

AUROVILLE

A CITY FOR TRANSFORMATION

AUROVILLE GUJARAT EVENT 2012

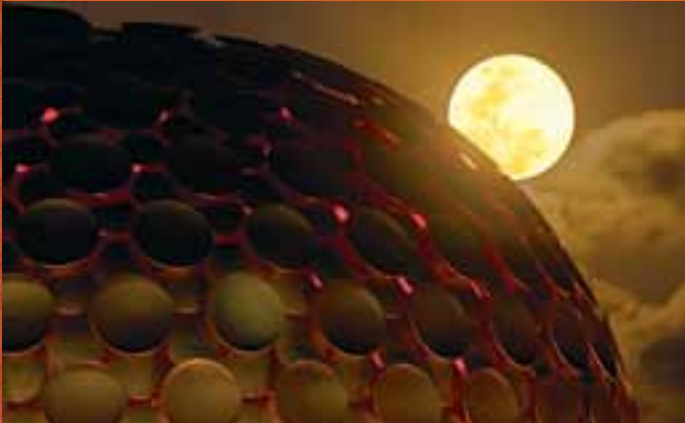


Under the Patronage of B.V. DOSHI and MALLIKA SARABHAI

Date: 14th Feb 2012, Tuesday; 3:00pm - 8:00pm
Venue: AMA, Management Association Ahmedabad
Opp. IIMA - Vastrapur, Ahmedabad

“Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity.”

Auroville was founded in 1968 on the teachings of India's great spiritual master, Sri Aurobindo, by his spiritual companion, the Mother. It is located in South India in the state of Tamil Nadu. To present Auroville to the wider Indian public and also to give the opportunity for cultural experience to its members Auroville International has started organizing meetings in different Indian states. The Auroville - Gujarat Event is the second in this attempt, the first one having been held at Bhubaneswar, Orissa in 2010. The colorful state of Gujarat, bountiful of a rich cultural heritage exhibits a diverse range of religions and traditions since historic times. This is also the land of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Nation. Sri Aurobindo had one of his first spiritual experiences while in Vadodara from 1893-1906.



PROGRAMME

3.00 – 3.20 p.m

WELCOME CEREMONY

Welcome Address

About the Conference

Lighting the Ceremonial Lamp

Recitation of Shlokas by Nadaka and Gopika from Auroville

Traditional ragas, sacred chants and mantras with Indian guitar passages.

3.20 – 3.30 p.m

ADDRESS BY PATRONS

3.30 – 4.00 p.m

ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING IN AUROVILLE

Mona Doctor-Pingel

Auroville offers a unique opportunity for architects and planners. It is conceived as an urban experiment to undertake the work of the “evolution of consciousness”, in a society that would concretely experiment with the challenges of economy, sociology, environment and culture while seeking spiritual life.

This aim allows for a multitude of experiments and researches to take place at the level of planning and building the city. The challenge lies in assimilating the diverse material ground realities with the high spiritual aim of achieving human unity while building the city – an inverse tower of Babel if you will. Auroville thrives on its diversity and the non-hierarchical structure makes it seem chaotic to the onlooker. Every Aurovilian has a right and a keen interest in the actual making of the City – the kind of life style it envisages and promotes as well as what it can offer to the world through its freedom to evolve its own parameters and processes for planning. Socio-economic concerns, bio-regional growth, ever-evolving sustainable solutions to building a new city with no monetary gains, creates an ever changing palimpsest at the human level. The presentation will cover the past achievements and present realities and briefly touch on the future expectations.

4.00 – 4.30 p.m

ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Manoj Pavitran

There are many layers to a social grouping, from the most outer physical material organization to the most subtle and spiritual nucleus. When we refer to organization and governance the general tendency is to focus on decision making structures and processes but these are only changing outer layers of the collective life of a social grouping. Auroville is based on the fundamental realization that our political, economic or social organizations are only secondary outer expressions of the deeper underlying consciousness that animates people. Therefore the transformation of the underlying consciousness takes the centre stage in the processes of organization and governance of Auroville, making it a rapidly evolving social organism always on the edge of creative chaos.

4.30 – 4.50 p.m

SOCIAL MEDIA

Explosion of information technology has given unprecedented power into the hands of people who were otherwise media consumers rather than the creators of media content. This is radically changing not only the media landscape of every social grouping but also its socio-political processes. Auroville has taken a bold step in empowering its people as creators of its media content and as active participants in its socio political process through online tools. This empowerment of people through open un-edited social media also brings forth a unique dynamism that exposes the shadow side of human nature and thus gives an opportunity to face and transform it.



4.50 – 5.10 p.m

TEA BREAK

5.10 – 5.20 p.m

RECITATION OF SHLOKAS

5.20 – 5.50 p.m

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE, ECOLOGY

Joss Brooks

The presentation traces the greening of Auroville from the days when it was a dusty treeless plateau to the present lush forest garden. Highlighting the work of Auroville in villages of Tamil Nadu it shows how the Auroville green work has spread out into the surrounding bioregion and how the experiences and technology are helping to solve some of the problems of rural India. The Auroville experimental work has been taken further afield into the center of Chennai where a 60 acre degraded wetland has been transformed into an environmental education center for the city.



5.50 – 6.20 p.m

BIOREGION AND OUTREACH SCHOOLS

Kathy Walkling

Auroville: A city that cares for its bioregion

The normal trend of urban development is to drain the resources of the bioregion, but in the past 40 years, Auroville has sought to reverse this trend by disseminating knowledge and practices that foster sustainable growth and participatory rural development. Auroville has over 30 autonomous rural outreach units that work in the bioregion and beyond engaging in the following activities:

Health

Education

Regeneration of the environment

Socio-economic empowerment

Participatory rural development

Cultural preservation

This presentation will highlight a few of these activities to offer an insight into the scope of outreach work and the underlying inspiration.



6.20 – 6.50 p.m

WHAT EDUCATION FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE?

Jean-Yves Lung

Our world is going to confront formidable challenges in the next decades, for which the present existing educational programs offer no preparation. Our planet and its humanity are in a situation of acute disorder created by experts loaded with academic titles of all kinds. We need something else than these uninspired instrumental skills, which are locally competent but visionless and globally incompetent.

What we shall need more and more are men and women capable of thinking creatively, intuitively and synthetically, of finding in their inner self the soul-force that can alone confront the needs of the hour, and of inventing a new thought, a new life, a new world, if humanity is to survive.

The mission of education can no longer be to produce ready-made citizens for a system that cannot find solutions for the problems it has created; it is to help the emergence of men and women able to consciously build themselves on a truer basis, while building a new world in which they chose to live together without exclusion, around common aspiration and common aims. It is for this global possibility that Auroville has been created, as a necessary utopia in the future of man and a call to all humanity to a higher and truer life.



6.50 – 7.20 p.m

TOWARDS A NON-MONETARY & FRATERNAL ECONOMY

Anandi Breton

The world today is suffering the consequences of the practice of what was described by Sri Aurobindo as 'Economic Barbarism': the pursuit of vital success, satisfaction, productiveness, accumulation, possession, enjoyment, comfort, and convenience for their own sake. The economic systems in crisis today are based on individual selfishness and competition. The human relations and the relations with the environment have been monetized and while doing so, the earth has been damaged beyond repair, and we have lost the fraternity among human beings. Auroville aspires to be "a place where money would no longer be the sovereign lord; where individual worth would have a far greater importance than that of material wealth. A place where work would not be a way to earn one's living but a way to express oneself and to develop one's capacities and possibilities while being of service to the community as a whole, which, for its own part, would provide for each individual's subsistence". The main foundations for building our ideal economy are the absence of private property and of internal exchange of money, and the offering of work as a service. Auroville has a long history of experiments, lessons and practices to share. We hope we may one day be able to present to the world a practical and effective way to emerge from the present chaos, into a new life that is more harmonious and true. The presentation will summarize the principles of the Auroville Economy, the experiences over these 43 years as well as the concrete details of the present situation, its challenges and plans for the future.



7.20 – 7.40 p.m

THE WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF AUROVILLE INTERNATIONAL (AVI)

Friederike Muehlhans

“Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony...” These words by The Mother have inspired thousands of people around the globe. To connect these people with Auroville and organize international support for the Auroville township the worldwide network Auroville International (AVI) has been established in 1983. There are presently 26 AVI centers and liaison offices on all five continents engaged in a lively exchange with the Auroville community.

7.40 – 8.00 p.m

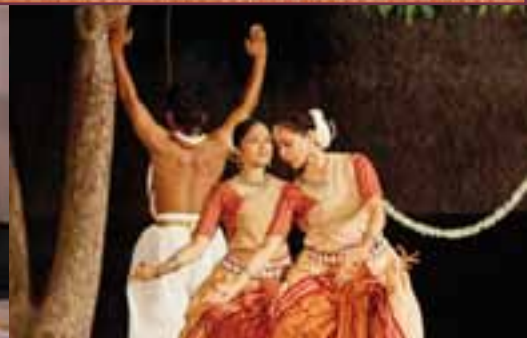
CONCLUDING REMARKS

Julian Lines

Member of Auroville International Board and International Advisory Council

VOTE OF THANKS

RECITATION OF SHLOKAS





Mona Doctor-Pingel, born in Ahmedabad, studied architecture at CEPT, Ahmedabad and later obtained a master's degree in Appropriate Technology from Flensburg University, Germany. Since 1995 she has her independent architecture Studio Naqshbandi at Auroville from where she participates in the building of the city through her projects of residences, schools and workshops which incorporate principles of sustainability and building biology. Currently her work as a member of the Planning Team at L'Avenir d'Auroville, which is the official body for guiding the development and planning of Auroville, opens up new challenges, requiring time and patience. mona@auroville.org.in



Manoj Pavitran, born and brought up in Kerala, is an engineer and product designer from the National Institute of Design, NID, Ahmedabad. He joined Auroville in 1995 and is currently involved in the following:

1. Auronet - www.auroville.org.in - development of software tools for the Auroville community's intranet portal
2. Telos - www.telos.org.in - a project focusing on the evolution of consciousness and its practical applications based on integral yoga.
3. Sopanam - www.sopanam.org - making films based on Sri Aurobindo's vision. manoj@auroville.org.in



Joss Brooks, grew up in the Australian State of Tasmania. He came to Auroville in 1970 to participate in the early pioneering work of the newborn community. In 1973 he established the community of Pitchandikulam dedicated to restoring the eroded 60 acres of Auroville Green Belt land to its former green cover. Now it is a vibrant forest with more than 600 species of plants, many with medicinal value. Associating with the Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) he developed the medicinal plant conservation Park at Pitchandikulam. joss@auroville.org.in



Kathy Walkling, joined Auroville in 1997. Kathy is particularly inspired by Auroville's ideal of human unity which led her to engage in rural outreach work. In 2006, she started the Thamarai learning and community centre, which caters particularly to children and women, in the neighboring village of Edayanchavady. In 2008, she joined as an executive of Auroville Village Action Group where she is actively engaged in participatory rural development work and creation of social enterprises for women. kathy@auroville.org.in



Jean-Yves Lung, after studying Political Sciences at the University of Bordeaux, he worked as a consultant in business creation for several years in France. He came to live in Auroville in 1993 where he has been working as a researcher in Education and Economy. He is also a teacher in World History, French Literature and Sanskrit. He is a member of the SAIER board (Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research). jeanyves@auroville.org.in



Anandi Breton, originally from Spain she settled in Auroville in 1995. From 2007 until now she is responsible for the Management of "Pour Tous", a distribution center based on an alternative non-monetary economic system, which provides for the basic elementary and household necessities of the residents of Auroville. She has been member of the Budget Coordination Committee of Auroville, which prepares the annual budgets. She has been involved in the coordination of the Board of Services, which comprises all the services and encourages the development of a service economy in Auroville. anandi@auroville.org.in



Friederike Muehlhans, lives in Hamburg/Germany. She is a board member of AVI Germany and Secretary of the Auroville International Association. Being a disciple of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother since the early 1980s she visits Auroville for several weeks each year. To help secure the international connections and support for Auroville is one of her main focuses, as well as the growing involvement of international volunteers and young adults in the Auroville experiment. friederike@auroville.de

“The indwelling deity who presides over the destiny of the race has raised in man’s mind and heart the idea, the hope of a new order which will replace the old unsatisfactory order and substitute for it conditions of the world’s life which will in the end have a reasonable chance of establishing permanent peace and well-being. This would for the first time turn into an assured fact the ideal of human unity.”

Sri Aurobindo

Earth needs a place where men can live away from all national rivalries, social conventions, self-contradictory moralities and contending religions; a place where human beings, freed from all slavery to the past, can devote themselves wholly to the discovery and practice of the Divine Consciousness that is seeking to manifest. Auroville wants to be this place and offers itself to all who aspire to live the truth of tomorrow.

The Mother



Auroville Charter

1. Auroville belongs to nobody in particular.
Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole.
But to live in Auroville, one must be a willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.
2. Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages.
3. Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within, Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisations.
4. Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity.

for more information look up www.auroville.org/index/avigujarat.htm