

## Press Note:

### Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 3

**Event:** A discussion on ‘Meltdown: From the highlands of Tibet to the Deltas’ by Micheal Buckley, in conversation with Sutanu Ghosh and Sreeradha Dutta

**Kolkata, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2015:** Apeejay Literary Kolkata Festival 2015 hosted a discussion on ‘Meltdown: From the highlands of Tibet to the Deltas’ by **Michael Buckley**, environmentalist, travel-writer and documentary filmmaker in conversation with **Sutanu Ghosh**, environmental consultant and **Dr. Sreeradha Dutta**, Director, MAKAIAS.

The discussion touched upon the subject of the damage caused to India and China’s fragile ecosystems from extensive development projects. It further threw light on the hazards of modern day industrialization which has been severely detrimental for the environment and its ecosystems. This was followed by an audio visual presentation on the subject.

#### About the Panelists:

**Michael Buckley:** Michael Buckley is an award winning Canadian journalist who authored the first ever guidebook to Tibet. A nomad at heart, Michael Buckley thrives on adventuring in remote corners of the globe. He is the author of a dozen books, including Meltdown in Tibet (a shocking environmental expose), Eccentric Explorers (winner of Biography category, National Indie Excellence Awards, USA, 2009), Shangri-La: a Guide to the Himalayan Dream and Tibet: the Bradt Travel Guide. Buckley takes his own photographs to illustrate books and stories. He is filmmaker for three short documentaries about Tibet that tackle serious environmental issues.

**Sutanu Ghosh:** Sutanu Ghosh is Managing Director of GBPL, a leading Multidisciplinary Consultant. His area of specialization includes Urban Environment Management, Infrastructure System Planning, Environmental Impact Assessment, Water Quality Management, Industrial Waste and Waste Water Treatment and Distribution, Air Pollution, Environmental Auditing etc. He is the Founder and Convenor of the Kolkata Chapter of the Indian Environmental Association and Secretary of the Kolkata Chapter of the Consulting Engineers Association of India. He is currently the Senior Vice-President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and has been Chairman of the Environment Sub-Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry for a span of seven years. He has many publications to his credit and has also presented several technical papers in National and International Conferences/Workshops.

**Sreeradha Dutta:** Dr Sreeradha Datta is presently Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata. She has been a Fellow with Institute for Defence Studies and

Analyses, New Delhi from 1998 till 2011. Specializing in security studies in South Asia, Dr. Datta has a Ph.D from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi). Her publications include, Caretaking Democracy: Political Process in Bangladesh 2006-08, Bangladesh: A Fragile Democracy, The Northeast Complexities and its Determinants, Changing Dynamics in Southeast Asia, besides several articles for journals, edited volumes, newspapers and academic websites.

### **About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF):**

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) is Kolkata's pioneering literary festival. Instituted in 2010 by the Apeejay Surrendra Group and its heritage Oxford Bookstore on Park Street, AKLF grows out of the bookstore's year round involvement with books, writers & publishers. In the six years since Kolkata saw her first literary festival in AKLF, literary festivals have mushroomed across the country, but AKLF stands apart with its unique identity as the only one with a now 94-year-old bookstore as its nucleus. AKLF offers an atmosphere of warm, welcoming intimacy, favors depth over size, and includes a variety of subjects from history to the environment. AKLF also celebrates Kolkata's magnificent public monuments and heritage sites as settings for Festival events and eminent literati and cultural stalwarts from across India and overseas join the festival scheduled every year in the second week of January. In 2015 AKLF explores literature as part of our tangible and intangible heritage, a theme that runs through several sessions of the festival. AKLF focusses on younger writers, newer voices and fresh audiences in its ongoing attempt to build an audience for books and reading. Prominent personalities attending will be Hanif Kureishi, Naseeruddin Shah, Charles Allen, John Elliott, Mohammed Hanif, Leila Seth, Michael Buckley, Upamanyu Chatterjee, David Davidar, Shekhar Gupta, Shashi Tharoor, Asish Nandy, Ramachandra Guha, Kishwar Desai, Nabaneeta Dev Sen amongst several others. There are some firsts in AKLF 2015. A heritage literary walk, a literary 'adda', a Young Adult litfest for high school students, a bloggers' meet, a children's bookfest crammed with activities, even a standup comic for the college crowd and a leadership training session for young teens on importance of character, karma and individual social responsibility™. Add to that our signature heritage site evenings at The Indian Museum, National Library, Victoria Memorial, Lascar War Memorial, indepth discussions, top of the line authors, thinkers and performers, and you have a literary experience not to be missed. And all absolutely free for Kolkata and her culture-loving audience.

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