

National Conference on Museum Access:
“MUSEUMS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES”

Venue: NMNH/ MoEFCC, New Delhi
Dates: 16-17 December 2015



Government of India
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)
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ABSTRACT:

The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), an institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Government of India), has been a pioneer institution for the service of Persons with Disabilities under its thrust area, Museum Access Studies (MAS). It is the first Museum in Asia to develop Braille publications. It has established disable-friendly accessible infrastructural facilities in all its Regional Museums of Natural History (RMNH) located in Mysore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Sawai Madhopur. It has also organised a large number of programmes in Museum Access as part of its mandate to make its facilities/ resources accessible to all including Persons with Disabilities. In continuation of this, the NMNH will be organising a National Conference on Museum Access titled **Museums and Persons with Disabilities** during 16-17 December 2015 in New Delhi.



CONCEPT NOTE

In a democratic country like India where majority of Museums are funded by Government, it is expected that these Museums cater to the needs of a large number of people. However, a majority of Museums in India do not give priority to the concerns of a larger number of the public. If this situation is the general trend, it will be worse for the minute category of public belonging to Persons with disabilities.

Even though the situation may seem alarming, there are beacons of hope. The NMNH is an example. Even though the rented building of the NMNH in New Delhi is not an ideal building for access to persons with disabilities, it has been undertaking a larger number of programmes specifically targeted at them. It has made it a point that all the other regional museums located in various regions of India (Mysore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Sawai Madhopur) are disable-friendly. A large number of programmes and exhibitions are also being organised by the NMNH Museum throughout the year on a regular basis.

The NMNH is an organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) the new building of which is disable-friendly.

In continuation of the NMNH initiatives on Museum Access, the NMNH proposes to organise a National Conference on Museum Access entitled “**Museums and Persons with Disabilities**” to be held in New Delhi during 16-17 December 2015.





Touch, feel and Learn Live Plant Bioresource Centre



2nd Science Centre World Congress
Science City, Calcutta
January 11-15, 1999

Access and Ensuring Accessibility in Science Centres

Wednesday, January 13, 2:30 pm-4:00 pm H J Bhabha Hall

This session will focus on disabled access and ways of providing access to a wide range of audiences in science centres and displays in science centres. Linguistic barriers in addition to providing both physical and intellectual access to our visiting and non-visiting public would more or less describe the type of access as titled.

Chair: Bhagwant Singh, Manager, Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester, UNITED KINGDOM

Panel: Brenton N. Honeyman, International Programme Manager, Questacon, The National Science Centre, AUSTRALIA

Derek Bruce Fish, Director, UNIZUL Science Centre, SOUTH AFRICA

David R. Demant, Learning Advisor, Museum Victoria, AUSTRALIA

Stephnie McIvore, Research/Evaluation, Science Museum, UNITED KINGDOM

B. Venugopal, Scientist-In-Charge, Regional Museum of Natural History, INDIA

