

February 2008

Volume 6

Issue 1



Sandesh

"The Message"

A Newsletter from IndUS of Fox Valley

World Climate Conference Bali: More than expected, less than desired

By Dr. V. M. Ganga Nair

From Editors' Desk

Dear Readers,

As you may remember, *Sandesh's* 2006 June issue was devoted to Environment and Ecology. We feel the topic requires further exploration based on the growing international concern for Global Warming, the Nobel Peace Prize to Al Gore and The IPCC, and the Bali Conference on Climate Change. Thus, our theme for this issue is "*Bali and Beyond: Lessons for India and the United States.*" We hope you will find this issue informative and motivating to do your part in saving our planet. We also hope that you would encourage the young ones to participate in the 'Creative Expression Contest' (for details see Page 6).

Sandesh

An IndUS of Fox Valley

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The views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the Editors or IndUS of Fox Valley

A positive outcome was almost out of sight: 20 hours after the actual end of the conference - the delegates agreed to a "roadmap" to a new world climate protection treaty. First, India's Blockade had to be resolved, then the United States had to be convinced.

India and China had voiced objections to how developing countries should reduce their carbon emissions. India wanted countries to set their own targets, allowing it to limit the impact of the regulations on its economy.

After nearly 3 days of non-stop negotiations, 187 countries agreed to a "roadmap" leading to a new World Climate protection agreement. The new contract, expected to be completed by 2009, should ensure that the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere be significantly reduced by the middle of the century, to avert the worst effects of climate change.

It is important, that we have now a negotiating mandate for a new global climate treaty "with significantly greater" contributions to climate protection by all industrialized countries.

For the first time, developing countries were included in climate protection measure negotiations.

For real progress in climate protection, heads of States and Government should be involved as well.

The new agreement should be signed in late 2009 at a conference in Copenhagen and then enter into force in 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol in its current form expires.

The Kyoto Protocol requires countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of five percent by 2012 in comparison with 1990.

In the new contract, the European Nations EU and the World Climate Council are requesting a reduction by 25 to 40 percent by 2020.

Developing Countries should also share the obligations

The conference had more than 11,000 participating delegates. The Indonesian Environment Minister and conference President Rachmat Witoelar stressed that this is a chance for the whole international community to successfully combat climate change. "Before us is a huge task" said the head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat, Yvo de Boer. "We must hurry because the negotiation phase is short". In the new contract, developing countries are asked to develop clear policies on climate protection concepts. Tropical Forest countries are requesting financial incentives for the protection of these forests. The tropical forests store huge quantities of carbon. Through rapid destruction, every year millions of tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) are released into the atmosphere. The felling and damage of these forests are causing a fifth of the world's greenhouse gases.

Who should bear the consequences?

India stressed, that industrial nations should be more committed to deliver technologies and financial assistance in the development of climate protection to

developing countries.

The Indian approach to maintain and conserve forest carbon stocks in India has been recognized and garnered huge support.

India cited that it would increase its carbon stocks to 9.75 billion tons in 2030 from the present level of 8.79 billion tons. India's approach on forest conservation gained huge support from countries like Costa Rica, Thailand and Brazil.

India, in its submission "compensated conservation" called for encouragement to those nations which are not only conserving and preserving the existing carbon stocks, but also adding new forest cover that helps control the carbon emission.

Developing countries stressed repeatedly that the industrialized countries had polluted the atmosphere through industrialization, and now the developing

countries are asked to share the burden and bear the consequences.

Main points of the final declaration :

Deadlines: Negotiations for the next climate agreement to be completed by 2009. This gives enough time till expiration of the Kyoto Protocol, ending in 2012.

Greenhouse gases: The declaration acknowledged that "deep cuts" in global emissions are necessary. The statement also refers to the result of the Climate Council (IPCC), that the greenhouse gas emissions in industrialized countries should be 25 to 40 percent below the 1990 levels in 2020. Specific figures were removed from the final text.

Developing Countries: Industrialized countries should help developing countries with the transfer of climate - technology. In addition there should be help to poorer countries to cope with the effects of climate change, for example,

the construction of dikes against the rising waters.

World forests: To avoid worldwide increasing deforestation, "positive incentives" are to be offered. Many developing countries are calling for international compensation, since their forests are absorbing carbon dioxide on a global scale.

Environmental organizations welcomed the decision of Bali, but unanimously criticized : " Too little Substance!" □

Prof.V.M.Ganga Nair, faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, has an international reputation for his research in forestry, plant pathology, medicinal plants and reforestation. He has many years of United Nations expertise in these areas, especially in Asia. His many honors include Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences in India, the "Scroll of Distinction" for scientific achievement in China, and Herbert Fisk Johnson Professor in Environmental Studies

Lessons from the Bali Conference for the People of the U.S.A.

By Andrew Robson (with thanks to Jan Roberts)

We have seen a dramatic growth in public awareness of the global emergency arising from climate change. In many ways, the USA has lagged behind other countries in recognizing the problem and generating adequate responses, as symbolized by the steadfast refusal to ratify the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change. Recently, there have been glimmers of change in the attitude of the administration in Washington, but skepticism remains, fuelled by behavior such as a refusal to allow the State of California to require fuel economy standards that are higher than those imposed by the federal government. Meanwhile, many countries have responded with vigor and imagination to the threats posed by a rapidly-changing climate, benefiting from the development of green technologies such as wind generators with a large market both at home and abroad.

If one felt gloomy about the policies and performance of the Federal Government over Kyoto and other environmental issues, one would have been driven to

near-despair by the obstructions thrown up by our government during the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali. There, it seemed for a while that the road map to a post-Kyoto agreement would be rejected by the American delegation. Jan Roberts, who was in Bali as President of Earth Charter U.S., reports feeling "embarrassed and alarmed" by what was widely reported as American obstructionism. In one dramatic moment, a delegate from Papua New Guinea asked the United States delegation to lead or "get out of the way!" This brought great applause, and, shortly thereafter, the overwhelming majority of delegates prevailed, and an agreement was reached, producing relief and celebration.

But this was not the only story from Bali. The reality is that global warming is now almost universally recognized as the greatest threat to the living planet, along with nuclear weapons. In response, a great many governments, organizations, communities, and individuals are changing the way they live and do

business – and this includes those in the United States, where State governments are taking the lead, by-passing the White House. Eight state attorneys general have joined forces in accusing the Bush administration of attacking their regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles. In the corporate world, businesses galore are advertising themselves as "green," and even the cynics might take note that these companies recognize that the public wants them to be environmentally responsible. Local governments, similarly, are exploring the energy savings and other advantages of green technologies. It's often easy as businesses and households alike are switching to energy-efficient light bulbs, and cities are switching to LED traffic lights, which are brighter, last much longer, and save money. Recycling is the norm in many cities, and progressive communities are re-designing their transportation systems to facilitate alternatives such as bicycling and walking. In these instances, being green

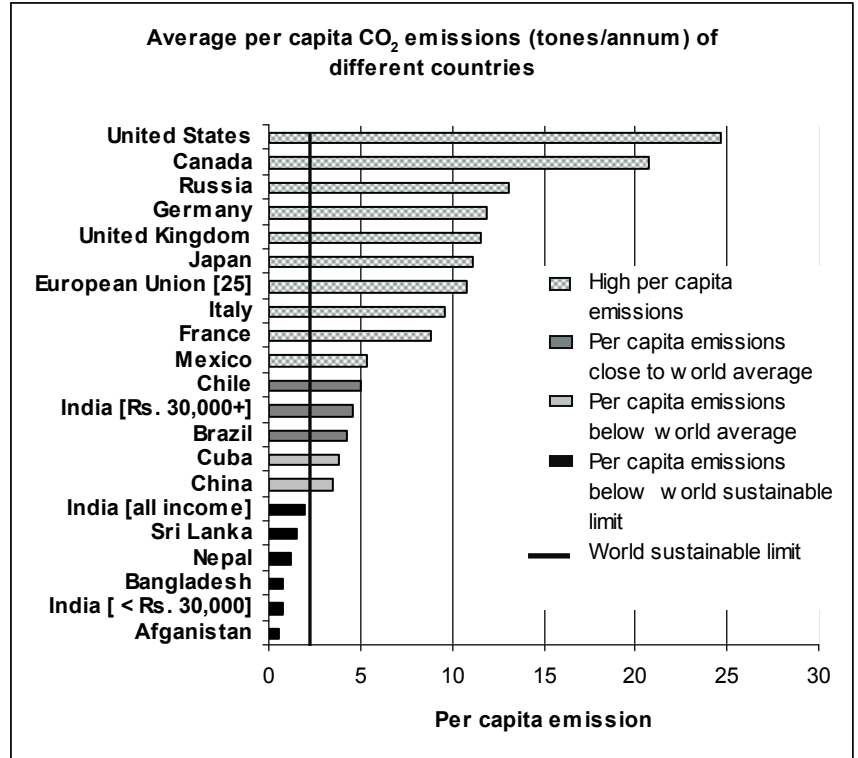
is nothing new, but communities can help by creating or widening bike lanes and pedestrian paths. Public transportation systems are also being improved or expanded in many cities. As a direct result of climate change, national governments around the world are committing themselves to ambitious alternative energy targets, using wind, wave, biomass, and (more controversially) nuclear power.

More specifically,

- Rizhao, China, uses large-scale solar power and marsh gas applications to benefit more than three million residents, reducing energy costs while providing environmental and health benefits.
- New Delhi, India, uses compressed natural gas driven buses, taxis and three-wheeled motorized taxis to encourage use of public transport instead of private cars and scooters
- The Climate Alliance (over 1300 cities) "twins" cities in Japan, U.S. and Germany, which use assessments and benchmarks for reducing greenhouse gases, compare themselves to other "like" cities, and share their knowledge and experiences.
- Initiatives in many countries allow people to produce their own alternative energy and feed it into the grid and get paid for it.
- The International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives has organized the World Mayors Council on Climate Change to highlight local climate change actions around the globe.
- Green building standards are the norm in much of Western Europe.
- A Wisconsin initiative requires four universities (including UW Oshkosh) to be fossil fuel-free within five years.
- There are innumerable NGOs and

The chart on the right shows the amount of annual per capita carbon dioxide emission (in tones) in twenty one countries. It is worth noticing that India has been broken down into two categories based on family's monthly income: Rs. 30,000 (\$750) and above; and less than Rs. 30,000.

In India the disparities in living standards and consumption patterns, in particular of energy, between the rich and the poor are so vast that in the context of climate change, by emitting disproportionately large amounts of carbon, the former class is eating into the carbon space that the latter genuinely needs for its economic growth and development. (Source: Greenpeace India)



other groups doing fine work around the world, quite apart from enlightened governments. Individuals can reduce their "carbon footprint" too; we can use energy efficient light bulbs, by driving less, by car pooling, by buying locally-produced food and other products, by driving high mileage cars (or hybrids);

- walk and bicycle (even rollerblade!) instead of drive;
- use public transport;
- reduce, re-use, and recycle;
- urge our bosses, friends, schools, and organizations to adopt simple and effective green technologies and practices;
- write letters and otherwise urge our local governments to adopt green practices in the name of efficiency, economy, public health and quality of life.
- involve ourselves in (or start) community groups such as IndUS and the Earth Charter to educate, learn, and celebrate.
- vote (at all levels) for people who want to leave their communities and the

wider world to their children and to future generations in as healthy and sustainable a condition as possible.

The initiatives and suggestions mentioned above reflect widespread concern about developments that are observable today, including the loss of summer ice throughout the Arctic (experts say it will all be gone within five years); the loss of low atolls and other islands as habitable space as ocean levels rise; the shifting patterns of farming as bird and insect migration patterns change, affecting pollination; the impact of all of this on farming patterns and crop potential (up and down); the increasing frequency and intensity of storms (which has the insurance industry scrambling for cover); and the growing threat to low-lying coastal cities and other inhabited areas around the world.

In response, 2008 has been named the United Nations' Year of Planet Earth, and Earth Charter U.S. is coordinating simultaneous Climate Change Community Summits in 100 communities in the U.S. and around the globe on October 11, 2008. We will be connected via web

technology that will allow the communities to see and hear one another via a round-robin on Summit day and for monthly on-going interactions to share experiences and successes that effectively address climate change on the personal and community level. ECUS initiated collaborations with UN Habitat, LEAD International, and ICLEI for the Summits. Earth Charter Oshkosh will be involved in this event, as part of our annual Earth Charter Community

Summit. □

Andrew Robson is currently Assistant Dean and Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. He was born in England and has worked in (Western) Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, England, China, and the USA. His Ph.D. is from The Australian National University and his current research continues to focus on the South Pacific Islands. He is married with two grown children.

Editors Notes: If you wish to be a part of Climate Change Community Summits-2008, contact Jan Robert: 813.254.8454 or Jroberts@eccommunities.org.

If you wish to get involved or would like to start an Earth Charter group in your community contact Andy Robson: 920.424.1185 or robsona@uwosh.edu. To learn more about Earth Charter visit: www.earthcharter.org (Earth Charter International); www.earthcharterus.org (Earth Charter U.S.); www.uwosh.edu/earthcharter (Earth Charter Oshkosh)

India, The U.S., and The 2007 Bali Conference

By Dr. Joe Elder

On December 14, 2007 the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ended - one day late. Prior to the Convention's opening on December 3rd, few believed much would be accomplished in ten days at the Balinese resort complex in Nusa Dua. Approximately 15,000 environmental activists, politicians, government officials, and journalists had flown to Indonesia's island to attend the UNFCCC. These thousands of men and women knew that, if nothing were done, the Kyoto Protocol on climate change would expire in 2012, and collective damage to the environment could easily escalate out of control.

Prior to the Convention, optimists had hoped for three outcomes: (1) Goals agreed to by all 192 national delegates regarding carbon concentrate and similar harmful emissions, (2) Further commitments by developed countries (such as the U.S., Australia, and the European Union) to cut their emissions significantly before 2012. (3) Commitments from developing countries - especially China and India- to reduce their emissions. When the Kyoto Protocol was being debated back in 2002, the developing world's refusal to accept emission standards had contributed to President George Bush's unwillingness to accept emissions standards. This in turn led to the U.S. refusal to abide by the Kyoto Protocol.

Attendees at the Bali Convention knew that the U.S. administration still remained hostile to timetables, targets,

and emission controls. Spokespersons for the U.S. administration argued that science had not yet proved the extent of human involvement in global warming. Until the case had been proved, it was unwise for the United States voluntarily to place restrictions on the flourishing of its market forces. India and China, for their part, were equally unwilling to accept timetables, targets, and emission, controls. Both saw such restrictions as obstacles to their needed economic growth. Two events hinting that the developed countries might pressure the United States toward greater cooperation were: (1) the reversal of Australia's earlier support of the US position, and (2) the European Union's commitment made earlier in 2007 to cuts of 20% below its 1990 levels emission by the year 2020.

During the Convention's ten days, important figures addressed the gathering. They included U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, former U.S. Vice President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore, and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Nonetheless, there was no sign of any change in the U.S. position. On Friday, December 12th, the day the Convention was to end, no agreement had yet been reached. The Convention was extended another day in hopes that there might be a breakthrough. India and China still led the developing nations' calls for the rich nations to accept targets and timetables. Both India and China were particularly upset because the preceding night the European Union seemed to ease its

pressure on the US to accept 2020 targets and timetables. On Saturday, December 13th U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon entered the Convention unexpectedly with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

According to press reports, Ben Ki-Moon said, "I am disappointed at the lack of progress. Everybody should be able to make some compromises." President Yudhoyono announced, "The world is watching anxiously, and I beg you not to let them down." The delegates strongly applauded both speeches. Then, to the surprise of many, the European Union declared its support for the developing countries' proposed text. Again the delegates applauded. Unmoved, Paula Dobrianski, head of the U.S. delegation, announced that the U.S. position remained unchanged. She was booed. Then Australia refused to side with the United States. Brazil and South Africa begged the USA to recognize the concerns of developing countries. Papua New Guinea's delegate addressed Dobrianski. "We ask for your leadership. We seek your leadership ... If you can't give us what we want, please get out of the way." Thunderous applause followed. Then, to everyone's surprise, Paula Dbrianski announced that the U.S. would join the developing nations' consensus. This was followed by more thunderous applause. One commentator noted that this may have been the first time since 1996 that a statement by a U.S. delegate had won applause in a U.N. environmental conference. A few minutes later Indonesia's Environment

Minister declared that the Bali Convention had reached consensus. The delegates would initiate two years of discussions to formulate a new global treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it will expire in 2012.

The roles of India and the U.S. are clear in the aftermath of the 2007 Bali Conference. In the past, each has used the other's non-cooperation as justification for its own non-cooperation with timetables and guidelines for emission controls. Now that Bali has happened, each should lead the way in drafting the new timetables and guidelines, setting aside what appeared to each to be in its national interests, recognizing that all countries' national interests are embedded in a livable, sustainable environment that can be passed on with pride to their grandchildren's grandchildren. This will require changes in attitudes by both the government of India and the United States government.

India, for its part, must recognize that rapid economic growth - though a worthy goal-is not so worthy that it should super-

cede all other goals. Reducing carbon emissions and thereby sustaining a liveable biosphere for plants and humans is also a worthy goal. When India decides that the survival of the planet supercedes rapid economic growth, ways can be found to engage in economic growth using ecological-friendly technologies. India has plenty of qualified scientists who can find ways to create and apply ecologically-friendly technologies to enhancing rapid economic growth.

The United States, for its part, must recognize how much damage its current refusal to follow international emission guidelines is inflicting on the world's environment. The current U.S. administration has finally begun to acknowledge that humans and their unregulated industrial activities are seriously harming our environment. As the Papua New Guinea delegate told U.S. delegation head Paula Dobrianski in Bali, the United States should be leading the way, not obstructing the way. America, like India, has plenty of qualified scientists who can find ways to create and apply ecologically-friendly technologies to

U.S. industries. Furthermore, the United States needs to acknowledge the fact that it is one nation among the world's nearly-200 nations - not one nation that can ignore the concerns of all the other nations of the world. For much too long the hallmark of U.S. foreign policy has been arrogance. This was acknowledged by Al Gore in his speech to the UNFCCC delegates in Bali. His speech was enthusiastically applauded by those delegates. Paula Dobrianski's dramatic concessions on the final day of the Bali conference may have been a harbinger of things to come. So might the 2008 U.S. presidential elections. India and the United States can, together if they wish, both contribute dramatically to creating a liveable world ecosystem. □

Dr. Joe Elder is a Professor of Sociology/ Languages and Cultures of Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests include sociology of religion and dynamics of contemporary changes in South Asia. As an expert in conflict resolution, Prof. Elder has taken active part in seeking peace between warring parties in different regions of the world.

Energy for Rural India

By Durga Prasad Kar

A fast growing India is only 30% urbanized today but has attracted world attention along with China for insatiable demands for fossil fuel. While rapid urbanization is heating up the global warming debates and oil wars, the world is looking for an alternative renewable energy paradigm. Let us examine how rural India can contribute towards restoring the health of our planet, while also creating rural development, and halting the urban crowding and impoverishment. Wind, Biogas, Solar and Hydroelectric Energy are the alternatives that can make a difference, if properly implemented.

Seven million Indians live in 600,000 villages, and 139 million households depend on locally available independent sources of energy: wind, hydro, solar, biomass, muscle power, and on conservation. However, recent technological developments have modernized their life-

styles with clean and renewable energy from the sun, wind, water streams and organic garbage waste available in rural backyards. Perhaps, India regards the Sun as the source of knowledge and enlightenment for millennia because of their understanding that all energy comes from the sun.

Wind Energy

The world capacity of wind power has reached about 85,000 MW in 2007. The distribution among major players is: Germany (25%), Spain (15.7%), USA (15.2%), India (8.4%), China (4.3%) and Denmark (3.6%). India has planned for wind energy generation of 10,500 MW during the 11th five year plan (2007-12). Wind energy has several advantages for India, being at maximum level in the summer months when energy demand is at its peak. Farmers are inclined to allow large wind farms on their land as it in-

creases the land value and rental income. However, wind energy being available only intermittently, needs to be complemented by other sources of energy, and requires a robust grid for stability. Also, wind power has high installation, operational and maintenance costs, especially in remote areas.

Biogas Energy

Cooking in rural Indian homes consumes 70-80 percent of the total domestic energy requirement. Biogas generated from anaerobic digestion of cow manures in a bacterial process is very cost effective. Biogas is now produced by three and a half million digesters in India out of a total potential of 12 million. Biogas reduces the level of the climate changing methane gas, gives a smoke free clean fuel and organic fertilizer for the farms, and results in a clean environment in villages. The cost of a biogas digester is a

one-time investment of \$150 to \$250 and pays for itself in less than two years. About 3-5 cattle, 200 square feet land and adequate water supply to make dung-slurry are the only requirements for a small scale biogas plant. Many smokeless and energy efficient biogas cooking stoves are now available through NGOs and government agencies at the costs of \$20-\$30. Solar cooking is also an effective renewable energy technology, and a breakthrough might be possible soon in community cooking and village restaurants.

Biomass energy

Biomass (plant material and animal waste) can be used in modern gasifiers for generating clean grid quality electricity for community production activities such as water pumping, ice plants, cold storage, village workshops, and health centers. Several rural micro grids based on biomass electricity have been set up using self help groups and bio cooperatives. At present, this is the cheapest electricity resources in the village which has the added advantage of increasing rural income.

Solar Photovoltaic

Next to cooking, most rural Indian homes need electricity for lights, radios, cell phones, TVs, and fans. The solar lantern is gaining popularity in villages as a portable home-light, street-light, shop-light, and farm-light. Solar panels and modern batteries can provide, clean electricity for highly energy efficient Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) and TVs with small LCD screen, as well as powering small water pumps to provide drinking water and limited agricultural needs.

Small scale Hydro-electric Plants

Small hydro plants in hilly terrain generate income while providing village electrification. Like wind, Hydro electricity, is intermittent, thus rechargeable batteries or storage devices are required for rural health centers and schools. Biomass or solar energies, available in almost all parts of rural India, can complement hydro energy to maintain a continuous power supply.

Social Impacts of Modern Renewable Energy

Energy from renewable sources cost less, and is not likely to run out, black out, or brown out without notice, like grid power. They have the added advantage of being more compatible with rural culture,

and in helping preserve the existing greenery, ecological diversity, and clean atmosphere of rural areas. The income potential in operating these energy systems reduces the economic necessity for villagers to migrate to crowded urban centers. Moreover, centuries of rural isolation can be mitigated with modern computers, internet, and audio visual based education all powered from solar energy. Skills to achieve this are available both locally and globally. Doctors and public health specialists from across the globe can volunteer to help villages with e-medicine, e-consulting, and e-diagnostic for critical rural health.

Role of the Government and International Agencies

Renewable technologies for multiple uses in rural areas will require village level planning, a network of NGOs and investors, and technology experts to assemble a well functioning energy delivery model.

The Union Government of India has drafted a model renewable energy law to increase the target for electricity generation by renewable energy to 10% by 2010 and 20% by 2020. It seems the private sector is now more comfortable with the

Creative Expression Contest

Hey Kids,

Was this a winter more severe than the past? We are experiencing climate change big time! Long term average temperature of a region is getting warmer in some places and colder in others. We have seen more hurricanes, tornados, droughts, greenhouse gas emissions, depleting ozone layers and melting icecaps. How does this affect our way of life? What can we do about it? As concerned citizens do we need to change the way we live?

Sandesh announces a Creative Expression Contest. Mail your entry with your name, age, grade and name of your school to: Sandhya Sridhar, 3600 N. Shawnee, Appleton, WI 54914 or send it electronically to sandhyawi@gmail.com latest by March 30, 2008. Three prize-winning entries, one from each age group, will be published in the next issue of *Sandesh*.

GROUP A (6-10 year old) Be a Climate Detective. Express your ideas in words, poetry, cartoon, a picture or any combination of these. Find out "Whodunit"? Who is responsible for the crime? Recommend "How to fix it". How do we make a difference so that you will have a livable home? Add a catchy title.

GROUP B (11-14 year old) What can we do about climate change? Express your ideas in 500 words or less. You may add pictures, poems or any other creative expression to stress your points. How does climate change affects our way of life? Where did we go wrong? Explain major causes. What can we do as individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities to save the world? Give it a catchy title.

GROUP C (15-18 year old) How do we deal with climate change at national and global level? Several groups of people: scientists, politicians, governments and world-wide consortia, have expressed an urgent need to address the issue of climate change. Share your ideas in a 500-word essay. Explain how climate change affects our communities, countries and the world. Where did we go wrong? Explain major causes. What can we do at national and global level to save the world from this peril? What is already being done to address this issue? What more can we do? You may add a catchy title and pictures or charts to stress your points.

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renewable energy as foreign private investment in fossil power has totally dried out. In comparison, the nuclear capacity after 30 years of government efforts have added less than 5000 MW, which was surpassed by wind just in three years during 2005-07. The share of conventional large hydro stations in India is about 15% and the share of coal is about 55%. India presently stands at number two just trailing behind the USA in the renewable energy attractiveness index. This serves India well as an attractive place for investment in renewable energy. This however needs to go beyond the urban areas. International efforts can help India and other

developing countries leapfrog to a new era of equity and development without conflicts of global warming and fossil fuel. We believe that local solar energy in its various forms and modern technologies from across the globe can transform and enlighten rural India which in turn can contribute towards a greener earth. □

Durga Prasad Kar works for the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, and is pursuing his Ph.D. on "Renewable Energy Systems for Powering the Rural India". He is actively involved in implementing the above renewable objectives in rural India and working for integrated development of one village at a time through ADIRE trust.

**News ...**

Honors & Recognitions: Our heartiest congratulations to the following members of IndUS for the awards and recognitions they have received.

Shekar Rao has received recognition as a *IEEE Fellow* of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers for his contribution to the development of synchronous reluctance motors and power-dense motor, generator and power conversion systems.

Ruth Mansukhani, recipient of the *Center Outreach Volunteer of the Year* and Badri Varma, recipient of the *Center Strengthening Volunteer of the Year* awards of the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center (FCRMC). These awards were presented to them at the Annual General Body meeting of the FCRMC on November 14, 2007.

Nancy Heykes, recipient of the *Jane LaChapelle McCarty Unity in Diversity Award* for 2007 of the Towards Community: Unity in Diversity (TC). This award was given during the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration organized by TC on January 21, 2008.

IndUS-2007: Music and Dances of India The ninth annual event returned to Reeve Memorial Union at UW-Oshkosh on October 27, 2007. It was a resounding success and oversold with 370 people attending.

Proceeds from the evening's ticket sales and sponsorships will support our "Investing in Children Fund", an early intervention pro-

gram aimed at preparing very young children for school. Attendees were greeted by our receptions committee, whilst ascending staircases festooned with elegant fabrics and lights.

This year's exhibitions were organized around three genres of music and dance: classical, folk and popular. People congregated in both the theater and the visual exhibits hall to enjoy and marvel at the live performers. The talented dancers in the theater kept people glued to their seats as they explained and demonstrated two styles of classical dances (*Bharatnatyam* and *Odissi*), folk dances (*Yakshagana* and *Dandiya*) and popular Bollywood dances.

Vocalists and musicians demonstrating the same three genres stole the show from the visual exhibits which included colorful posters, costumes, and many instruments. Multimedia exhibits, presented in the art gallery this year, provided more in-depth explanations of dances, musical and instruments for those wanting to know more.

The Silent Auction returned this year with several articles and services to entice a broad range of interests and price levels. The most exciting donations were the Indian dinner parties to be cooked by Kamal Varma and Mona Dugal which had people outbidding each other until the last minute.



Other items included jewelry, artwork, golf, hotel stays, and a spa package.

Per Indian tradition, the event opened with the welcoming lamp lighting ceremony hosted by Aruna Shet. Individuals from many organizations were honored, including local teachers, musicians singers, James Grine and Brian Groner from local symphonies, and Congressmen Kagen and Petri. The top tier honoring Dr. B. S. Sridhar, Cultural Program Team leader of IndUS, was kept a secret from him until the very end!



The vivid colors and sounds of the performers were echoed in the variety of color, taste and texture of foods offered for the banquet: the vibrant colors of the pomegranate seeds in the salad, the crunchiness of the peanuts in the raita, and the creaminess of the coconut Crème Brûlée. Chef Peter D'Souza's guidance and execution of the menu drew comments of "This dinner was amazing!" and "Sumptuous and delectable" on the feedback surveys.

After dinner a love story evolved as several dance styles interwove the Hindu Goddess, Durga, and the mythological ladies' man, Krishna. The superbly talented artists from Madison, Chicago, Minneapolis, and the Fox Valley brought to life the various styles of music and dances people learned of and enjoyed during

the Exhibition. This was the first time Odissi dance, which comes from the state of Orissa, was performed in the Valley. A first for the events, this talented production opened patriotically with the US national anthem and drew to a close with the Indian national anthem performed by a montage of Indian singers.



IndUS extends many thanks to the dedicated committee chairs and the many hard working volunteers who so generously gave their time and talents to this event's planning and execution. Their talents and hard work really showed!



Plans for the Tenth Annual Event in the Fall of 2008 are already underway. Look for details in the next issue of the *Sandesh*. We plan to make it a grand anniversary celebration for another fabulous evening!

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Appleton WI 54915

Day Camp for Pre-teens

Annual day camp for 6-12 year olds will be held on Saturday, April 19th, 8:30 am-3:30 pm at Goodwill Community Center, Menasha, WI 54952. The camp introduces children to cultures around the world giving them taste of music, dances, stories, foods, arts & crafts and much more. They will work in small groups and express themselves creatively. Parents are encouraged to join in the last hour to see their presentations. The fee is \$10 per child. There are forty spots available. Please contact anyone of the following IndUS volunteers to reserve a spot.

Shakti Shukla: (920.730.4014,
shaktishukla@gmail.com)

Kamal Varma: (920.731.0834,
kvarma@new.rr.com)

Sandhya Sridhar: (920.749.4911,
Sandhyawi@gmail.com)