



# India Development Coalition of America

(Chicago, Illinois, USA, [www.idc-america.org](http://www.idc-america.org), 630.303.9592, [info@idc-america.org](mailto:info@idc-america.org))

## Press Release

### IDCA Organizes India Water Forum to Celebrate World Water Day

**March 26, 2011, Oak Brook, IL:** India Development Coalition of America IDCA, continuing its forum series to promote collaboration, networking, learning, volunteering and giving held its Water Forum at the Oakbrook Library on Saturday, March 26th at 2p.m.

The meeting started at 3 PM due to a technical problem, but, once the forum got underway there was a lot of exchanges between the audience and the speakers. A trailer on Water Pressures was followed by a presentation of the "Rivers of the World" and the program ended with a presentation on a study done by IDCA team from 2008-10, on Central Waste Water Treatment Plant in Vapi, Gujarat.

Mr. Bill Natale, a Emmy-Award winning Director, the current head of the Illinois Center for Broadcasting spoke on the direction of Water Pressures and his visit to Rajasthan with students from two Midwestern Schools. This documentary by Artistic Circles ([www.artisticcircles.org](http://www.artisticcircles.org)) uses the power of media to connect the Water Scarce Region of the Thar Dessert of Rajasthan with two inches of rain a year with the rich campus of Northwestern University. He talked about the philanthropy of the Jodhpur Maharaja, the villagers returning their borrowed sums, the Jal Bhagirathi Foundation ([www.jalbhaqirathi.org](http://www.jalbhaqirathi.org)) in Rajasthan they had worked with and the excellent pictures from the region. The Northwestern University students on their return developed novel ideas to save water such as mat switch, and a children's book being compiled on Water.

Mr. Ram Koduri an engineer with more than 30 years of experience in Water Ways Control for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago took us on a trip from the ancient history of Water Sciences in Egypt to India and his works with the "Rivers of the World Foundation " ([www.riversoftheworld.org](http://www.riversoftheworld.org)) managed by a small group of individuals. He spoke about his first project in India in 2003 at JNTU funded by SEI and USAID. Following a brief introduction to Chicago Water Problems and Solutions he talked about the Rivers in India and their efforts to raise awareness, education, clean up volunteers and mentioned about his exchanges of thoughts with professionals in the same field in India.

Mr. Porus Dadabhoy, presented an overview of the three visits by IDCA team consisting of Dr. Prakasam Tata, Mr. Usman Baki, and Mr. Porus Dadabhoy to Vapi, Gujarat between 2008-2010. He said this was a \$40 million plant with capacity of 55 Million gallons a day, which is not adequate in view of increased number of Industrial units in the area and population increase. Each time they spent about a week to study their operations and suggest modifications to improve the quality of the water that is being discharged in the local water bodies. They recommended that there should be a separate plant for Industrial waste water treatment and domestic and commercial waste water. Several slides were shown of the processes at their Central waste water Treatment Plant and the problems in controlling their influents, effluents, processes and operations were broadly discussed. They also recommended better maintenance to optimum operation of the plant.

We also had two volunteers from Operation Asha, who presented brochures of their work in India on TB eradication. We also has a distinguished guest Dr. Samuel C Kormoi MD and Founder of Pan-African Rural Health and Social Services NFP seeking collaboration for working on providing safe water for his village in Sierra Leone. More information is available on their website [www.africanhopeanddignity.org](http://www.africanhopeanddignity.org) . IDCA volunteer has already worked in Somalia and we look forward to volunteering in Sierra Leone. We expect to have support on this effort also from the Methodist Church in Chicago.

Dr. Mohan Jain commented about his visit last month to Jal Bhagirathi Foundation in Rajasthan, and wonderful work being done by them. He also mentioned about the National Water award won by our founding member, The Sehgal Foundation in India ([www.irrad.org](http://www.irrad.org)) on WWD2011 for their work in Mewat area of Haryana. He mentioned about the water and Sanitation project completed by our member Prakasam Tata in a village near his native place Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh. He mentioned about the Amritam Jalam (water is Nector) campaign under taken by Rajasthan Patrika about 5 years to clean up and restore 386 water bodies and traditional structures to resume rain water harvesting in many villages and towns. A short video on this is available at: <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/10938404>. He then stated that at our Seventh International conference held in Gurgaon on January 12 of this year, we had a session on water management and had speakers from Jal Bhagirathi Foundation, Naandi Foundation ([www.naandi.org](http://www.naandi.org)) , Andhra Pradesh, and IRRAD ([www.irrad.org](http://www.irrad.org)) , Haryana. He also mentioned about our participation in creation and launching of India Water Portal ([www.indiawaterportal.org](http://www.indiawaterportal.org)). Finally, He suggested that we send a letter to the Government of Gujarat to implement our final recommendations in VAPI and work with local NGOs to make sure that this is done. Some video clips of the forum are at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/IDCA1142?feature=mhum>

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Earth Day on Saturday April 23, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at the Oakbrook Library and we are inviting speakers to speak on Climate Change, Renewable Energy, Environment, and Energy conservation. To speak/register call Porus Dadabhoy at 630 960 2425 or 630-303-9592. Our First South regional Conference will be held in Houston on June 4, Third East Regional Conference on August 13 in Washington DC. We will have our monthly forums on Healthcare (May 21), Education (June 25), and Livelihoods (July 30).

*India Development Coalition of America was founded in Chicago in mid 2004 after a conference held in October 2003 to understand and promote Rural Development in India. It is a 501 (c) (3) Illinois Not for Profit Corporation. All contributions are exempt from Federal Income taxes. It was formed to bring together Indian American NPO's, members of India Diaspora and institutions working towards India's sustainable development under one umbrella. IDCA's vision is: a developed India, free of poverty, ignorance, diseases, socioeconomic disparities, ecological disasters, and social disharmony.*

*To achieve this vision, IDCA's present focus is on five core areas of Water, Health, Education, Livelihoods and Renewable Energy. It promotes leaning, networking, sharing, giving, collaborating, and volunteering between members and community at large to help eradicate poverty and mitigate climate change in India. It organizes forums and conferences in the United States and India. Members are engaged in education, healthcare, water, livelihoods and renewable energy programs in various parts of India. We support projects developed by our members. Recently IDCA supported a Water and Sanitation project in a village near Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh, and a Solar Lantern Project in Chitrakoot, Madhya Prades and Uttar Pradesh. We are also building links with many good NGO's and groups in India to advance our Mission and Vision for India. We are a membership organization and invite all members of our community to support and join us. More information is available at: [www.idc-america.org/membership.htm](http://www.idc-america.org/membership.htm). For more information write us at: [info@idc-america.org](mailto:info@idc-america.org) or call 630.303.9592.*