International Seminar

History of Global Climate Change: Water, Ecology, Politics and the Management of Nature

January 21 - 22, 2015

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS)
Azad Bhavan, Salt Lake
Kolkata

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 (Day 1)

9.30 - 10.00 Registration

10.00 – 10.20 Inaugural Session

Chairperson: Shri Sitaram Sharma, Chairman, MAKAIAS

Welcome Address: Dr. Sreeradha Datta, Director, MAKAIAS

Introducing the Theme: Ms. Mili Ghose, Fellow, MAKAIAS

Inaugural Address: Ms. Helen LaFave, US Consul General in Kolkata

10.20 – 10.30 Screening of a Documentary Film on the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies

10.30 – 11.30 Keynote Address

Chair:
Prof. Ranjan Chakrabarti, Vice Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal

Speaker:
Dr. Ronald Edmund Doel, Florida State University, USA, An Unanticipated Legacy: How Cold War Military Concerns Created Knowledge about Global Climate Change

11.30 – 12.00 Tea/Coffee
12.00 – 1.30  
**Technical Sessions I: Water**

**Chair:**
*Prof. Arun Bandyopadhyay*, University of Calcutta, Kolkata

**Speakers:**
*Prof. Sajal Nag*, Assam University, Assam, **Changing Weather, Changing Lives: Deforestation, Climatic Change and its Impact on North East India**

*Prof. Ruby Maloni*, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, **Sailing with the Monsoons: Indian Ocean and Trade Routes**

*Dr. Uttam Kumar Sinha*, Fellow, IDSA, Delhi, **Climate-Water Nexus: Challenges to the Himalayan Watershed**

1.30 - 2.30  
**Lunch**

2.30 - 4.00  
**Technical Session II: Climate and Disaster**

**Chair:**
*Dr. Ronald Edmund Doel*, Florida State University, USA

**Speakers:**
*Prof. Amanat Ullah Khan*, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, **Living with the Living Environment: A Study of Changing Livelihood in Bangladesh in Recent Years**

*Prof. Rajib Handique*, Gauhati University, Assam, **Natural Disasters in History: The 1950 Earthquake in Assam**

*Mr. Dario Gerd Kaidel*, Heidelberg University, Germany, **Climatic Stress and Colonial Environments: British and Indian Agency during the Bengal Famine of 1771**
4.00 - 5.30  Technical Session III: Environmentalism/s

Chair:
Prof. Amanat Ullah Khan, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Speakers:
Prof. Bipasha Raha, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal, The Natural and the Rural World: Rabindranath Tagore and Rural Reconstruction

Dr. Bina Sengar, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, Changing Discourses’ of Human and Environment in Ajanta

Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya Panda, Fellow, MAKAIAS, Kolkata, Ecology and Environment in the Literary Imagination: Mangal Kavyas in Medieval Bengal

Cultural Evening & Dinner: 7.00 pm onwards
Venue: Bengal Club
Thursday, January 22, 2015 (Day 2)

10.00 - 11.30  Technical Session IV: Environment and Disorder

Chair:
Dr. Sreeradha Datta, Director, MAKAIAS

Speakers:
Prof. Rattan Lal Hangloo, Vice Chancellor, University of Kalyani, West Bengal, Destruction of Kashmir’s Water Resources

Prof. Sujata Mukherjee, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, Natural Calamity, War, Politics, and Famine in Coastal Bengal in the Early 1940s

Prof. Sanjay V. Deshmukh, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, Blending Traditional and Modern Technologies for Mitigating Climate Change Impacts on Ecology and Livelihoods

Prof. Kaushik Roy, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Warfare and Environment: A Case Study of the Indian Army

11.30 - 12.00  Tea/Coffee

12.00 – 1.30  Technical Session V: Conservation and Management of Nature

Chair:
Prof. Sajal Nag, Assam University, Assam

Speakers:
Dr. Sahara Ahmed, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, Colonial Pasts and Legacies: Forests, Climate-Change and Management Disaster

Ms. Dipanwita Dasgupta, Cooch Behar P. Barma University, Cooch Behar, West Bengal, Adaption, Migration and Challenges: Impacts of Climate Change in the Sub-Himalayan Bengal
Mr. Tirthankar Ghosh, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal, Rainfall, Flood and Drought in North Bengal, 1850 - 1900: Focusing Climate, Environment and Colonial Management

Dr. Satarupa Datta Majumdar, Fellow, MAKAIAS, Kolkata, Impact of Climate Change on the Indigenous People: The Lived Reality of Shismaref

1.30 - 2.30 Lunch

2.30 - 4.00 Technical Session VI: Politics of Water

Chair: Shri Sitaram Sharma, Chairman, MAKAIAS

Speakers:
Dr. Iftekhar Iqbal, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Rivers and Transregional Quests in Southern Asia

Dr. Ashim Kumar Sarkar, Malda College, Malda, West Bengal, Forest, Land Use and Water: A Study of the Santal Adivasi World of Colonial Maldah, 1900 - 1947

Dr. Nirmal K. Mahato, Patha-Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal, The Politics of Water: Large Dams vs Indigenous Method of Water Management

4.00 - 5.00 Valedictory Session

Chair: Prof. Omprakash Mishra, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Speaker: Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti, Vice Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, Understanding the Politics and Culture of Water in South Asia

Vote of Thanks: Mili Ghose, Fellow, MAKAIAS