



India Development Coalition of America

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Press Release

IDCA Organizes Second South Regional Conference in Houston on *Working Together to Eradicate Poverty and Mitigate Climate Change in India*

Houston: India Development Coalition of America (IDCA) organized the Second South Regional Conference on May 6, 2012 at the India House, Houston. The theme of the conference was “*Working Together to Eradicate Poverty and Mitigate Climate Change in India*”. It was held from 9 AM to 5 PM. Dr. Kirtikumar Shah, Chair, IDCA Houston chapter welcomed the gathering. Dr. Mohan Jain, Trustee and Founder President, IDCA, Chicago presented Mission, Goals and activities of IDCA.

First session on Health care and water was moderated by Sandip Mody. Dr. KT Shah talked about the free clinics he is involved in Houston metro area and his voluntary services for three months each year since 2004 mostly in Gujarat. Dr. Nik Nikam, past president of Indian Doctors Association, Houston and a practicing cardiologist in Sugarland, Texas, and an author, presented D-WATCH, a holistic program to prevent diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Porus Dadabhoy presented a project to provide nutritional meal packets to poor children in India, and talked about the projects students from 7 Midwest Universities have done in India. Mr. Subbaraman Viswanathan spoke on challenges of water resources management in India.

Second session on rural development was moderated by Sam Kannappan, Co-Chair, IDCA, Houston Chapter. Dev Mahajan, president of Arya Samaj Houston (<http://www.aryasamajhouston.org/>) spoke on DVA school in Houston and shelters built by it in Gujarat and Pondicherry. Samihita Bhatt from Chinmaya Organization for Rural development gave the history of CORD (www.cordusa.org) and self help programs to empower women in 6 states of India. Honorable Anil K Matta, Deputy Consul General of India gave information on Government of India agencies involved in rural development. Mr. Bipin Shah of Santa Clara, California presented scholarship programs in India by Foundation for Excellence (FFE—www.ffe.org).

After noon session on Education was moderated by Dr. K.T. Shah. Sam Kannappan, convener, Tamil Nadu Foundation Convention in Houston, presented the prevention of school dropout s program by TNF. Ashok Danda, President, Ekal Foundation, USA (www.ekal.org) spoke on more than 38000 one teacher Ekal schools in India. N.S. Vatsa kumar, President, Hoysala Charitable Trust gave the history of establishing a school in Karnataka, India. Sayeed Abbas, Coordinator, Vibha, (www.vibha.org) Houston Chapter emphasized that the projects must be secular, replicable, scalable and sustainable.

In the **final concluding session** ideas were solicited how to move forward to build this chapter and serve more members and create more awareness. Mr. Dev Mahajan offered the facilities of Arya Samaj Library to organize bi-monthly seminars on Education, healthcare, livelihoods, water and climate change, by inviting NPOs/academics working in these areas as well as visiting NGO leaders from India. Mr. Ashok Danda, Mr. Mahajan, Mr. Abbas, Dr. Shah, Mr. Kannappan, Mr. vats Kumar and Sandip Mody committed to work together to expand IDCA work in the Houston area.

Presentations and photos and videos will be posted on our website (<http://idc-america.org>) soon.

Upcoming 2012 Events:

Jun 16, First International Conference in Canada will be held at the campus of University of Toronto-Mississauga. 10-15 NPOs are expected to participate as speakers.

On August 11, 2012, we are organizing our Fourth East Regional Conference will take place at the Johns Hopkins University Campus, at Rockville, MD. Conference theme will be: *Exploring Innovative Approaches to Eradicate Poverty and Mitigate Climate Change*. More information will be at: <http://idc-america.org/events/upcomingevents>

September 2, 2012, First International Conference in UK is being organized in the London area.

October 6-7, 2012 we are planning our Tenth International Conference in Chicago area at IIT-Rice Campus in Wheaton, Illinois.

November 17, 2012, Third West regional conference at India Community Center, in Milpitas, CA

Recently, we organized our Eighth International conference in Jaipur on January 11-12, 2012. We had more than 150 people including students from one US university and 2 Indian universities participated. Following this we took a day trip to visit a nearby village with the US students to learn about the ground realities. Following this we had our First South India regional Conference in Hyderabad on February 3-4, and First Mewar Area conference on February 18 in Udaipur. Following our conference in Houston on May 6 we are planning a conference in Toronto in June and our DC conference on August 11. Our Ninth International Conference was held in Chicago on October 15-16, 2011 and Second West Regional was held in Milpitas, California on November 19, 2011. On March 24, 2012, we had India Water Forum to celebrate World Water Day to create awareness about the water issues in India. On April 21, we are organizing a Midwest University Student Conference at DePaul University, Chicago to connect students who have visited India recently and are interested to learn and support sustainable development in India to eradicate Poverty.

India Development Coalition of America (IDCA) was organized 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. 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: <http://idc-america.org/membership> . Media Contact : info@idc-america.org or call: 630-303-9592.