



Understanding Climate and Health Associations in India

22-24 September, 2015 | Hotel Royal Plaza, New Delhi

Press Note

24th September 2015, New Delhi

A three day Training Workshop on Understanding Climate and Health Associations in India was organized from September 22nd to September 24th, 2015 in New Delhi. The workshop was organized by TARU Leading Edge and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), United States with the Indian Meteorological Society (IMS) as knowledge partner.

The inauguration of the workshop was done by **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**, Secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India and Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research.

During her inaugural speech **Dr Swaminathan** spoke of the need for people from inter disciplinary sectors to work in collaboration, like to MoHFW and IMD, as there is a need to exchange data and plan collectively. *“I would like to propose the forming a special cell on climate and health under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and develop policy briefs and ensure that real time information can be shared through common platforms”.*

Other speakers on the inaugural panel were **Mr. Douglas A. Morris**, Acting Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, Embassy of the United States of America, **Air Vice Marshall (Dr.) Ajit Tyagi**, Indian Meteorological Society (IMS), **Dr. Sanjiv Kumar**, Chair of Scientific Committee & Executive Director, National Health Systems Resource Center (NHSRC) and **G. K. Bhat**, Chairperson, TARU Leading Edge

The key note address at the inauguration was provided by **Dr. John Balbus**, Senior Advisor for Public Health & Director, Centre for Environment Health Sciences, NIEHS, USA

Mr. Morris spoke of promoting strong bilateral ties on Climate Change and research and health, which will encourage professional to take knowledge back to the communities and make impact at the grassroot level.

Dr. Sanjiv Kumar in his address spoke of the drastically changing health scenario and the challenges that have been posed to health due to climate change. *“Climate change today is leading to large number of disaster management and seasonal epidemics, so at the call of the hour we need to integrate climate in health policy and planning.”*



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Dr. John Balbus spoke on climate change as an important health issue and spoke on how the health statistics and mortality statistics of the world more are more are being define by Climate Change. “Today it is an important and catalytic moment to discuss around climate change and the adverse effect of it on human health. We now need to translate research and evidence into policy by effectively communicating to stakeholders.”

The website of the training workshop was also launched at the inaugural. The website will be part of the capacity building initiative under UCHAI and will be an informed resource network, which will enable knowledge sharing, discussion and the most unique practice – that of mentoring to boost capacity and leadership ability.

About the training workshop

The objective of the workshop was to build capacity of researchers and practitioner towards climate-proofing of the human health sector in the country.

The workshop represented an effort to bring together all major concerned stakeholders including institutions, experts, decision-makers, academicians, researchers, practitioners and students under one umbrella. The focus of the capacity building workshop was on three core frameworks in dealing with Climate and Health issues, that is, vulnerability, adaptation and co-benefits. The workshop covered other essential aspects such as policy research and inter-sectoral action. Synergized capacity building and sustainability is also expected by developing a web-based, mentored community of researchers and practitioners who will potentially move this interdisciplinary field forward in the country.

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Notes to the editor:

About TARU

TARU is a leading climate change and disaster think tank providing advisory services. It was established in 1990 as an institution with trans-disciplinary expertise to engage with India's development challenges.

About NIEHS

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, is one of 27 research institutes and centers that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The mission of the NIEHS is to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives.

The NIEHS traces its roots to 1966, when the U.S. Surgeon General announced the establishment of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences within the NIH. In 1969, the division was elevated to full NIH institute status. Since then, the NIEHS has evolved to its present status as a world leader in environmental health sciences, with an impressive record of important scientific accomplishments and a proud history of institutional achievements and growth. Today the NIEHS is expanding and accelerating its contributions to scientific knowledge of human health and the environment, and to the health and well-being of people everywhere.



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