

**WELCOME...**

The South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) is a regional network that brings together analysts from different countries in South Asia to address their development-environment problems. It is based on the premise that the quality of economic growth matters and that environmental sustainability is key to the future of the region. SANDEE’s activities cover Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

This newsletter provides information on SANDEE activities during the last six months. Please read on and, as always we would love to hear from you.

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**Dear Friends and Colleagues**

As South Asia continues to make economic strides, how do we ensure that our measures of growth are accounting for changes in natural assets? The Indian government recently took an important step to answer this question by appointing an expert group to develop a framework for greening India’s national accounts. Prof. Partha Dasgupta is the Chair of this group and several of us SANDEEites are members. Thus, we have made the leap from research to policy and now have an opportunity and challenge on our hands to measure growth correctly.

A recent review of SANDEE’s research portfolio pointed to our strong commitment to the problems of climate change, and, pollution and health. However, we seem to have inadvertently neglected the important challenge of biodiversity conservation. Thus, earlier this year, we decided to launch a ‘call for proposals’ on the economics of biodiversity conservation. Surprisingly, there was a clustering of responses around tiger habitat protection, which lead us to discussions with a small group of social and natural scientists and meetings with colleagues from the Global Tiger Initiative. Our interest here is in understanding the socio-economic and financial

dynamics that may lead to better conservation. We hope that some of this new work, as also our other work on ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and REDD in Nepal, will feed into the Biodiversity COP to be held in South Asia in 2012.

IDRC, Canada, has been a strong and steady supporter of SANDEE for many years. At their request, we put forth a second special ‘call’ on environmental policies and their economic and social implications. As part of this effort, we also organized a training program on policy analyses for senior SANDEE researchers. This workshop by Prof. Nancy Olewiler was a great hit because it provided analytical tools that enabled us economists to think more broadly about the policy process. It was also a very good opportunity for senior SANDEEites to come together and discuss SANDEE’s next decade.

Please be in touch if you have any queries about our work. In the meantime, be well and take care.

Best wishes  
Priya, Rucha and colleagues from the SANDEE Secretariat

# Research

## Research Grants

**S**ANDEE's recent research grants focus on the themes of water management, biodiversity conservation and climate change and migration. SANDEE received 44 pre-proposals earlier this year and invited 12 research proposals to its summer biannual research workshop. The following eight grants were approved based on the Research and Training Workshop that took place in July 2011.

Name	Country	Topic
Kadambari Anantram and Sweta Bhagat	India	Taxing the tiger? Case Studies from Southern India
R.Balasubramanian	India	Climate Change and Groundwater Dynamics: A Hydro- Economic Analysis of Impacts and Adaptation in South Asia
Kazi Iqbal	Bangladesh	Climate Change, Agriculture and Migration: Evidence from Bangladesh
Rishi Kattel	Nepal	Rainwater Harvesting Technologies and Rural Livelihoods: Evidence of Adaptation to Climate Change in Nepal
Heman D.Lohano	Pakistan	Impact of Climate Change on Migration in Pakistan
Harini Nagendra and Rucha Ghate	India	Conservation in a fragile social-ecological system: investigating community inputs and forest outcomes in central India
Brinda Viswanathan and Kavi Kumar	India	Climate Change, Agricultural Impacts and Migration in India
Bhibu Nayak	India	Institutions, Investments and Conservation Outcome: A Case of Tiger Conservation Programmes in India

## Working Papers

### **Transactions Matter but They Hardly Cost: Irrigation Management in the Kathmandu Valley, by Ram Chandra Bhattarai, WP No. 56-10**

This study estimates the transaction costs entailed in maintaining Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems in Nepal based on a case study of 60 irrigation systems in the Kathmandu valley. It analyzes the factors influencing transaction costs and compares these costs with the production cost in agriculture. The findings show that the main elements in transaction costs are time spent watching, waiting, and negotiating over water use. The total value of output per hectare is significantly affected by transaction costs, reliability of the irrigation facility, and infrastructure quality. However, free riders pose a problem for collective action. Controlling free-riding or deviant behavior would therefore improve institutional efficiency and reduce ex-post transaction costs.

### **User-based Financing of Marine Protection in the Maldives, by Mahadev G. Bhat, R. C. Bhatta and Mohamed Shumais, WP No. 57 -11**

Maldivian atolls are known for their beautiful coral structures, fish abundance, white sandy beaches, coastal vegetation and mangroves. This paper provides an economic valuation of the recreational uses of atoll-based marine resources in the Republic of the Maldives, using a travel demand model –one without and one with endogenous costs, to estimate the benefits



of atoll-based marine tourism. The results suggest a large disparity between the amount of economic value generated from nature-based tourism and the amount going into atoll conservation. Transferring four percent of the total annual recreational benefits from visitors as a one-time conservation fee would generate enough resources to cover government and foreign donor contributions towards environmental protection.

### **Valuing the Recreational Uses of Pakistan’s Wetlands: An Application of the Travel Cost Method, by Ali Dehlavi and Iftikhar Hussain Adil, WP No. 58 -11**

Keenjhar lake, Pakistan’s largest freshwater lake and a Ramsar site, is located in the lower basin of the Indus Ecoregion. This study applies a count data travel cost model in order to estimate the value visitors place on recreation in Keenjhar. The researchers estimate the recreational use value associated with Keenjhar lake to be PKR 3.46 billion (USD 42.2 million). This estimate is based on an annual mean consumer surplus per visit of PKR 9,500 (USD 116) and assumes average daily visits of 1,000.

### **Rights, Responsibilities and Resources: Examining Community Forestry in South Asia, by Priya Shyamsundar and RuchaGhate, WP No. 59 -11**

This paper seeks to understand whether decentralized management of forests can reduce forest loss in developing countries. In South Asia, large-scale experiments in decentralization – Joint Forest Management in India and community forestry in Nepal, in particular - have changed the relationship between forests, the forest departments and rural households. The emerging evidence suggests that community forest management may indeed be contributing to improved forest health. However, the impacts on household well-being are less carefully studied and seem to be far more varied. The paper suggests that clarity over rights, local monitoring and recognition of differences in intra-community needs are issues that require policy support if community forestry is to meet both livelihood and forest conservation expectations.

### **Motives for Firms to Adopt Solid Waste Management Controls: The Case of Food Processing Sector in Sri Lanka, by Udith Jayasinghe and Menuka Udugama, WP No. 60 – 11**

This study offers an empirical analysis of the economic incentives available for food processing firms in Sri Lanka to adopt environmental controls for solid waste management. A series of in-depth interviews (n=325) with managers responsible for environmental quality in five types of food processing firms (coconut-based products, essential oils, non-alcoholic beverages, processed fruits and vegetables, and other processed products) were carried out. The researchers applied Confirmatory Factor Analysis techniques to the data to quantify the effect of six market-based incentives, two regulatory incentives, and the liability incentive on the firm’s adoption of solid waste management practices. The results suggest that the level of adoption of environmental practices at the firm level is low – on an average, firms adopt only 1.2 of a maximum of 8 different possible practices. Costs of adoption and perceived improvements in technical efficiency are two factors that motivate adoption. Liability laws and anticipated future regulations also matter. The analysis suggests that older firms and larger firms are more responsive to environmental considerations.

### **The Welfare Impacts of Leasehold Forestry in Nepal, by Bishnu Prasad Sharma, WP No. 61 -11**

The study analyzes the role of the leasehold forestry (LHF) program in improving household welfare in Nepal. It estimates both the time saved in biomass collection and the addition to income through increases in biomass availability from LHF. The findings reveal that a household participating in the LHF programs saves 33 workdays in biomass extraction while the contribution to household income from biomass from LHF plots is approximately 5 percent of household income. The study concludes that the restructuring of the LHF regime could increase efficiency and improve welfare. A change in policy, re-allocating LHF plots now held on a group basis as individual household parcels, would provide greater economic incentives for those involved in the LHF Program. Moreover, providing participating households with LHF plots at a shorter distance from the homestead and compensating for very poor quality soil by providing other inputs would further improve welfare gains from the LHF program.



# Views and Opinions

## Hostile Waters - A Holistic Engineering for Environmental Security in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basin

- Nilanjan Ghosh, nilanjan.ghosh@gmail.com



**W**ater management in South Asia in general, and the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin in particular, is based on a traditional engineering approach with the objective of attaining short-term economic benefits. Little concern has been shown to long-run implications for downstream livelihoods and ecosystem. This has affected hydro-political relations among the nations in the basin, namely, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and China, and threatens environmental security. Environmental security, in this context, can be defined as a state of absence of conflicts in the complex and interconnected relations in and between the biological, social, economic, and cultural processes of human societies and the natural environment.

The concerns of environmental security in the GBM basin are galore. The large structural interventions (in the form of large dams) over the hydrological flows in the GBM basin have hardly taken into consideration the complex and largely unexplored relation between water and economic development in the basin. At the same time, they have ignored the critical issue of the ecosystem services-livelihoods linkages in the delta regions. This has aggravated poverty and led to conflicts at all levels.

Unresolved water issues among nations in the basin have led to worsening of transboundary water relations, which revolve around the water related projects. The most widely discussed transboundary projects are the proposed dams on the rivers

in Nepal. The future use of water that could be stored in such reservoirs in Nepal would be demanded both from the western parts of India, and from the east in Bangladesh, creating a need for tripartite diplomacy. This has not yet happened. At the same time, traditional engineering has failed to answer the question of monsoon floods as is clear by examining rivers flowing from Nepal into India such as the Kosi. Therefore, while between Bhutan and India, the agreements on hydro-electricity projects have been viewed as the harbinger of economic development to deal with poverty in the mountain country, such a model of bilateral cooperation has not yet worked for Nepal and India.

The Indo-Bangladesh water relations have mainly hinged around the Farakka Barrage, constructed to resuscitate the dying Calcutta port, which is connected by the Hooghly to the sea. Despite the Indo-Bangladesh treaty of 1996 on dry season flows from Farakka, crucial issues on ecosystem flows are yet to be resolved. The proposed River Link Project is the latest project promoted from the traditional engineering perspective that further threatens India-Bangladesh hydro-political relations and environmental security. Failure to resolve these issues has harmed both sides of the border for decades. Further, any progress through new ideas has been hindered by the lack of availability of detailed hydrological data for research.

China's potential plan to divert waters of the Yarlung-Tsangpo in Tibet (which is upstream of the Brahmaputra in India and flows to Bangladesh as Jamuna) poses another potential threat to regional environmental security. It has often been stated that the hydrological balance of northeastern India and Bangladesh might be threatened because of this diversion. However, water data show that a majority of the run-off of the Brahmaputra (80%) emerges downstream of the Indo-Tibetan border. Hence, though there will be losses due to the diversion, the loss might not be as much as perceived.

Clearly a different approach toward diplomatic negotiations is required in the basin. It is time to consider a "river basin as an ecosystem" and address its challenges through the holistic perspective of ecological engineering. This paradigm shift in the policy domain is the first necessary step toward environmental security in the basin.

## An Acknowledgment

I had the privilege of attending a SANDEE/UNDP workshop on Economic Development, Poverty Reduction and Environmental Change, 10th December– 13th December, 2007 at AIT Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. The training sensitized us and built our capacity to take up an in-house study on vulnerability assessment. Subsequent to the study, the most vulnerable villages are being targeted under various ongoing schemes to build the adaptive capacity of the rural community. Water storage tanks, revival of mountain springs, revival of lakes and watershed development are some of the activities initiated in this direction targeting vulnerable villages.

The workshop also helped me develop an academic interest in analyzing the impacts of climate change on environment and development. Over the last three years this learning helped me to enhance my academic output in the form of three scientific papers:

- Biodiversity of Sikkim – Exploring and Conserving a Global Hotspot (2011). Edited by Arrawatia, M. L. and Tambe, S. Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Sikkim. <http://www.sikennis.nic.in/Biodiversity-of-Sikkim.htm>
- Tambe, S., Arrawatia, M.L., Bhutia, N.T. and Swaroop, B. (2011). Rapid, Cost Effective and High Resolution Assessment of Climate-Related Vulnerability of Rural Communities of Sikkim Himalaya, India. *Current Science*, Vol. 101(2), 25 July 2011, pp 165-173. <http://www.ias.ac.in/currsci/25jul2011/165.pdf>
- Tambe, S., Arrawatia, M.L. and Sharma, N. (2011). Assessing the priorities for sustainable forest management in the Sikkim Himalaya, India: A remote sensing based approach. *Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing*, Vol.30(3) <http://www.springerlink.com/content/c502r50138335134/>

Thank you very much for the training.

Warm regards,

**Dr. Sandeep Tambe**, Special Secretary  
Rural Management and Development Department, Government of Sikkim,  
Gram Vikas Bhawan, Gangtok - 737101, India



# Publications and Presentations

## Publications

- Banerji A., J. V. Meenakshi, and G. Khanna, (*forthcoming*). 'Social Contracts, Markets and Efficiency: Groundwater Irrigation in North India', *Journal of Development Economics*.
- Banerji A., G. Khanna, and J. V. Meenakshi, 2010. 'Social Contracts, Markets and Efficiency – Groundwater Irrigation in North India', Working papers 183, Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics.
- Bandyopadhyay, S. and P. Shyamsundar. 2011. 'Examining the effectiveness of irrigation management reforms in the Philippines', in Gamini Herath (ed), *Institutional change in water management - Evaluating the experience*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers.
- Das, S. 2011, 'Examining the storm protection services of mangroves of Orissa during the 1999 cyclone', *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol xlvi no 24.
- Das S. 2010, 'Valuing the storm protection services of mangroves: methodological and data challenge' in P. Kumar and Michael D. Wood (ed), *Valuation of Regulating Services of Ecosystems: Methodology and Applications*, Routledge, Taylor and Francis group, London and New York.
- Kumar, S. D. 2011, 'An Inquiry into Collective action and Sustainable participatory Watershed management: Evidence from Southern India', *Water International*, 36 (3): 370-385.
- Pokharel, R. 2011, 'Factors influencing management practices of Nepal's community forestry', *Forest Policy and Economics*, accepted for publication.
- Pokharel, R. 2010, 'Generating income from Nepal's community forestry: Does timber matter?', *Journal of Forest and Livelihood*, 9 (1): 16 - 20.
- Mukhopadhyay P. and P. Shyamsundar, (2012) 'Economic Growth and Ecological Sustainability in India', in Chetan Ghate (ed), *The [Oxford] Handbook of the Indian Economy*. Oxford University Press.
- Nepal, M., A.K. Bohara, and K. Gawande, 2011. 'More inequality, more killings: The Maoist insurgency in Nepal', *American Journal of Political Science*, published online, July 7, 2011.

## Teaching

### **SANDEEites Lecture at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, Orissa**

SANDEE Advisor Subhrendu Pattanayak gave a talk on the "Economics of Environmental Health", at the Department of Economics on 9th July 2011. The lecture illustrated the potential of economics as a way of studying mundane and seemingly non-economic problems such as sanitation. As discussed in the lecture, economics lends itself to studying the problem of sanitation provision because of the prevalence of (a) epidemiological externalities, (b) socio-economic peer effects, and (c) information gaps. Subhrendu discussed how behavior change is scalable and sustainable if there is an education and communication strategy that has local champions and is nested within national efforts.

SANDEE Fellow Saudamini Das also gave a separate lecture at Ravenshaw College on mangrove ecosystems. The Indian Forest Officers Training, Forest Research Institute of India, Dehradun, also benefited from SANDEE research. Saudamini Das taught at a training program using her research on mangroves on June 2, 2011.

### **Environmental Economics course at Khulna University in Bangladesh**

Mohammed Ziaul Haider used his SANDEE training to develop a course in environmental economics at the MSS level. One of his teaching strategies was to use several SANDEE working papers as reference material. Students were required to present and discuss these papers as part of the course.



# Dissemination



A panel discussion on lead-acid battery recycling organized by Yamini Gupt

## **Seminar on Tourism and Wetland Conservation, Sindh, Pakistan, 28th February, 2011**

Tehmina Mangan, gave a seminar on her SANDEE project in the Senate Hall of Sindh Agriculture University, Pakistan. More than 150 people from various universities and organizations attended that seminar, including the Vice Chancellor Dr. Abdul Qadir Mughal. The seminar was covered by English and local language newspapers.

## **Lunch Discussion on Storm Protection Services, World Bank, Washington DC, USA, 18th May, 2011**

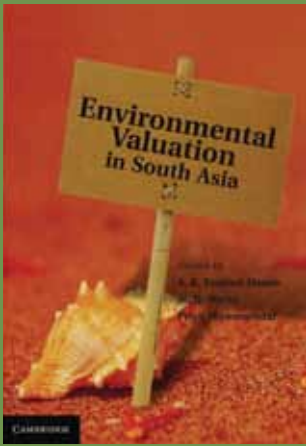
The storm protection services of mangroves were the focus of a Brown Bag Lunch presentation by Saudamini Das at the World Bank. This discussion was facilitated by SANDEE and was well attended by staff from the Disaster Management, South Asia region and the Environment departments. Bank colleagues are now looking into options for doing some similar work in the Philippines.

## **18th Annual Conference of European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE), Rome, Italy, 29th June – 2nd July, 2011**

Kalyan Das and Bishnu Pd. Sharma, two SANDEE grantees participated in the 18th Annual EAERE Conference. Kalyan's paper, Valuing Damages of Flood Induced Sand Deposition: Case of a Rice Bowl in Assam, India, was selected for a poster session. Bishnu Sharma presented his paper entitled 'Effectiveness and Challenges of a Pro-poor Forestry Regime: Lessons from Leasehold Forestry in Nepal'.

## **Congratulations**

- **M. Zakir Hossain Khan** is Project Coordinator of the Climate Finance Governance project run by Transparency International. The project is a collaboration of 6 climate victims (Bangladesh, Maldives, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Mexico and Peru). His responsibilities include research, networking, and facilitating training for the actors of climate finance governance.
- **Mr. Khuda Bakhsh** has been selected for the LEAD program in Pakistan. This program focuses on creating leaders in sustainable development and delivering service through networks and capacity building. Indrila Guha is also part of LEAD in India and has been participating in a year-long series of training programs.
- **Dr. Sakib Mahmud** has been awarded a doctorate in Economics. His dissertation focuses on the interdependence between human behavior and environmental management as a result of climate change. The study investigates the possible influence of mangroves on private storm protection strategies. His dissertation research based on the Sunderbans in Bangladesh was supported with a SANDEE grant.



SANDEE's collected volume of valuation studies has been published by Cambridge University Press (<http://www.cambridgeindia.org>). This book offers researchers, teachers and practitioners a set of detailed case studies on environmental valuation in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and India. It covers a variety of valuation methods and showcases the use of different techniques to combine environmental and socio-economic data. The topics covered by the book range from ecosystem services to pesticide use in agriculture to the health costs from air and water pollution.

### Books of Interest

- 'Energy Economics: Concepts, Issues, Markets and Governance', Springer, London.  
(<http://www.springer.com/engineering/energy+technology/book/978-0-85729-267-4?detailsPage=authorsAndEditors>)
- 'The [Oxford] Handbook of the Indian Economy' edited by Chetan Ghate, Oxford University Press.
- 'Agricultural Prices in a Changing Economy: An Empirical Study of Indian Agriculture' by Munish Alagh, Academic Foundation, New Delhi.
- 'A Coastal Ecosystem and a People in Peril: The story of KetiBunder in Pakistan' by Aneel Salman, Lambert Academic Publishing, 2011 ([http://www.amazon.com/dp/3845400560/ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_fa\\_dp\\_W6ahob1E9DYK9](http://www.amazon.com/dp/3845400560/ref=cm_sw_r_fa_dp_W6ahob1E9DYK9))
- 'SardarSarovar Project on River Narmada' (three volumes), edited by R. Parthasarathy and Ravindra H. Dholakia, Concept Publishing House, New Delhi.



SANDEEites Bishnu and Kalyan attended the EAERE conference in Rome.

### Dissemination seminar on 'The Deposit Refund System for Recycling Batteries in Delhi and National Capital Region', New Delhi, India, 4th August, 2011

Yamini Gupt discussed findings from her recently completed study on lead acid batteries. Her presentation was followed by a panel discussion with different stakeholders – academicians, industrialists, NGOs, and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee. The panelists agreed that there is a strong presence of the informal sector in the lead battery recycling industry and that current policy instruments have had an insignificant impact on both formal and informal recycling. The industry representative from Exide suggested that the tax on used battery sales should be removed and the excise duty on recycled lead should be reduced in order to promote increased recycling of lead acid batteries. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee representative, on the other hand, wanted regulatory bodies to be given more authority and man power to enforce regulations. And the NGO representative felt that the informal sector should be included in the clean recycling process because it provides a source of livelihood to many poor people. Thus, the study generated an active debate on lead battery recycling, which we hope is the first step towards incrementally reforming current policies.

### The Economics of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems, Bangkok, Thailand, 18th-19th August, 2011.

This conference was organized by EEPSEA, the Government of Thailand and UNDP. Saudamini Das presented her work on mangrove services and by Priya Shyamsundar discussed the economics of natural disasters based on several SANDEE studies on the Sunderbans in Bangladesh and India.

### Other Dissemination

Saudamini Das presented a paper on adaptation to heat waves in Orissa at a conference on "Adaptation to Climate Change in Low Income Countries" at George Washington University, Washington DC, USA in May 2011.



# Training

## **Introduction to Quantitative Environmental Economics, OKD Institute, Guwahati, India, 24th – 28th January, 2011**

OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati and SANDEE hosted a six-day training course for researchers from North-East India. This course was a practical course designed for teachers and researchers who wanted to understand and apply economic tools to valuing environmental goods and services. The course provided a general introduction to environmental economics and informed students about specific methods and strategies for undertaking valuation exercises. R. N. Bhattacharya, Gautam Gupta and SANDEE colleague Mani Nepal were the key faculty for this course. Presentations were also made by SANDEEites IndrilaGuha and Kalyan Das.



## **Research and Writing Workshop in Environmental Economics, Sundarbans, Bangladesh, 2nd – 6th March, 2011**

SANDEE, jointly with the Economic Research Group (ERG) organized a research and writing workshop in environmental economics in Bangladesh. This workshop provided a valuable opportunity for Bangladeshi researchers working in the field of environmental and natural resource economics to learn about the techniques of proposal writing and also to join the pool of researchers working with SANDEE's network. The unique contribution of this workshop was that it taught researchers environmental economics in the field. The entire workshop was held on a boat and included a visit to the Sunderban national park.



## **Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, AIT, Pathumthani, Thailand, 2nd – 20th May, 2011**

SANDEE organized its flagship training course in environmental and natural resource economics at AIT, Bangkok, Thailand from May 2-20, 2011. Participants in this course were university teachers, researchers and professionals from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. This three-week course provides the equivalent of a semester of learning on natural resource economics, environmental management, topics in sustainable development and valuation methodologies.



*'We found this course extremely valuable and useful for teaching and conducting research in the field of environmental and natural resource economics. During this course SANDEE also organized a field trip to KhaoYai National Park, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park provides a viable habitat for the long-term survival of over 2,000 species of flora and fauna – with some critically endangered species. We enjoyed visiting this park and planting trees there. In addition to learning and enjoying, this training course provided us great exposure and network of resource persons and participants from different countries.'*

- Heman Lohano, loha0002@gmail.com

## **Economics of Conservation, ATREE, Bangalore, India, 30th-31st May, 2011**

This workshop brought together a small group of natural and social scientists at ATREE in Bangalore India to discuss conservation issues. A few research ideas were examined with expert advice from senior natural scientist Dr. A. T. Johnsingh. The workshop discussions lead to grant proposals on tiger habitat conservation.



*'The idea behind the workshop was to explore a coherent theme for a series of coordinated research studies on 'Economics of Conservation'. The proceedings of the workshop were started by an opening address by Dr.A.J.T Johnsingh, an eminent wildlife biologist and honorary scientific advisor at Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore and WWF-India, with immense experience and knowledge on conservation issues with specific focus on threats to wildlife conservation in India. This was followed by a group discussion and brain storming sessions between the workshop participants aimed at identifying the common elements of collaborative research across studies. This was my first experience of attending a SANDEE workshop and I could not have asked for a better organised and impeccably co-ordinated workshop. It was a valuable experience, where I learnt a lot from all my co-participants at the workshop. The workshop was a reflection of how a gathering of talented individuals working on diverse areas of research can contribute to helping each other refine the research framework to make it stronger and robust.'*

- Shweta Bhagwat, shweta.bhagwat@ifmr.ac.in

## **Policy Analyses for Environmental Economics, Bangkok, Thailand, 22nd – 24th May, 2011**

Prof. Nancy Olewiler, Director, School of Public Policy, Simon Frazer University, taught an excellent course on policy analyses for environmental economics at AIT CC, Thailand. The goal of this training was to help economists think critically about policy analysis, develop analytical skills using topical issues as examples, and incorporate policy analysis in a systematic and rigorous way in environmental economics research. Some senior SANDEE researchers participated in this workshop.



*'Prescribing policy change has been a tough part of research project report writing. We, most often, are not bothered about the relative merits of alternative policy suggestions. Nancy made me think of this very important aspect. I think the workshop equipped me (and I am sure many of us) to make more meaningful policy prescriptions which are financially viable, politically attractive and socially acceptable. As a member of a state level environmental impact assessment authority and a working group member in committee on environment for XII plan, the lessons are of immediate practical relevance for me. Thank you SANDEE and NANCY. I wish to specially acknowledge the moral support that I received from Nancy and others regarding a legal action I am facing for my research on pesticides.'*

- P. Indira Devi, induanant@gmail.com

*'The real life examples cited by Prof. Nancy Olewiler encouraged the participants to consider the policy dimension of their studies more seriously.. It made the participants understand two important aspects of policy studies: policy perspective is an important dimension of a research, and deriving policy recommendations without focusing on implementation complexities cannot contribute much.'*

- Ziaul Haider, haidermz@yahoo.com

## Announcements

- The INSEE-SANDEE Ph.D. scholars' workshop, took place following the biennial INSEE meetings in Hyderabad. This post-conference one day workshop for PhD scholars working in the area of Ecology & Economics was held on 23rd October, 2011. The resource persons for the workshop were Jagdish Krishnaswamy, Suri Sehgal, A.K. Enamul Haque. Nilanjan Ghosh and Pranab Mukhopadhyay coordinated the Workshop.
- Call for Papers for 12th Biennial Conference for International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE), to be held between 29 May - 1 June, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The theme is - Ecological economics and rio +20 contributions and challenges for a green economy. For more information visit: <http://www.ecoeco.org/content/2011/06/2012-isee-conference-call-for-papers/>
- An expert group on Greening India's National Accounts has been set up by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Sir Partha Dasgupta of Cambridge University. SANDEEites who are part of the expert group include Kanchan Chopra, Haripriya Gundimeda, E. Somanathan and Priya Shyamsundar.
- SANDEE tries to be carbon neutral. SANDEEites from 6 different countries planted 100 native Thai trees with PATT on 7 May. More information is available on -



<http://www.pattfoundation.org/news/?p=511>. This was an effort to make the trip to Bangkok for SANDEE's annual environmental and natural resource economics course carbon neutral.

Call for Research Concept Notes, Economics of Natural Resource Use and Environmental Change, Deadline 7 November 2011. For details visit - [http://sandeeonline.com/newsevents\\_disp.php?nid=47](http://sandeeonline.com/newsevents_disp.php?nid=47)

## Opportunities

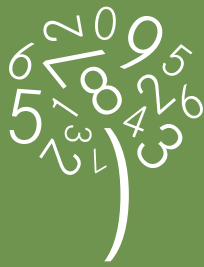
- Faculty positions at the IEG in Environment and development, for details visit: <http://www.iegindia.org/>
- Postdoctoral Position with the International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) network (for further details contact Joan Wolf at [ifri@umich.edu](mailto:ifri@umich.edu))
- International Climate Protection Fellowships at [www.humboldt-foundation.de/ICF](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/ICF)
- Yale World Fellows Program plans to build an extraordinary cohort of Fellows interested in preparing for greater roles of leadership. More information is available on online application ([www.yale.edu/worldfellows/application\\_apply.html](http://www.yale.edu/worldfellows/application_apply.html)). The deadline for applications is December 9, 2011.
- FEEM, a leading research institute on sustainable development, encourages applications for a Post Doc research position. The successful candidate will work within the Innovation for Climate Change mitigation: a study of energy R&D, its uncertain effectiveness and Spillovers - ICARUS project ([www.icarus-project.org/](http://www.icarus-project.org/)).
- FEEM, is also looking to recruit a motivated and talented researcher for a modeling position in the area of Land Use, Forestry and Agriculture Economics ([www.feem.it](http://www.feem.it)).

## Saying Good Bye to Krisha

Our wonderful program associate Krisha Shrestha has left us to move on to another position within ICIMOD. We will miss Krisha, her diligence and quiet presence. We wish her all the best in her new role and we are glad that we can still rely on her since she is working within the same campus. We would also like to welcome Bhawana Syangden, our new colleague who will work closely with our research grantees.

The SANDEE Secretariat





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