

Programme

The Access Initiative is a global coalition of civil society organizations collaborating to promote national implementation of commitments to access information, participation, and justice in decision making that affects the environment. For more details on The Access Initiative, please visit: www.accessinitiative.org

Access to Information: is defined as the ability of citizens to obtain environmental information in the possession of public authorities. "Environmental information" includes information about air and water quality, for example, and information about whether any hazardous chemicals are stored at a nearby factory.

Access to Participation: is defined as the opportunity for citizens to provide informed, timely and meaningful input and influence decisions on general policies, strategies and plans at various levels and on individual projects that have environmental impacts. Individuals may, for example, engage in electoral processes, testify at hearings and meetings, serve on advisory committees, have direct contact with public officials, express views and opinions through the media, or engage in some form of protest action.

Access to Justice: is defined as the ability of citizens to turn to impartial arbiters to resolve disputes over access to information and participation in decisions that affect the environment. Such impartial arbiters include mediators, administrative courts, and formal courts of law, among others.

Principles

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- 1:30 pm - Registration
- 2:00 pm - Welcome
- 2:10 pm - *Relevance of The Access Initiative in India*
Shri Leo Saldanha, Coordinator,
Environment Support Group
- 2:20 pm - *The Access Initiative – International Experience and Development of Indicators*
Smt. Nathalie Eddy, Associate, Access Initiative,
Institutions and Governance Program,
World Resources Institute
- 2:40 pm - **Theme Presentation**
Deepening Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making in India
Shri. L. C. Jain, Former Member of Planning
Commission of India, Ramon Magsaysay Awardee
and Vice Chairman of the World Commission on Dams
- 3:05 pm - **Release of CD and Inaugural Address**
Consequences of Liberalisation to Environmental Governance in India
Shri. P. G. R. Sindhia, Minister for Industries
and Infrastructure, Govt. of Karnataka
- 3:30 pm - Q & A with the minister followed by tea
- 4:00 pm - **Panel Discussion**
Making The Access Initiative Work in India:
Moderator: Shri. Jai Sen, Independent Researcher
and Editor of "World Social Forum: Challenging Empires"

Panellists: Shri. L. C. Jain; Shri. Shanth Kumar,
Editor, Deccan Herald; Shri N. Bhoomananda
Manay, Chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control
Board; Representative of Dept. of Forests, Ecology
and Environment, Govt. of Karnataka;
Representative of Confederation of Indian Industry;
TAI India Coalition Representative.
5. 30 pm - **Summary and Closing Remarks**
Shri. Souparna Lahiri, Coordinator, Delhi Forum
- 5.45 pm - **Vote of Thanks**

“Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.”

Principle 10 of Agenda 21: RIO DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT 1992

RSVP



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On behalf of The Access Initiative
– India Coalition, we cordially invite you
to the launch of

The Access Initiative

*a global civil society coalition promoting
Access to Information, Participation and
Justice for the Environment*

Tuesday 2nd November 2004
1.30 pm to 6.00 pm

Venue: NGO Hall (Behind Karnataka
Secretariat Club), Cubbon Park
Bangalore

A graphic illustration at the bottom of the page shows a group of stylized human silhouettes in various shades of blue and green, representing a diverse group of people. The silhouettes are arranged in a loose, overlapping cluster.

The Access Initiative