

The Climate Change Challenge

A seminar on covering climate change for Northeast journalists

November 21-22, 2008, Guwahati

TERI Guwahati Center, Chachal Hengrabari, Express Highway , Guwahati, 781 036

An initiative of the International Center for Journalists Knight International Fellowships Program, the Center for Northeast Studies and Policy Research,

The Energy and Resources Institute

Agenda

November 21, Friday:

10 a.m.: Registration

10:30 a.m.

- Welcome and introductions (15 minutes): *Arul Louis, KIJF*
Dipankar Saharia, TERI
Sanjoy Hazarika, C-NES

10:45 a.m.

Chair: Sanjoy Hazarika

- Global warming and climate change: Science, facts and realities. (20 minutes per speaker)

Speakers: Chandan Mahanta (IIT-G)

1. The science of global warming and climate change: A primer
Sanchita Barua (Kanoi College, Dibrugarh)
2. Facts and realities of global warming and climate change

11:30 a.m.: tea

11:45 a.m.

Chair: Arul Louis

- Impact of climate change on the Northeast (20 minutes per speaker)

Speakers: Dulal Goswami (Guwahati University)

1. Rivers
2. Glaciers

Nobo Goswami (TERI)

3. Watershed issues and its impact on the environment.

Noon: Interactive session (30 minutes)

Panel: Speakers from earlier sessions and an official of Assam Forest Department; Rapporteur/moderator will be a participant

1:00: Lunch

1:45 p.m.

Chair: Dipankar Saharia

- Balancing development and the needs of climate change. (15 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes interaction)

Speakers: Parimal Bhattacharya (University of Guwahati)

6. Why dealing with climate change is important for the economy and the health of the people – and for development

7. Clash of development and combating climate change

Mr OP Pandey, CCF, Department of Forest, Govt. of Assam

3:00 p.m.: 15-minute break

3:15 p.m.:

Chair: Dilip Chandan

- Communicating the climate change message. (15 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes interaction)

Speakers: Arul Louis

1. Tips on effective science writing

*Professor Barin Sharma, Department of Physics, Guwahati University
Assam Science Society representative*

2. Popularizing science

3. Dealing with jargon (using some examples the participants have written down)

4:30 p.m.

- Story ideas. 45 minutes (10 minutes for resource persons; 35 minutes interaction)

Resource Persons: Sanjoy Hazarika (C-NES)

*Mitra Kalita, Deputy Global Economics Editor,
The Wall Street Journal, New York.*

Rapporteurs: From participants

11. Beyond the scare: How to look for stories that show successes/progress in dealing with climate change and on economic benefits from adapting/innovating (Brainstorming can be done in three groups and the results presented at large – 20 minutes in groups and 5-minute presentation by each in plenary)

5:15 p.m.

- Briefing

12. Briefing on field trip (15 minutes)

Nobo Goswami, TERI

5:30 p.m.

•Finding solutions. 60 minutes

13. Introducing Delhi Sustainable Development Summit and TERI

Film on DSDS and “Light a Billion Lives” (15 mins)

14. Dolphin Project: Introduction by Sanjoy Hazarika and screening of documentary

6:30 p.m.

Reception and Dinner

November 22: Field trip to TERI’s watershed project at Khetri, 50 kilometers from Guwahati

9:30 a.m.

Leave for field trip

15. Onsite meeting with activists and officials; tour of project

Break

16. Story discussion (30 minutes)

Rapporteur from participants

Lunch

17. Follow-up plan (30 minutes)

18. Concluding remarks. (15 minutes) *Arul Louis, KIJF*

Vote of Thanks, Nobo Goswami, TERI

Return to TERI

Optional program

21. Writing assignment

5:00 p.m.

22. Discussion of assignment (30 minutes)