



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a lecture and a Play

"What on Earth is Sustainability?"

Speaker

Vijay Padaki

Theatre Practitioner and Management Professional

Date: January 20, 2017 (Friday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall, 10th Floor, Pixel A (Azim Premji University)

About the Lecture

A famous quote from Shakespeare's Hamlet goes thus: "What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason, how infinite in faculties, in form and moving, how express and admirable in action, how like an angel in apprehension, how like a god!" The god-like character assumed by the human species might well be the main problem in sustainability! It turns out that the animal with the most superior intelligence acts in the most stupid way, determined to destroy itself and many other forms of life alongside. Even the concern for sustainability is from the point of view of its own selfish needs of survival, rather than the needs of the myriad and diverse forms of life all around itself.

About the Play

In the play, two characters are running away from the Northern hemisphere, where the highly developed civilizations have succeeded in destroying themselves in what appears to be the ultimate thermonuclear war. The two survivors reach Antarctica to start a new life. However, they see that the glacier-island they have reached is shrinking in area steadily because of the rising sea levels. They try to understand why that is happening. More important, what is it about human behavior that causes it. The play ends with the survivors giving the students assembled a task in diagnostics. For it is their survival too...

About the Speaker

Vijay Padaki is a management professional and theatre practitioner. Padaki is a psychologist and behavioural scientist by training, and founder-director of The P&P Group, a management resource centre that has programmes of consultancy, research and training in the areas of Organization and Institutional Development. A good part of the work of The P&P Group is devoted to the effectiveness of non-profit organizations, especially in large development programmes. He has headed the Human Resources Division of India's oldest co-operative R&D institution, Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association (ATIRA), which also helped set up the first Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad. Later, he was a member of the founding faculty at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, the founder of a Centre for Management for the textile industry in Ahmedabad, and a Visiting Professor at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, to initiate a

programme in R&D Management. Padaki joined Bangalore Little Theatre in 1960, the year of its inception, and later served the company in many capacities – as actor, director, trainer, writer, designer and administrator, including three stints as President. The several activities of Bangalore Little Theatre that he has initiated include the annual summer workshop for newcomers to the theatre (from which has emerged a large number of the theatre personalities in Bangalore), the History of Ideas programme of biographic plays, the Storytelling Theatre programme and the annual children's play as a partnership production to support a charity. He has written over 40 original plays. In addition, he has adapted or translated several other play scripts. Seagull Books has published a volume of two Gujarati plays translated by him. In 1993 Padaki won the award for the best contemporary play script instituted by The Hindu for the play Credit Titles. He is presently at work on a collection of short stories. Currently Padaki is spearheading a new Theatre-in-Education programme, with a focus on environment-sustainability education.