

What I Hope for the Bhopal Regeneration Workshop



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In Bhopal, a regional city in India, there began to sprout new flower buds that are still small but will be very influential.

Twenty-six years ago, on the night of December 2-3, 1984, a catastrophe occurred at the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, which gravely contaminated air and soil, resulting in death of more than twenty thousand people and physical damages in so many more. Since this tragedy, many people have been involved in various activities related to the Bhopal disaster, and most of them pointed fingers at the corporations and government behind the chemical plant, which approach is understandable. Yet, after a quarter of century, people of Bhopal are still burdened with the health consequences and the plant site the unerasable memories.



Compared with the past ways of protest by various activists, which can be described as a “north wind” approach, the newly budding approach would newly bring “sunshine” into Bhopal by hosting a regeneration workshop with students and local residents as well as invited specialists of various fields. Facing the catastrophe caused by reckless pursuit of science and technology, the workshop will help us rebuild our trust, instead of simply oppose, science and technology without being limited by national and professional boundaries. Through such collaboration of people, we will entrust our hope to the next generation.

Various problems keep challenging us everywhere on the earth. Those issues concerning politics, economy, human rights, the global environment are getting more large-scale and complex, making each individual feel powerless. However, we should not flinch. Each of us might be not so powerful, but through collaboration, our collective capability and knowledge will be powerful. It will sprout, bloom, and seed. And the seeds will spread to different places. I, as one of human being living on this earth, not just an architectural and urban specialist, am committed to aid this new bud to grow. And I urge those who read this to join us in our efforts to realize the Bhopal regeneration workshop in whatever capacity.