



INSEE

Indian Society for Ecological Economics

INVITATION TO A SPECIAL LECTURE

ECONOMICS OF BUILDING RESILIENCE TO FLOODING: A CASE OF DHAKA CITY

NABARD Chair, Institute of Economic Growth and The Indian Society for Ecological Economics cordially invite you to a special lecture.

Date: Wednesday 12th December 2018

Time: 3.00 PM

Venue: V. K. R. V. Rao Room, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi

Topic: The Economics of Building Resilience to Flooding: A Case of Dhaka City

Chair: Professor Kanchan Chopra, Former Director, Institute of Economic Growth and Former President, Indian Society for Ecological Economics

Speaker: Dr Susmita Dasgupta, Lead Environmental Economist, World Bank, Washington DC

Please join us for High Tea after the talk

Professor Manoj Panda
Director, Institute of Economic Growth

Professor K.N. Ninan
President, Indian Society for Ecological Economics

Biography of the speaker



Susmita Dasgupta is a Lead Environmental Economist in the Environment and Energy Team of the Development Research Group. Her research area is environmental management in developing countries. Dr. Dasgupta has worked on a wide range of issues including health hazards of pollution, poverty/environment nexus, setting priorities in pollution control, deforestation, biodiversity loss, impacts of climate change on coastal zones, adaptation to climate change, cost effective regulations, monitoring and enforcement of regulations. She has conducted her research in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Iran, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mexico, Tunisia, Vietnam and Yemen, and has published numerous books and papers. Before joining the Bank in 1992 she taught at the American University and at the State University of New York at Albany. She holds a B.Sc from Presidency College, India; an M. Sc. from University of Calcutta, India; an M. Sc. and a Ph. D. in economics from the State University of New York at Albany.

Abstract

Dhaka is one of the most populated and fastest growing megacities in the world. The Greater Dhaka Area has a population of over 18 million. It is also one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with a density of 23,234 people per square kilometer within a total area of 300 square kilometers. Dhaka experiences intense floods every year during the monsoon which brings the city to a standstill and with those in the city's slums and shanties being most affected. The climatic outlook for South Asia signals heavier and more erratic rainfall during the monsoon season which will further aggravate Dhaka's flood vulnerability.

This talk presents the results of a multiyear and multidisciplinary research project by a team of hydrologists, economists and regional planners for building local resilience to flood-disaster risk. Inter alia, it assesses Dhaka's preparedness for urban flood emergencies, estimates the economic damage from extreme rainfall events by 2050 and a reduction in these damages from appropriate policy interventions. The implications of this study for similarly placed developing country megacities are also highlighted.