

# The CEE Sustainable Development Program

10 - 23 January 2010

**Centre for Environment Education (CEE),  
India offers a two-week course in  
Environment and Sustainable Development  
at CEE, Ahmedabad, India**

The developing world faces critical challenges: rapid development, poverty, loss of biodiversity and the need to find alternatives to a carbon-based economy. Grassroots projects in India are finding effective ways of meeting these challenges. Innovative initiatives, whether in the area of generating rural livelihoods or meeting the challenge of urban public transport, are attempting to leapfrog India's development to a more sustainable paradigm.

The two-week program provides cross-disciplinary understanding and practical experience of development approaches that deal effectively with these interconnected challenges under the guidance of a skilled and experienced faculty drawn from leading thinkers and practitioners in the area of sustainability.

The program is a stimulating mix of educational sessions, group work, lectures, excursions to natural and cultural heritage sites and field experiences of successful local sustainability initiatives. Students will select a project for their field work that strengthens their cross-cultural understanding of development for a sustainable future.

## The program consists of three major components

**Foundations:** Five days at CEE's green campus in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, where the students will attend lectures, interact with experts, be part of intensive workshops and group sessions, grounding them in the special development challenges and unique policy and practical responses of India, a society in transition. They will also explore how CEE as an organization approaches

### Copenhagen Scorecard

A month after the Copenhagen meeting on Climate Change, SDP will review the new international agreement on greenhouse gas emissions reductions and discuss whether it will move us far enough, fast enough towards carbon neutrality, carbon equity and carbon justice.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and functionally embodies the principles of sustainability.

**Field work:** Five days focused on local best practices in Gujarat including in and around

Ahmedabad. Students will break into small groups and focus on theme-specific field work in:

**Sustainable agriculture and rural development:** Traditional agricultural practices were integrated with local livelihoods, livestock and water management practices. New seeds, harvesting machines, chemical fertilizers, etc., have destroyed the old balance. Efforts at finding new sustainable practices raise issues of equity. Students will visit projects and learn about sustainable models of rural development, experiments with and validation of locally appropriate technologies, biodiversity conservation, and systems of governance that promote democratic processes.

**Waste management:** Urban India faces a challenge of the reduction of waste and its effective disposal. CEE's waste and resource management group has developed an innovative system of recycling discarded plastic bags by weaving them into mats and other useful products, and a biomedical waste management system which is complemented by education and awareness programs on biomedical waste handling and management among health care personnel and general public.

**Disaster preparedness and rehabilitation:** Major disasters like the Gujarat earthquake in 2001 or the Tsunami in 2005 raise awareness of the need for sustainability. Students will visit communities that have used sustainable approaches to rebuilding infrastructure and livelihoods and ensured that better governance and processes for participative decision-making are restored and strengthened.

**Urban issues and heritage:** Nowhere are sustainability issues so apparent as in the rapidly growing urban areas, where slums sharply contrast with modern areas. Ahmedabad will be 600 years old in 2011. The old city is a heritage site and an outstanding example of traditional architecture and planning with conservation values. It struggles with transportation issues. Students will discuss urban issues with a number of key stakeholders and meet with the faculty at the School of Planning.

**Sustainability in the business environment:** Meeting new standards and upgrading old plants has been a challenge to businesses. CEE's efforts have helped business groups develop joint strategies, utilizing a variety of sustainable approaches such as the Clean Development Mechanism and energy audits. Students will interact with key industries, faculty of management schools and officials of the Pollution Control Board in order to understand the difficult choices that need to be made in the pursuit of sustainable development.

**National Policy:** Three days in Delhi visiting institutions working in environment and development, and meeting with government officials and high profile organizations and individuals focused on

### **The Earth Charter**

SDP will discuss sustainable development and the ethical issues connected with it using the Earth Charter. The conscious integration of ethics in our discourse, thinking and practice can help us accelerate our transition to sustainable ways of living.

[www.earthcharterinaction.org](http://www.earthcharterinaction.org)

environment, development and conservation issues.

**Heritage and Culture:** Ahmedabad is an outstanding example of traditional architecture and has many heritage sites. Students will visit the Adalaj Vav, a traditional stepwell, as well as go on a culture trail in the inner city. 14<sup>th</sup> January is celebrated each year as Uttarayan, the kite festival. Students will get to visit an old restored haveli in the walled city and participate in this unique festival. Ahmedabad is where Mahatma Gandhi started his inspirational work in India. Students will visit the Sabarmati Ashram where Gandhi lived and worked and get a sense of Gandhian thinking and his insights into sustainability. In Delhi there will be a visit to the Red Fort, to an open-air market and a day trip to Agra to see the Taj Mahal.

### ***Language of the Program***

The program will be offered in English.

### **Program Faculty**

CEE has a cross-disciplinary and integrated approach to sustainability education with scientists, social scientists, social workers, architects, economists, designers, communication specialists and educationists working on different facets of sustainability and ESD. CEE has been working closely with some of the leading universities in India to help develop and deliver courses on sustainable development. CEE's senior faculty have taught at universities in India and abroad, and have been offering environment and development courses at CEE for two decades to young and mid-career professionals, school and college teachers, and to graduates wishing to become ESD professionals.

### **Accommodation**

Double occupancy rooms with private bathrooms in Ahmedabad and Delhi. Clean and comfortable accommodation during field visits.

### **Weather**

January is the ideal time to visit India. The temperatures in Ahmedabad in January are maximum 82° F (28° C) and minimum 50° F (10° C). Delhi is cooler, with a maximum of 70° F (21° C) and a minimum of 45° F (7° C). The likelihood of rain is very low in both places.

### **Travel Insurance**

All participants must be covered by travel insurance for the time of the course.

### **Who Can Apply**

The course is designed for university students from a wide variety of disciplines and with an interest in sustainability and cross-cultural studies. SDP will create interdisciplinary groups as part of the study program. Undergraduates and postgraduates may apply.

## Course Fee

The course fee is US \$ 2,200. This will cover course expenses, course material as well as room and board on a double occupancy basis during the period 10 to 23 January (both days inclusive). The fee also includes local transport for project work, travel by train from Ahmedabad to Delhi and the cost of the heritage trip to Agra. It does not include the cost of travel to and from India.

## Application

Apply online at <http://www.ceeindia.org/cee/sdp.htm>. Apply by 30<sup>th</sup> September to get an early bird discount on the course fee. Applications will not be accepted after 10 November 2009.

## Certification

A CEE certificate of participation will be awarded to all students who complete the two-week program. For students who want their universities to give them credit for the program, the university may contact the SDP program coordinator at [sdpcoordinator@ceeindia.org](mailto:sdpcoordinator@ceeindia.org) for details on the course curriculum.]

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