



AWARENESS IN ACTION



A symposium on

Rethinking Globalisation: Climate Change, Environment and Public Health

- December 15, 2018, Saturday
- Bengaluru

It has been historically well-established fact that industrialisation created huge modifications in the environment that is not desirable for the survival of the organisms and the very existence of the planet Earth. Undoubtedly these human-induced changes have brought the unprecedented destruction of the environment, the systematic expansion of the trade through the economic globalisation has added fuel to this changing environment. The question today is how can we ensure the survival of the human species and the planet Earth amidst this economic globalisation? Though there are rhetorical answers to this question and the ideological positions have been pushed aggressively around the same issue, one would not find the appropriate framework to deal with this problem.

Today all of us understand that global warming, climate change, greenhouse gasses and many such terms are not just the linguistic or technical vocabulary, but they are part of our everyday experience. Be it the case of glacier melting, changing temperatures across latitudes and longitudes, many invasive and non-invasive species suddenly finding a possibility for expansion in new areas, expansion of geographic range sizes of new viruses and bacteria leading to crisis in tropical medicine, rising sea levels and altered seasons would tell us, climate change is not anymore, the textbook story. The interventions from forums like the Club of Rome to International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), to the Conference of Parties (COP) at the global level, indicates the seriousness of the crisis at hand. The talk around the economics of climate change, the politics of investment in the green and clean business, concerns over global mitigations, unpreparedness of adaptive strategies to cope up with environmental calamities, etc. tell us how we are not yet ready to realise the disaster which is on our doorsteps. Given this situation, how can we keep our steps ahead by keeping in view the next 25 years of globalisation

say by 2040, which can have fundamental commitment to not trigger the accelerated process of Climate Change into a disastrous situation, is one key question which warrants our attention today.

The way we realise the climate change as the central issue that humanity needs to invest its attention on, one must not ignore another crucial factor, which is Environment. Today we know very well that industrialisation had led to the destruction of our forest and other ecosystems. Because of these degraded environments, we have seen the loss of species or massive extinctions and a huge loss to global biodiversity pool. It has also generated an artificial conflict between human population against forests and biodiversity. The changing climate and the degraded environment has changed the migration patterns of animals and there have been extraordinary variations in geographic range sizes and species. There is a huge variation in the ecological chains and bio-geo-chemical cycles and also lot of ecological services today have been either degraded or they are lost. There is hardly any recovery. The global biodiversity hotspots are under threat today. In this sense, the environment is both the triggering agent and also the victim of the climate change. The phenomenon of globalisation today, we can confidently argue that has altered our ecosystems and its functions and has created global problems. But all of them, in turn, have to lead to another crisis, specifically in tropics, of which India is also a part, Viz. Public health. We remember India's attempt to fight cholera and Malaria in the recent past, but today there is the massive expansion of new tropical diseases, be it dengue to any influenza viruses. Many endemic diseases like Kyasanur Forest disease is expanding due to deforestation. We have failed to handle smaller problems like diarrhoea to any new epidemic outbreak. About most of the new viruses and bacteria's, we do not have sufficient data of the host and the mechanism of expansion of such parasites.



Epidemiology is not only limited by diagnostics but also weak on the medicine production. We have been witnessing in past one decade minimally at least outbreak of two or more new tropical diseases. We do not have the appropriate infrastructure and policy of quarantine for international and intranational migration of people. Given this background, our state of tropical diseases and medicine seem to be in the state of disarray. And these issues need sketching an appropriate path to move forward in the next 25 years of our journey with globalisation.

Many important global environmental problems at the end of the 1980s and in the 1990s formed the decisive framework that shaped global politics, they range from ozone depletion and global climate change along with recognition of the global biodiversity hotspots for the conservation of biodiversity. By that time already there was the talk of sustainable development and then came an entire movement to save endangered species. In any case, all these interventions raised the fundamental issue of politics and justice. It got jumbled with global politics of north and south, first world and the third world, haves and have-nots, developed versus developing and so on. Everyone implicitly acknowledged the inequality and geopolitics involved in these negotiations. In doing so, we could not arrive at an amicable global strategy for mitigating the range of crisis. As a consequence, the problem is on our doorsteps. The recent flood in Uttarakhand, Kerala and Coorg tells us that how manmade ecological degradations can be disastrous to our very survival.

Globalization shows also the rise of new opportunities and resources for

myriad non-state actors, state, transnational institutions to collaborate to tackle the environmental problems and health hazards. The symposium intends to find answers to the following questions before looking for opportunities to collaborate to tackle the environmental problems.

- How do we manage to mitigate and adapt to the crisis of climate change by keeping in the prediction for 2040?
- How do we look at forest, biodiversity and ecosystem services for a sustainable development by keeping in view the possible challenges for 2040?
- How can we rethink our future in public health keeping in view the lacunae in tropical medicine and epidemiology because the climate change and environmental degradation are altering our public health?

Following the above questions, the symposium will have three sessions, each focusing on one issue.

Session 1: Climate Change, State of the Crisis and Policy issues

Session 2: Degrading Environment, Biodiversity and Human Existence

Session 3: Epidemiology, Tropical medicine and Public Health

This symposium aims to bring the debatable aspects which are ignored so far in the discourse of globalization and issues of Climate Change, Environment and Public health. The need of the hour is to stop the blame game and find a way out to achieve not just 'growth' and 'development' but a climate where this planet still continues to be liveable, where Environmental services are available and renewed for people to use it judiciously and the place where your health is not affected by changing environment and parasites.

B.G. Rajeswar
Founder President

Buchibabu Tungam
President

M. Madhavi
Secretary

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Awareness in action (AiA) is a non-profit think tank, which is keen on achieving social transformation by bringing awareness and knowledge about our social world into action. From past 15 years, awareness in action has been actively involved in bringing common people, experts, policymakers together to ensure that brilliant ideas are put to use for the betterment of the world. As a part of our ongoing initiative of bringing various stakeholders in different domains of the society to see tangible outcomes for social change, we are organising this symposia series across India, throughout the year and this symposium is the third one on rethinking globalisation where our focus is on issues of governance.

The AiA Symposium is planned on “**Rethinking globalisation: Climate change, Environment and Public health**” on **September 29, 2018, Saturday at Bangalore**. The outputs of the AiA symposium would certainly focus on bridging a gap between civil society, state, industry and policy. Our further focus is to support/encourage, research and development along with connecting various stakeholder groups, as we believe that their combination would boost the research sector and in turn would facilitate Nation's Development.

Who Can Participate

Academicians, Scholars,
Professionals and Students,

Fees

Rs.500 (Rs.250 for Students)

Venue

Bengaluru.

For Registrations

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For Further Details

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