

**Asian MetaCentre**  
for Population and Sustainable  
Development Analysis,  
Asia Research Institute,  
National University of Singapore

**South Asian Studies  
Programme**  
National University of Singapore

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Cordially invite you to a public seminar on

# The Future of India

*by*

**Professor Tim Dyson**  
Development Studies Institute  
London School of Economics

Date : **Monday, 5 July 2004**

Time : **2.30 pm to 4.00 pm**  
(Registration from 2.20pm)

Venue : **ARI Seminar Room**  
**Asia Research Institute, National University of**  
**Singapore, 5 Arts Link, AS7,**  
**Shaw Foundation Building, Level 4,**  
**Singapore 117570**

## Synopsis

The Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis (Asia Research Institute) and the South Asian Studies Programme of National University of Singapore are proud to bring to you a public seminar by Professor Tim Dyson.

This talk will summarise results of a recently published study on India's future\*. The study constitutes a fully integrated account of population, economy, human development and the environment, and is built on new demographic projections

using data from the 2001 census. Importantly, the projections incorporate both inter-state migration and the role of HIV/AIDS. The population will be around 1.4 billion by 2026 and there will be close to half a billion urban inhabitants. The implications of these trends are examined. For example, growing numbers will complicate the task of achieving widespread education in a number of India's states, while other states are already experiencing declines in their school-age populations. Demographic growth will also contribute to the maintenance of poverty, and will underpin increasing socio-economic divergence between the country's states. As population growth slows in the future, the labour force will continue to grow relatively fast, with difficult consequences for employment. The study is reasonably optimistic about India's food prospects: the country can continue to feed itself. Potentially it can also enjoy higher levels of energy use, manufacturing, and modern forms of transport, while experiencing less chemical pollution. So - with appropriate technical and institutional changes - India's cities can become cleaner and healthier. A difficult issue, closely related to population growth, is water. India will not have more water available in future and, as a result of pollution, it could well have less. Some states also face severe pressures on their common property resources. Here the study's analysis suggests a need for a wider focus. Finally the study explores the administrative and political dimensions of future population growth. Increasing demographic scale is likely to continue to inform the creation of more states, and many more districts. There is the issue too of the 'freeze' on political representation in the national Parliament. Overall, decentralization of power may be inevitable. However there are reasons to value a strong central government for national policy-making. These are issues with which India will have to grapple. It is not for the absence of good analysis and policies that India still lags behind many other low-income countries. Rather, the difficulties have mostly been in policy implementation. However the country would certainly benefit from slower population growth in the future.

\*T. Dyson, R. Cassen and L. Visaria (eds.) *Twenty-first Century India*, Oxford, Oxford University Press

## About the Speaker

**Tim Dyson** is Professor of Population Studies in the Development Studies Institute at the London School of Economics. Educated in England and Canada, he has held visiting positions at the Australian National University in Canberra, the International Institute of Population Sciences in Mumbai, and the American University of Beirut. In 1994-96 he was President of the British Society for Population Studies and in 1997 he addressed the Oxford Farming Conference. His main areas of research have been on interrelations between population and development trends, demographic time series, interactions between populations and their food supplies, global food prospects, and the past, present and future population of the Indian subcontinent. He is co-editor with Cormac Ó Gráda of

*Famine Demography* published by Oxford University Press in 2002. And with Robert Cassen and Leela Visaria he is co-editor of *Twenty-First Century India: Population, Economy, Human Development, and the Environment* also published by Oxford University Press in 2004. Tim Dyson was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2001.

## Admission and Enquiries

Admission to the seminar is free of charge and is open to the public on a first come-first-serve basis. For enquiries and attendance, please contact:

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**Please RSVP by 2 July 2004.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**