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INDIA

BHOPAL 2011

Bhopal 2011 is a unique opportunity to bring together people from all age groups, nationalities and interests to focus on possibly the worst post-war industrial tragedy in the world.

It is also an opportunity to explore how a global company like Union Carbide, building a chemical plant in Bhopal not purely for commercial reasons as certainly many people believed that it would help the agriculture of India, but when operated locally things went disastrously wrong and thousands of people suffered as a result.

Transfer of technology from country to country is not often a smooth process with sometimes huge benefits for the recipient country but on other occasions leading to disastrous consequences.

This is one of the reasons the inaugural meeting for The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) first met in Ironbridge, Shropshire, England, in 1973 to bring together professionals of all walks of life to study, preserve and interpret the remains of industrialisation. Whilst Ironbridge became the first world heritage site for industry, depicting the first heroic stages of industrialisation, there is justification for promoting Bhopal as another world heritage site commemorating how badly things can go wrong even when everyone has the best of intentions.

As Secretary of TICCIH, I would urge you to attend this conference in Bhopal and support those who are concerned that the unsteady progress of industrialisation should be commemorated.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart B. Smith
Secretary

TICCIH The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage
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