

May All Beings Be Happy!



The morning began well with the Multi-Faith prayer led by Luis Gomes and concluded with Gandhiji's favorite Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram.

'Be the Change' sung by the Asia Plateau Interns set the tone for the session. The first session was chaired by Folker Mittag who kept a welcomed control on the time. Martin Funck, the first speaker shared his personal life and experience at his organisation and said that life was more than work. He talked about the importance of values, honesty, and integrity and the need for a balanced life. The second speaker in the session Yasuyuki Matsui talked about the corporate philosophy and CSR management of Central Nippon Expressway Co. Ltd. and how community was involved in the decision making and development of highways. He said the company had a philosophy of customer first and being 'good' and 'strong'. Pradeep Kharola who spoke next talked about how corruption was eliminated in the process of recruitment of staff in the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation. He detailed the process of recruitment especially for conductors and drivers who constituted 80% of the total staff and how with the new policy, other results including profitability improved. He stressed the importance of change to be homegrown for it to be sustainable. A lively Q&A session with several participants from the audience made the session very interesting.

After lunch, a visit to Grampari led by Jayashree Rao focused on the work being done for the rural women and their families. The second session of the day was chaired by R.D. Mathur and had speakers Prof. R Rajagopalan, Hemant Joshi & Terry Netto. Prof. Rajagopalan in his presentation took the audience on a fast paced environmental journey and questioned if there was a model in business to follow. He summed up that there was evidence of unprecedented degradation where humanity's footprint was 30% larger than the area of the earth. It is the 'blessed unrest' that keeps us alive. Work should commence immediately at all levels involving individuals- to reduce the footprint; businesses- to become sustainable, should not treat environment as an externality; and the state- to regulate effectively and price things properly. Hemant Joshi gave an accountant's perception of the issue and mentioned that it was necessary to get back to the business of 'Satyam' (truth) from 'Asatyam' (untruth). Quoting figures of world GDP which was slated at USD 60 trillion had 64% from the services sector, 32% from industry and only 4% from agriculture while derivatives were 11 times more than the world GDP. This Hemant stressed was virtually eating out of one's capital. Terry Netto detailed the role of the lofC and how the gap from financial crisis to the new economic order could be bridged. lofC could play the role of a catalyst using practical tools for change. He also mentioned that legislation, self

regulation and CSR all need social pressure. He concluded with Nelson Mandela's: Everything seems impossible until it's done.