



# E-Newsletter



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St Pius X College, Aarey Road, Goregaon (E), Mumbai 400 063  
Phone: +91-22-29270953 | +91-22-29270523    Email: ccdfabc@gmail.com | bombaydioceseenvironmentoffice@gmail.com    Website: mumbaiaoe.webs.com



## Eco-Parishes Global Network: First Step!

Dear Eco-Parish leaders,

Greetings from the Global Catholic Climate Movement!

Our goal is to support parishes around the world to reduce their carbon footprint and transition to renewable energy. In parallel, GCCM is preparing to launch a "Catholic Church Global Sustainability Report" next year (details to be announced), inviting all Catholic institutions to track and report their carbon emissions and set goals to improve their sustainability.

**So you are invited to take a first step and fill out this [Eco-Parish program survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWAIRzzEK5BJBplri_80r-swE47qT07OXbTUzJl8F5SoCD-Q/viewform), [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWAIRzzEK5BJBplri\\_80r-swE47qT07OXbTUzJl8F5SoCD-Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWAIRzzEK5BJBplri_80r-swE47qT07OXbTUzJl8F5SoCD-Q/viewform) to help us understand the energy needs of your parish and assess how to best support you (and other parishes) in this journey.**

Thanks a lot for your time and we look forward to reading your survey responses, Tomas, on behalf of the GCCM team

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## India ratifies historic Paris climate deal at UN

United Nations, Oct 2, 2016, (PTI)



**India, the world's third largest carbon emitter, today ratified the landmark Paris climate deal, giving a major boost to the deal which appeared tantalisingly close to enter into force by the end of this year.**

Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin handed over the Instrument of Ratification signed by President Pranab Mukherjee, to Santiago Villalpando, the Head of the Treaties Division at the UN, at a special ceremony here attended by top UN

officials and senior diplomats to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 147th birth anniversary.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon lauded India's "climate leadership", saying India's ratification of the Paris Climate Change agreement moves the world an "important step closer" toward achieving the goal of entering the landmark deal into force this year.

In his message for the International Day of Non-violence, marked every year on Gandhi's birth anniversary, Ban said there is no better way to commemorate Gandhi and his legacy for people and the planet than with India submitting its instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

He called on all countries to complete their domestic processes for ratification and also strive in all activities to achieve progress through non-violence.

The UN chief said the commitment to sustainable living that Gandhi emphasised on is reflected in a "momentous way" as India is depositing its instrument of ratification to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

"India keeps its promise. On Gandhiji's birth anniversary, we deposit the instrument of ratification of Paris Agreement on climate change," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup tweeted.

With India stressing on the importance of climate justice, its goal will be that "climate justice ends are also served" once the treaty comes into force, Akbaruddin said.

The ratification by India, which has a population of over 1.2 billion, is expected to give momentum to the implementation of measures at the international level to control global warming by limiting greenhouse gases.

The ratification formalises pledges made by each country, including India, to take actions to curb or lower greenhouse gas emissions from 2020 onwards and try to keep the rise in average global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius and to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius.

India, the world's third biggest carbon emitter after China and the US which are responsible for around 40 per cent of the global carbon emissions, accounts for 4.1 per cent of global emissions.

Last month, the US and China had formally joined the Paris agreement, which was adopted by 195 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change last December in Paris.

The pact will come into force after it has been ratified by at least 55 countries which account for 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. With India's move, a total of 62 countries accounting for almost 52 per cent of emissions have now ratified the accord.

Adopted in Paris by the 195 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at a conference known as COP21 last December, the Agreement was signed in New York on 22 April this year by 175 countries.

A total of 191 countries have signed the Paris Agreement so far.

However, India has decided to ratify the agreement "in the context" of its national laws, availability of means of implementation and "its own assessment" of global commitment to combating climate change.

"While agreeing to ratify the Paris agreement, the Cabinet has also decided that India should declare that it will treat its national laws, its development agenda, availability of means of implementation, its assessment of global commitment to combating climate change, and predictable and affordable access to cleaner source of energy as the context in which the agreement is being ratified," an official statement had earlier said.

The Union Cabinet had given its nod to ratifying the Paris climate deal on September 28, days after Modi announced this at BJP's National Council meet in Kozhikode. The move is expected to give momentum to the implementation of measures at the international level to control global warming.

China and the US jointly ratifying the Paris climate change deal has given hope that the landmark accord may come into effect by the end of this year.

Akbaruddin had on Friday said that India had played a "key role" in the negotiations and finalisation of the Paris agreement as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a "personal commitment" to the climate deal.

He had said that India's effort was to be amongst those nations who give a push to the entry into force.

Ban in his message said: "I warmly congratulate India for its climate leadership, and for building on the strong momentum we see from all corners of the globe for the agreement to enter into force as quickly as possible this year. India's ratification of the agreement moves the world an important step closer toward achieving that goal."

Yesterday, Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave told reporters in New Delhi that "this (decision) was taken after a lot of deliberations and with a view to give the world a message... India is fast becoming a super power".

The UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development David Nabarro had last week said the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change is closer to entering into force, after India submits its ratification.

"We are tantalisingly close to the Paris Agreement entering into force," he added.

Nabarro had expressed confidence that the Agreement will enter into force at some point this year, highlighting that at least 14 other countries, representing at least 12 per cent of global emissions, have committed to ratifying the pact.

"There's a kind of race going on now, for countries to come in there and make sure that they are part of the ratification community - to show that they are part of wanting to get the Agreement into force," he said.

"We think we're going to have the speediest entry into force for any agreement that requires such a large number of ratifications. And that's why I've got a smile, because it's really good news," he added.

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# The Global Impact of Air Conditioning: Big & Getting Bigger

Lucas Davis Tuesday 26 July 2016

More ACs means more refrigerants that are potent greenhouse gases



Higher-priced electricity would slow the adoption and use of air conditioning. Credit: Arvind Grover / Flickr

With a heat wave pushing the heat index well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) through much of the US, most of us are happy to stay indoors and crank the air conditioning. And if you think it's hot here, try 124°F in India. Globally, 2016 is poised to be another record-breaking year for average temperatures. This means more air conditioning. Much more.

In a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS), Paul Gertler and I examine the enormous global potential for air conditioning. As incomes rise around the world and global temperatures go up, people are buying air conditioners at alarming rates. In China, for example, sales of air conditioners have nearly doubled over the last five years. Each year now more than 60 million air conditioners are sold in China, more than eight times as many as are sold annually in the United States.

This is mostly great news. People are getting richer, and air conditioning brings great relief on hot and humid days. However, air conditioning also uses vast amounts of electricity. A typical room air conditioner, for example, uses 10-20 times as much electricity as a ceiling fan.

Meeting this increased demand for electricity will require billions of dollars of infrastructure investments and result in billions of tons of increased carbon dioxide emissions. A new study by Lawrence Berkeley Lab also points out that more ACs means more refrigerants that are potent greenhouse gases.

## **Evidence from Mexico**

To get an idea of the global impact of higher air conditioner use, we looked at Mexico, a country with highly varied climate ranging from hot and humid tropical to arid deserts to high-altitude plateaus. Average year-round temperatures range from the high 50's Fahrenheit in the high-altitude plateaus to low 80's in the Yucatan Peninsula.

Patterns of air conditioning vary widely across Mexico. There is little air conditioning in cool areas of the country; even at high-income levels, penetration never exceeds 10 percent. In hot areas, however, the pattern is very different. Penetration begins low but then increases steadily with income to reach near 80 percent.

As Mexicans grow richer, many more will buy air conditioners. And as average temperatures increase, the reach of air conditioning will be extended, even to the relatively cool areas where saturation is currently low. Our model predicts that near 100 percent of households will have air conditioning in all the warm areas within just a few decades.

## **Global air conditioning potential**

We expect this pattern to hold not only in Mexico but around the world. When you look around, there are a lot of hot places where people are getting richer. In our study, we ranked countries in terms of air conditioning potential. We defined potential as the product of population and cooling degree days (CDDs), a unit used to determine the demand for energy to cool buildings.

Number one on the list is India. India is massive, with four times the population of the United States. It is also extremely hot. Annual CDDs are 3,120, compared to only 882 in the United States. That is, India's total air conditioning potential is more than 12 times that of the United States.

Mexico ranks #12 but has fewer than half the CDDs experienced by India, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. These countries currently have lower GDP per capita, but our research predicts rapid air conditioning adoption in these countries over the next couple of decades.

## **Carbon cliff?**

What does all this mean for carbon dioxide emissions? It depends on the pace of technological change, both for cooling equipment and for electricity generation.

Today's air conditioners use only about half as much electricity now as in 1990, and continued advances in energy efficiency could reduce the energy consumption impacts substantially. Likewise, continued development of solar, wind and other low-carbon sources of electricity generation could mitigate the increases in carbon dioxide emissions.

As an economist, my view is that the best way to get there is a carbon tax. Higher-priced electricity would slow the adoption and use of air conditioning, while spurring innovation in energy efficiency. A carbon tax would also give a boost to renewable generating technologies, increasing their deployment. Low- and middle-income countries are anticipating large increases in energy demand over the next several decades, and carbon legislation along the lines of carbon tax is the most efficient approach to meeting that demand with low-carbon technologies.

Pricing carbon would also lead to broader behavioral changes. Our homes and businesses tend to be very energy-intensive. In part, this reflects the fact that carbon emissions are free. Energy would be more expensive with a price on carbon, so more attention would go to building design. Natural shade, orientation, building materials, insulation and other considerations can have a big impact on energy consumption. We need efficient markets if we are going to stay cool without heating up the planet.

*Lucas Davis, Associate Professor, University of California, Berkeley*

*This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the [original article](#).*

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## **MAHARASHTRA STATE LEVEL CONFERENCE**

**On LAUDATO Si and CHRISTIAN BUSINESS**

November 13, 2016

At Ashakiran, St Pius Campus, Goregaon East, Mumbai-India

A Maharashtra State Level Conference on “LAUDATO Si and the Role of Christian Business” will be held on November 13, 2016 at Ashakiran, St Pius Campus, Goregaon, Mumbai. The conference is organized with an aim bring approximately 80 to 100 Christian Business Persons from Maharashtra to reflect on “LAUDATO Si” an encyclical of Pope Francis on Environment and to understand the best possible way to “Expanding Sustainability Commitments” in context to the extreme climatic changes taking place in the country.

An Inaugural session will mark the official opening of the conference. Cardinal Oswald will visit the Conference in the afternoon to share a word of encouragement with the participants to continue in adopting environmentally sustainable business practices.

The Key note address will be delivered by Bishop Bosco Penha followed by technical inputs by experts which includes: sessions on understanding the science of Climate Change and current trends by Mr. Walter Mendonza, Laudato Si and role of business in promoting environment sustainability by Fr Allwyn and Ms Deepika Singh, followed by a panel of experts delivering expert inputs on: a) Industries/business practices impacting environment/climate change/sustainability and Good business practices by Mr. Nitesh Mehta an expert on Green Chemistry, b) Business: international norms/regulations/ethics by Mr. Mithun Rai, c) Renewable Energy Options: Equitable Sustainable Development by Dr Priyadarshini Karve, CEO of Samuchit Enviro tech Ltd, Pune.

Post lunch we will have another technical session where in a panel of experts (*mostly from among the participants*) will share on their “Good Individual Business Practices”. On the panel are: a) Mr. Vincent Mathias sharing on “Packaging Industry Waste” b) Mr. Vishal Jagodia on Solar Energy Options and c) Mr. Rudolf D’Souza on Rain Water Harvesting.

The Technical sessions are aimed at empowering the participants with information and technical assistance to be efficient ecological stewards in line with the Church Teachings. The event is also providing space for sharing of Individual Good

Business Practices as an opportunity for mutual learning. Finally the conference will conclude with exploring a Way Forward and vision for future collaboration.

This conference is co-organized by CCD-FABC and Christian Business Forum for Climate Change (CBFCC).

Below given is the picture of 18 Christian Business Persons from the Archdiocese of Bombay along with CCD-FABC Staff finalizing details of the conference in one of the consultations held on September 21, 2016 from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm at St Pius College, Goregaon East, Mumbai.



Photo: By Ms. Deepika Singh

**The Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC)** is a voluntary association of Episcopal conferences in Asia, established with the approval of the Holy See. Its purpose is to foster among its members solidarity and co-responsibility for the welfare of Church and society in Asia.

**The Central Secretariat** is the principal service agency and an instrument of coordination within the FABC and with outside offices and agencies. To assist the Central Secretariat are seven Offices each handling a specialized ministry/area of concern. **Climate Change Desk** was established in 2015 to assist FABC in their work of Climate Change. Fr. Raymond O'Toole based in Hong Kong is the *Secretary General* and Fr. Allwyn D'Silva is the *Executive Secretary* of the Climate Change Desk (CCD).

**Christian Business Forum for Climate Change (CBFCC)** is an informal collective of the Christian Business persons committed to reflect, explore, engage and promote ecological responsible business practices. Mr. Albert D'Souza is currently coordinating the Christian Business Forum for Climate Change (CBFCC) for this conference.

For any details related to the conference you may contact Fr. Allwyn D'Silva (CCD-FABC Secretary) Mob: 9820068257 or Deepika Singh (CCD Coordinator) on +91-22-29270523/953 /Mob: 7678041697

**Deepika Singh: (CCD Coordinator)**

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## **Seminar: THE UNIVERSE OF INTEGRAL ECO- EDUCATION**

Dear friends,

You are cordially invited to participate in the seminar “**THE UNIVERSE OF INTEGRAL ECO-EDUCATION**”, on **24<sup>th</sup> November 2016** from 09:00 to 16:00 hours at the Don Bosco campus, Matunga, Mumbai.

This seminar is directed towards Principals, Teachers, Directors of Community Centres and Educationists, and seeks to foster the basic awareness needed to engage the long path of renewal - for participants, students and the greater Mumbai community (please see the attached concept note for details). It is being organised as a collaborative undertaking between the Archdiocesan Office for Environment, GreenLine, Justice and Peace Commission, Institute for Community Organisation Research and the Department of Inter-Religious Studies – St Xavier’s College.

The resource person for the seminar is Barry Rodrigue, along with other speakers.

We request you to kindly register for the seminar, latest by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016, via email to [bombaydioceseenvironmentoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bombaydioceseenvironmentoffice@gmail.com). A fee of Rs 100/- per participant is being charged to cover organisational expenses, inclusive of food and beverages. Cheques may be drawn in favour of ‘Institute for Community Organisation Research’ and sent to the below address:

Institute for Community Organisation Research / Archdiocesan Office for Environment  
Address: St Pius College, Aarey Road, Goregaon (E), Mumbai 400 063  
Telephone: 022-29270953/523  
Email: [icor@icor.org.in](mailto:icor@icor.org.in) | [bombaydioceseenvironmentoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bombaydioceseenvironmentoffice@gmail.com)  
Website: [icor.org.in](http://icor.org.in) | [mumbaiaoe.webs.com](http://mumbaiaoe.webs.com)

### Concept Note

*“We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.” (LS, 202)*

It seems that our issues of social justice and environmental crisis appear only to be increasing. This, in spite of information in all forms of media and evidence in our own daily lives. Why is this and how can the community of principals, teachers and directors of centres in Mumbai respond?

Prior to COP21 (the UN Climate Change conference Nov-Dec 2015) all the leaders of the world’s religious traditions and indigenous peoples issued documents to their communities that we faced a moral challenge. Each document, couched in the



language of their traditions encouraged reflection of our common ground, Earth, her integral family of life (human and non-human) in hopes of inspiring reverence and right action.

Pope Francis issued an encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home* (LS). He named the awareness of our bodily existence within a web of life, “Integral Ecology”. Through this lens, the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth are not two separate issues, they are one. The one issue is our lack of appreciation for the whole (LS 115-122), naming this dysfunctional cosmology ‘anthropocentrism’. Pope Francis states our need for an adequate anthropology (LS 202). An adequate anthropology is named in the opening quote above- ‘an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone’. Humanity, with an adequate self-understanding of being interrelated has an appreciation for the whole (LS 110) with lifestyles whose effects heal our issues. Our need is to foster the understanding of the interrelated unity of Mystery, Universe and human and non-human, and accordingly to establish right relationships. (LS 66: 216-221, GC 35: D, no.18).

An emerging movement worldwide (Big History, Universe Story, Cosmic Education, Universal History etc.) has identified our sense of separateness (not integral) as the root cause of our issues of spiritual alienation, social injustices and ecological unsustainability. We have no understanding of our common origin. Unfortunately, our academic systems worldwide are based on a sense of separation. Our institutions are increasingly divided with various silos, academic or otherwise. Words alone cannot change hearts and minds or life practice.

To heal this sense of separation, to foster an integral mindset, in ourselves and our students, this seminar will engage a fourfold wisdom conversation, proposed by geologist Thomas Berry, namely: science, religion, women and indigenous peoples. Using a radical (return to the roots) methodology, we will expose our common origin and mutual belonging by exploring the wisdom of science, our 13.7 Billion Year integral journey, our Big History, our *fundamental context*- our Mystery. We will combine all the academic silos (physics, chemistry, geology, life, anthropology, religion, sociology) into one Big History.

The aim of the seminar is not to amass more information (LS 19) but through the integration of different habits (LS 107) to foster right relationships. Our goal is a change of heart, a metanoia and involves two forms – the personal (LS 217) and the communal (LS 219). We will introduce various experiences and reflective practices to deepen our awareness of mutual belonging. This collective learning of *experiences* in movement, meditation and *reflective* storytelling will foster the basic awareness we need to engage the long path of renewal...of ourselves, our students and the greater Mumbai community.

By fully engaging with our Big History, our fundamental context of common origins and mutual belonging, with the experiences of reverence, awe wonder and compassion, we will stand in our embodied full potential to ‘be the change’ as integral co-creators while in our classrooms, homes, work and recreation.

## Learning/ Evaluation

- We will understand and express a basic integral understanding of the unfolding of the universe, Earth, and humans, drawing upon both science and the humanities.
- We will experience our bodies differently- a sense of embeddedness and orientation within the evolutionary development of the universe, feeling and being able to express: 'we belong here, we have always belonged here'.
- We will be able to integrate the understanding with other areas of knowledge and life experiences, understanding the linked issues of ecological and human destruction.
- We will develop a sense of how to apply this mindset and practices in the classroom and other educational settings.
- We will be amongst a global teaching community (teachers, students, families) grounded in Big History with integral understanding.
- We will be empowered to share these principles in daily life with others through various professional networks.



We look forward to your valuable comments!