state and local governments playing disparate roles and often subject to pressures from different quarters, it

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becomes imperative to understand the jurisprudence that has developed/evolved around water and to evaluate whether existing law, policy, implementation and interpretation have kept pace with the pressing need to conserve water for present and future generations. We hope that the interaction between and with the panellists would shed light on the state of governance and the challenges to be surmounted if a sustainable future is to be ensured.

10.00-11.45 | Emscher Room, Kalakshetra

My City - My Water / Citizens in Action: Need, Relevance and Importance of Rain Water Harvesting in Urban Areas

Presentation by **Rain Centre**

The session will contain two power point presentations. The first one will be on the need, relevance and importance of rainwater harvesting in general and in urban areas in particular. The second one will be on the role of Rain Centres in promoting and popularizing rainwater harvesting in urban areas. The duration of each presentation will be forty five minutes and fifteen minutes will be assigned for questions.

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11.00-11.45 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Practices | Experiences: Back to a future - the Cheonggyecheon Restoration Project

Presentation by **Yoon-Jae Yang**

The presentation will cover a brief history of Seoul and Cheonggyecheon. Moreover, the background of covering the stream and building an elevated highway during the period of economic growth in 1970s will be explained. The idea of restoring Cheonggyecheon was the result of reflections on how to revitalize the old town of Seoul and make it more sustainable. Yang will also talk about oppositions that had to be overcome and the constraints that had to be cleared through the restoration work. The revitalization plan of the urban core will be presented as well as the environmental and socio-cultural effect of Cheonggyecheon.

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12.00-13.30 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Citizens' Voices in Water Related Decisions

Panel discussion with **Chandra Mohan, Leo F. Saldanha, V. Suresh, Jayaram Venkatesan**

Elaborate systems with complex procedures in dense legal or technical terminology are put in place to manage the water we all consume. Are these measures in favour of citizens and the environment or have they been hijacked to serve political ends? How often are citizens involved in government processes and policies that affect their everyday lives? Let us take a look at what can be the means and tools for citizens to be aware of and be involved in vital decisions that manage their water.

12.00-13.30 | Coom Room, Kalakshetra

Riversides as Urban Space - General Principles vs. Place-Specific Approaches

Interactive Workshop by **Antje Stokman** (> registration desk)

In this workshop we will explore and critically discuss current examples and strategies in watercourse design and river space revitalization. Based on different case studies, we will try to understand what general aims that need to be achieved and which overarching principles we can follow in order to overcome the rigid, mono-functional and culturally disconnected approaches to river engineering measures world-wide. With a special focus on India and a specific case study in Chennai, we will discuss what are the site and culture specific factors we need to take into account in river space design and try to define the deciding factors for successful conceptualisation and implementation.

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12.00-13.30 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Memories of In-Habit-ation

Interactive Workshop by **Durganand Balsavar / Confluence 10**
(> registration desk)

The interactive workshop explores a diverse range of how we, as communities, in-habit the River and celebrate water. Beautification, jogging and cycling paths are one way of transforming neglected rivers. However, a broader relationship to our riverine water systems needs to be more inclusive. It implies there are diverse ways to relate to rivers -

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from its functional to the symbolic. An anthropogenic view has often neglected our inter-dependence with other life-forms (which have an equal stake). This workshop explores the memories of inhabitation - to open new avenues for urban design and urban life.

12.00-13.30 | Emscher Room, Kalakshetra

My City - My Water / Citizens in Action: Know Your Rights

Presentation by **Arappor Iyakkam**

The true test of a vibrant democracy is the active participation of its citizens in civic issues and governance on a sustained basis, not just when it's time to vote. Our constitution, judiciary and executive grievance redressal mechanisms give us potent tools to engage with the powers that be. And yet, we as a populace are estranged from the systems that are meant to serve our interests. KYR (Know Your Rights) is a series of sessions organized by Arappor Iyakkam to create awareness on the democratic rights of citizens. The sessions include an overview of rights, walkthroughs of how to enforce our rights using available tools such as online complaints portals, RTI petitions etc., and tips and tricks to engage with local government officials to resolve pressing civic issues. Participants can learn how to effectively use these tools to get information about, and protect the water management infrastructure in your particular area. Speakers will share their real-life experiences, success stories and answer queries.

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14.30-15.15 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Water Management for Sustainable Cities: An Economic Approach

Conversation with **Nityanand Jayaraman and L. Venkatachalam**

The engineering approach being currently used to manage water resources in the State of Tamil Nadu treats water as a physical unit; however, water generates enormous ecosystem benefits which can be classified as: provisioning benefits; regulating benefits; cultural benefits and supporting benefits. These benefits are: objective and subjective, quantifiable and non-quantifiable, tangible and intangible, direct and indirect, perishable and enduring, and local and global. So, it is not the physical measurement but also the estimation of economic value of water and its benefits which plays a major role in water management. The talk will highlight how an inter-disciplinary approach, especially how economics can contribute to efficient, equitable and sustainable

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management of water for meeting the growing water demand from cities.

14.30 - 15.15 | Cooum Room, Kalakshetra

Practices | Experiences: What Lesson to Be Learnt from Chennai Floods 2015

Presentation by **Balaji Narasimhan** and **Murty Bhallamudi**

The devastating floods last year have claimed many lives and caused enormous economic damages which have posed a challenge to the scientific community in developing a comprehensive understanding of the event. In cooperation with IIT Madras and IIT Bombay, IISC Bangalore published an assessment on the Chennai floods in 2015. The objective of the report is to provide a compilation of data and information along with an informed rapid assessment of the event based on first-cut, untested results of preliminary analyses. It is prepared with a view to provide a rapid assessment of the event, useful for more rigorous scientific studies that should be taken up in the country to address the increasing urban flooding problems. The results of the report will be presented at the Water Forum Chennai.

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14.30 - 15.15 | Adyar Room, Kalakshetra

Room for Reflection in Groups: Impressions and Learnings of the Day

14.30 - 15.15 | Kosasthalayar Room, Kalakshetra

India's Sanitation Challenge - Opportunities and Risks

Presentation by **Dirk Walther**

The presentation will explain sanitation in purview of the ongoing missions such as Swachh Bharat, AMRUT, Smart City and Namami Gange and explain the role of German Development Cooperation which supports Indian government through various projects. Important trends are highlighted such as Septage and Fecal Sludge management and non-conventional sanitation solutions, which, if up-scalable would imply tremendous opportunities for intelligent water and resource saving systems. It critically looks into issues such as interception and diversion strategy and compartmentalization of sanitation planning mechanisms.

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14.30-16.00 | Emscher Room, Kalakshetra

My City - My Water / Citizens in Action: Urban Lake Restoration: Modern Challenges and the Need for Innovation

Interactive Workshop by **Environmental Foundation of India**
(> registration desk)

Lakes such as Kapra in Hyderabad, Keezhkattalai in Chennai, Dal in Srinagar, Sanjay Lake in Delhi and Selvachintamani in Coimbatore are water bodies that are putting up against all human activities. They continue to support life systems. With sustained community efforts there is a strong possibility in reviving these water bodies. The urban challenges stand in the way and innovating accordingly is important.

15.15.-17.00 Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Masterplans, Urbanisation, Ecology: How Can We Integrate the Rivers and Lakes in Our Towns?

Panel discussion with **Tara Murali, Yoon-Jae Yang, Antje Stokman, Dirk Walther, Ravi Agarwal, Durganand Balsavar, Georg-Christof Bertsch**

The panel will start with a critical input on the last 30 years of Chennai masterplans and perspectives for the restoration of rivers and other water bodies. Then the topic will be discussed in the broad international perspective that shows that an integrated and participatory process is possible if there is a political will.

17.00-18.00 | Rukmini Arangam, Kalakshetra

Closing Ceremony: Short Concert by Sofia Ashraf - Urban Lake Contest Results - Conclusions of the Chennai Water Forum

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Biographies of Speakers

Anthony and Susai, residents of the fishing village of Srinivasapuram in Chennai, began fishing at the age of 10. They learnt the finer techniques of inland fishing from their father who used to fish at the same spot as they do today. Their enthusiasm for fishing made them take it up as their profession in 1967. The rapid changes in the environment have left them returning home with empty nets. Challenging a constant battle with the government and private investors, Anthony and Susai have managed to retain their identity as artisanal fishers. They look forward to the day when they return home with their nets full of fish again to feed their family as they did before.

Antje Stokman is a landscape architect and professor. She is Director of the Institute of Landscape Planning and Ecology at Stuttgart University. Her work focuses on strategies to develop infrastructural and ecological systems as a basis for sustainable urban form and design of urban water landscapes.

Balaji Narasimhan studied Agricultural Engineering at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. After completing his Bachelor he entered in a Master of Science programme of Biosystems Engineering at the University of Manitoba. Narasimhan has a Ph.D. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering and works as an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

Chandra Mohan worked in the IT sector in the US for over ten years and studied film making at the New York Film Academy. He returned to India to join the *India against Corruption movement*, and was a member of its National Core Committee as well as head of four Southern States. Having been founding member of the Aam Aadmi Party and part of its National Council, he is founding member of Arappor Iyakkam (The Righteous War).

Dirk Walther, Director of 'Support to National Urban Sanitation Policy' project of Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ, is an expert in water and sanitation. He has been working in the sector for more than twenty five years and has conducted a wide range of research and technical implementation on water and sanitation, water treatment technologies and water resource management.

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D. Nagasaila is a lawyer who has for over 25 years practiced in the Madras High Court. She has represented many trade unions and workers and has been vocal about several issues including women's rights, democratic rights, independence of the judiciary. She has also written on legal issues in several leading newspapers.

Durganand Balsavar, architect-social activist-author, graduated from CEPT, ETH-Zurich. Besides a member of CMDA Masterplan/Monitoring Committee and Chair, VIT-VSPARC, Balsavar is convenor of Confluence 10 and been faculty at CEPT, Bartlett-London, RPI NYC - India Studio. He contributes to *The Hindu* on urban ecology. Projects range from war refugee rehabilitation and Tsunami housing to Chennai Flood rehabilitation.

Environmental Foundation of India (EFI) is a wildlife conservation and habitat restoration group working out of nine centres in India. EFI focuses on real-time and result oriented conservation efforts, particularly on reviving fresh water habitats.

Georg-Christof Bertsch is Professor for Intercultural Design Projects at the Hesse State University for Art and Design in *Hochschule fuer Gestaltung* Offenbach near Frankfurt. He is founder of the first German design management office and of Cumulus Global Water Working Group, author of the first encyclopaedia on contemporary design in Germany.

Gregory Egger is a Professor for Fluvial and Riparian Ecology. He got his doctoral degree in Technical Environment Protection and his habilitation about "Landscape Management as the Basis of an Integrative Environmental Planning". In 1992 he founded "Environmental Consulting Ltd.". At present he is Professor for River and Floodplain Ecology at KIT - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology.

Helmut Schippert is Director of the Goethe-Institut Chennai. After 29 years in Germany, Egypt, Chile, France and Mexico, he came to India in 2014. With *Conquer the Concrete - Chennai Street Art Festival 2015*, *Chennai Photo Biennale 2016* and *Chennai Water Art Festival 2017* he claims the public space for contemporary art and dialogue. Currently his focus is "Water in Urban Space - the Cultural Perspective".

Jayshree Vencatesan works on issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecological restoration, with a special interest in wetlands. She has to her credit 30 scientific publications and one book. She currently serves as the Managing Trustee of Care Earth Trust, an NGO based in Chennai.

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Jayaram Venkatesan is founding member and the Convener of Arappor Iyakkam. Trained in Electrical Engineering in the US, his quest to work for the country brought him back to India in 2007. He has been involved in development work in Primary Education, Agriculture, Prohibition, Transparency and Accountability in Governance, Water Bodies and spreading awareness on citizens' rights.

Joss Brooks grew up in Australia and came to Auroville in 1970. He joined the early pioneering efforts in land restoration at Auroville and founded the Pitchandikulam community. In 2002, he embarked on environmental education to the villages by setting up Nadukupam Environment Education Centre near Auroville. He is currently directing the restoration bio-diversity at Adayar Poonga in Chennai.

Kasha Vande grew up in Palmyra, New York, and lived in New Orleans, Hong Kong, Paris and Abu Dhabi, before coming to Pondicherry. Trained as an architect, she is an entrepreneur and founder of PondyART and PondyPHOTO using art in public space to build awareness of the issues challenging India today. She thinks waste management and preservation of heritage sites need particular attention.

K. Saravanan is an associate with the Coastal Resource Centre, Chennai, and a secretary of the Urur olcot kuppam fishermen cooperative society. He has been closely involved with the struggles of fishing communities in Chennai.

Leo F. Saldanha has gained wide-ranging experience in the areas of Environmental Law and Policy, Decentralisation, Urban Planning and a variety of Human Rights and Development related issues, working across many sectors for over a decade. He is a keen campaigner on critical environmental and social justice issues and has guided several campaigns demanding evolution of progressive laws and effective action.

Leonie Boehmer has been working for the *Emschergenossenschaft* (Emscher Cooperative) in the *Emscherkunst* (Emscher Art) exhibition office since 2012. In 2013 she became part of the press team responsible for marketing and online communications for *Emscherkunst 2016*. She did her post-graduate work in curating and art publicity at the Ruhr University in Bochum.

L. Venkatachalam is a Professor of Economics at Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai. He is teaching and doing

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research in environmental economics with a particular focus on economics of water. He is recipient of several academic awards including the prestigious Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship to do post-doctoral research in University of California, Berkeley, USA.

Mischa Kuball, conceptual artist, has been working for over 30 years in the public and institutional sphere. Since 2007 he has been Professor for Public Art at the Academy of Media Arts, Cologne and Professor for Media Art at Hochschule für Gestaltung/ZKM, Karlsruhe, and since 2015 member of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and the Arts, Duesseldorf. In 2016 he was honoured with the first German Light Award.

Murty Bhallamudi was a Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai and worked as assistant professor at the IIT in Kanpur. His research areas are amongst other things: Pipe flows & Condition Assessment, Contaminant Transport Modelling and Water Resources Management in Coastal and Deltaic Systems.

Nanditha Krishna, a historian with a Doctorate in Ancient Indian Culture, an environmentalist and writer is based in Chennai. President of the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, as well as Professor and Research Guide for Ph. D. programmes at the University of Madras, she has also authored numerous books on art, cultural and environmental history.

Neer Exnora is an organisation under the umbrella of Exnora international. Neer Exnora is a facilitator in water bodies' restoration by private agencies. They guide college students in their projects in the field of water resources development and management, environment ecology.

Nizhal, a trust founded in September 2005, focuses on preserving local bio-diversity through sensitive greening processes and working with communities. "Greening Minds; Greening Cities" is their mission. The Neer Vanam is a landmark concept that facilitates a community driven program of regenerating waterbody ecosystems across Chennai.

Nityanand Jayaraman is a Chennai-based researcher and writer specialized in investigating and reporting on environment and human rights' track record of corporations, on issues relating to industrialization, land alienation and urbanization with particular emphasis on their impacts on the marginalized sections of society. He is

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part of a voluntary anti-corporate collective that assists pollution-impacted communities with legal, media, scientific and strategic advice.

Padmapriya Baskaran is currently the Country Head of UK based Lebara Foundation. She has mapped the ancient temples along the banks of the river Cooum, in order to raise awareness about the river, since she strongly believes that if people knew the river better, they would treat it better. She is currently working on bringing out a directory on these temples.

Parvathi Nayar is a contemporary visual artist who has set up her studio in Chennai after living, painting and working in cities such as Singapore, London and Jakarta. She plays an active role and is deeply committed to supporting the emerging renaissance of the contemporary in Chennai.

Petra Dobner is a Professor for Political Science at Martin-Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg holding the Chair for System Analytics and Comparative Political Sciences. Her highly acclaimed book “Water Politics” addresses the issue of whether states, private companies, individual actors or the global governance should carry the responsibility for a resource which is important to all people all over the world.

P. Sainath is a journalist and photographer focusing on social problems, rural affairs, poverty and the aftermath of globalization in India. He is the founding editor of the *People's Archive of Rural India*. Sainath has received close to 40 international and national awards and fellowships including in 2007 the Ramon Magsaysay journalism award for his book *Everybody loves a good drought*.

Probir Banerjee, civil engineer by training, co-founded Shuddham, a NGO fostering a “Beautiful India collaboration to make our surroundings clean”, forming partnership government - civil society to recycle urban waste. Furthermore he co-founded and is President of PondyCAN, a Citizen's Action Network committed to preserve and enhance the environment. In 2009, he was awarded an “Excellence in Social Service” award.

Rain Centre is a one-stop information and assistance centre for rainwater harvesting. It was inaugurated by the Honorable Chief Minister in August 2002. It is involved in creating awareness about RWH among various sections of the society and also helps citizens to implement it in their respective homes.

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Rajeev Kathpalia - architect, academician, urban designer, environmental planner - is partner at Vastu Shilpa Consultants. VSC has won several national competitions, notably IIM, Udaipur and Nalanda University and invited to compete for Amravati, AP. He is Director-Trustee of Vastu Shilpa Foundation - a not for profit, research organization in environmental and Habitat Design - low cost housing.

Ramya Rajagopalan is a member of International Collective in Support of Fish workers (ICSF), working for 30 years on small-scale fishing communities and fisheries in different countries: monitoring, research, capacity building and advocacy. She has a Master of Marine Affairs degree of the University of Rhode Island, US, under a Fulbright Fellowship. She has been collaborating with fishing communities to study and defend their rights.

Ramakrishnan Venkatesh is a historian and a bilingual novelist. Venkatesh embarked on a project to culturally map the Cooum River and historical importance caught the imagination of the city during the Madras Day 2015. What had been seen as a sewer suddenly gained respectability as Venkatesh and his team unravelled wars, exiles, buildings and art.

Ranee Vedamuthu is a Professor of Architecture and the Chairperson, Faculty of Architecture and Planning at Anna University, Chennai. Besides the vast experience in teaching, she has a number of consultancy and research projects, some of which are with international collaboration with universities in France and UK, like the ARCUS project in collaboration with Polytech Tours, Université Francois Rabelais de Tours, France.

Ravi Agarwal is an environmentalist, artist, writer and curator. He is the founder of the Indian environmental NGO Toxics Link which has pioneered work on waste and chemicals, and campaigns on conserving the river and the forest in Delhi. He serves on several high level government policy and standards committees, and writes extensively on sustainability issues in journals and books.

Regina Dube works for the Municipal Department for Immission Protection, Waste Water, Toxic and Nuclear Accidents of Hamburg. For many years she was Senior Adviser and Head of Sustainable Urban Habitat (SUH), thrust area of Indo-German Environment Programme (IGEP) at *Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Entwicklung* (GIZ) in Delhi. Some of her areas of expertise are environment protection laws,

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environmental management, urban greenery and sustainable development.

R. H. Rukkumany is a Landscape Architect and Planner. She has a B. Arch. from SAP, Anna University and a Master in Landscape Architecture from C.E.P.T, Ahmedabad. She is currently working as Associate Professor at SAP, Anna University. Her interests include traditional landscapes of Tamil Nadu, landscape history and ecological landscape planning.

R. Nagendran, a former Faculty at Anna University, Centre of Environmental Studies, Chennai and the first Expert Member of the National Green Tribunal is a professional with over three decades of comprehensive experience in the fields of Environmental and Ecological Science/ Engineering/Technology, Project Management, and Environmental Adjudication and Mediation.

Siddhart Muralidharan is a Documentary Film Maker who lives in Berlin. Brought up in Chennai, he studied visual communication at Madras Christian College where he developed his interest in environmental and social issues. He was trained by renowned wild life filmmaker Sheker Dattatri and worked on several conservational and educational films before he started focussing on the people and their unresolved problems.

S. Janakarajan is an Economist, currently Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) Chennai from where he also obtained his Ph. D. His areas of interest are development studies, rural development and agrarian institutions, climate change, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, water management and irrigation institutions, urban water, conflict resolution, environment, urban issues, and markets.

Sofia Ashraf has been given many labels - Burqa Rapper, Activist, Rebel. But she considers herself simply a Content Creator. She is the co-founder of Muslim Youth Culture and the co-founder of Madras Jam Association. She has written songs about industrial pollution, moral policing and Tamil Nadu's power deficit.

Tara Murali, architect, was for over 40 years an Associate Architect in 'Bharath and Associates', a premier architect's firm in Chennai. Also she was Secretary of the Indian Institute of Architects. She is active in Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) and a member of the Governing Council of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural

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Heritage), also associated to the Madras High Court-appointed monitoring committee of CMDA (Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority).

The Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS) at the IIT Madras (represented here by **Christoph Woiwode, Arjun Bhargava, A. Ramachandran** and **Uthra Radhakrishnan**) serves the cooperation of German and Indian scientists on fundamental and applied research, teaching and training on sustainable development. Its focus is environmental protection: water resources, energy, land use, rural development and waste management.

T.M. Krishna's music, mind and sensitivity are exceptional. Being an outstanding vocalist of Carnatic Music and a philosopher of music in one and the same person, he is socially committed and puts music critically in the political context. His most recent book *A Southern Music* (2013) has been highly acclaimed as a master-piece.

T. Mohan is a lawyer practising largely in Chennai for over 25 years.

Urban Design Collective (UDC) is a collaborative platform for architects, urban designers and planners to create liveable and sustainable cities through community engagement. UDC was started as a way to mobilize those who want to change the way our cities are built. By providing an open platform for young design professionals they give them a chance to voice themselves as change-makers for better cities.

S. Viswanathan is an Environment Specialist at Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT), a governmental institution of Tamil Nadu. The CRRT plans, coordinates, funds and monitors along with various agencies with the objective of rehabilitation of Chennai water ways and water bodies. Currently Viswanathan is involved in projects dealing with environmental issues such as river/lake restoration and coastal projects.

V. Suresh is a practicing lawyer and human rights' activist active with the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL). For over 12 years he has been associated with a major change programme involving drinking water and water resources sector in Tamil Nadu, working amongst water engineers, technocrats, bureaucrats, and communities.

Yoon-Jae Yang got his MLA from Harvard University in 1980. He was the Vice-Mayor of Seoul during the famous Cheonggyecheon River Restoration Project and is a senior advisor of the Korea Rural

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Community Corporation. In the course of his career he has worked in the fields of urban design, water management and architecture.

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Chennai 600 006
Tamil Nadu, India

Tel.: +91 44 28331314/2343
Fax: +91 44 28332565
info@chennai.goethe.org
www.goethe.de/chennai

www.goethe.de/chennai

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MAX MUELLER
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