

ASHOK KHOSLA

Office Address

Development Alternatives
B-32, Tara Crescent
Qutab Institutional Area
Phone: 696-8903, 685-1158

Permanent Address

22, Palam Marg
Vasant Vihar
New Delhi - 110 057
Phone: 614-2213

Born: Lahore, India on 1940/3/31 Married: Rekha Bery

Current Assignments

1983 to date

Society for Development Alternatives, New Delhi:

Chairman. Overall responsible for the policies, strategic plans and operations of the organisation, including its research and action programmes on technology innovation and delivery, environmental management and institutional systems. Society, which are aimed at achieving widespread deployment of technologies and products for low income groups. Managing the environmental systems operations of the Society. Managing the institutions and systems operations of the Society. Working in twelve states with turnover exceeding one crore per year. Clients include Government of India, State Governments, United Nations, World Bank and other development agencies. Funding from G.O.I. ministries, UNEP, DFID, UNU, IDRC, CIDA, NORAD, SIDA, SDC, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Hinduja Foundation, Indian Oil Corporation and other sponsors.

Technology and Action for Rural Advancement (T.A.R.A.), New Delhi

President. Responsible for initiating the production and marketing activities of the (non-profit) company. Introduced four major new rural technologies: (i) The TARA Balram mud block press (ii) The TARA Loom (iii) The TARA Pirni (iv) The TARA Chulha. Ten lakh rupees per year of sales in fifteen states.

People First, New Delhi

President. Responsible for setting up the advocacy work of the trust. Managing the public awareness campaigns on sustainable development, environment, and citizen's responsibility. Promoting grassroots democracy and democratic institutions for transparency, participation and public consultation.

1983 to date Also:

Governing Bodies

Chairman

- The Development Alternatives Group
- International Resource Panel of the UN (IRP)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Club of Rome, Winterthur
- Center for Our Common Future, Geneva
- Energy Globe Award Jury, Austria
- WETV, the Global Access TV Channel, Ottawa
- International Facilitating Committee, Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro
- IUCN Commission on Environmental Planning, Gland
- ICSU/SCOPE Project on Environmental Information, Paris
- SATIS, Utrecht
- National Advisory Committee on Environmental Education, G.O.I.
- Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad
- Indian Environment Congress, New Delhi

Special advisor - World Commission on Environment & Development, Geneva

- UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio + 20

Member

- La Caixa Bank, Barcelona (International Advisory Council)
- Samsung, West and South Asia (Advisory Board)
- Toyota Motor Company (Environment Award Advisory Board)
- World Wide Fund for Nature, Gland
- EXPO 2000, Hannover
- Scientific Planning Committee, U.N.U., Tokyo
- Earth Council, San Jose, Costa Rica
- Television Trust for the Environment, London
- Stockholm Environment Institute, Stockholm
- International Institute for Sustainable Development, Winnipeg
- UNEP International Environment Technology Centre, Osaka
- World Economic Forum NGO Council, Davos/Geneva
- Factor 10 Club, Germany and France
- National Environmental Council, New Delhi
- Science Advisory Council to the Cabinet, New Delhi
- Indian National Resource Panel, New Delhi
- Poverty Eradication Mission, Govt of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
- Planning Commission Task Forces on Environment, Rural Dev.
- Delhi Urban Arts Commission, New Delhi
- National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad
- TERI University, New Delhi
- World Wide Fund for Nature – India, New Delhi
- World Resources Institute – India, Mumbai
- Industrial Design Centre, IIT, Mumbai

- Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation, Bhopal
- Sriram Institute of Industrial Research, New Delhi
- CII Sustainability Award Jury, New Delhi

Taskforces

- UN Secretary General's Task Force to Restructure the Environmental Programmes of the United Nations
- Evaluation of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Pilot
- Evaluation of the World Bank's Environmental Performance
- Evaluation of the Capacity 21 Programme of UNDP
- Evaluation of the Environment Progs of the E-W Center, Hawaii
- The Memo Group of the Heinrich Boell Foundation, Berlin
- Science Advisory Committee of the United Nations University

New Initiatives - TARALife Sustainability Solutions Pvt Ltd

- a new venture promoted by India's premier social enterprise, the DA Group, set up as a systems-based enterprise model to remove poverty and regenerate environmental resources in rural India through a network of commercially profitable and therefore highly scalable local businesses
- TARA Machines and Tech Services Pvt Ltd
 - develops and markets innovative green building and waste to wealth solutions for micro, small & medium enterprises. The USP of TARA Machines is the capacity to deliver total business solutions to green building material entrepreneurs and recycling enterprises, with strong focus on technical support, material and product testing, training and regular servicing
- TARA Livelihood Academy Pvt Ltd
 - provides training packages for empowerment, employability and entrepreneurship, with strong market linkages for livelihood fulfillment. For the TARALife business ecosystem
- Indian Micro Enterprise Development Foundation
 - supports micro and mini enterprises with access to all the technical, financial, marketing and managerial services they need to become profitable

Work Experience

1976 to 1982

United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi:

Director, INFOTERRA, International Referral System for Sources of Environmental Information. Responsible for the establishment of a global network to improve the flow of environmental information to decision-makers, researchers and others at the national and international level. Reported to Executive Director.

Duties included: Design of operational system, planning, programming and developing the network. Provision of technical assistance and training. Negotiations with senior Government and Agency officials. Represented UNEP at interagency and international meetings. Administration. Staff of twenty.

As Chairman of the Task Force on Management Information Systems for UNEP, also set up WP and EDP systems and established the organisation's procedures for improved management and information handling.

1972 to 1976

Government of India, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi:

Director, Environment Division. As head of the first office of environment in the Government of India, established the organisational and functional basis for environmental policy-making in the country. Was responsible for all activities of the Department relating to Environmental Policy: Environmental legislation, planning and management. Project appraisal. Pollution control. Energy. Education. Human settlements. Appropriate technology. Undertook several assessments of environmental impact of specific development projects, including Chilka Lake, Mathura Refinery, Protection of Taj Mahal. Also worked on: S & T Policy. Futurology. Forecasting. Information Systems. Represented GOI and Ministry in several inter-ministerial and inter-national bodies.

Chief Consultant and Member, Board of Directors, Delhi Transport Corporation. Designed new routing and scheduling for mass transport system. Took active part in implementation of new system. Set up the total management and information systems.

Business Experience

- 1971 Industrial Development Services, New Delhi; Senior Consultant. Worked on market research - nationwide surveys of selected small scale industries for export potential study.
- 1968 to 1970 DP Data Corporation, Marlboro, Massachusetts: Manager. Conducted market surveys and research in and for the electronics and computer industry. Contributed to writing and editing of the periodical, D.P. Focus. Responsible for marketing, circulation, sales of reports and surveys, data processing and personnel.
- 1964 to 1966 Grolier Company of New York: Manager. Worked on commission basis for three summers. Direct (door-to-door) selling of Encyclopedias and reference libraries. After one months as Sales Representative, promoted to Trainer, and shortly thereafter to Manager. Duties and fielding sales teams. Several times received the Top National Salesman Award as well as the Top National Manager Award.

Teaching Experience

- 1963 to 1970 Harvard College. Resident Tutor. Taught Under-graduate courses in Physics. Junior Tutorial in Astronomy. General Education course on Human Populations, Natural Resources and the Environment
- 1969 to 1970 Lesley College, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Lecturer in Physical and Earth Sciences. Taught Physics, Chemistry, Oceanography, Astronomy, Geology and Environment.

Consultancy Experience**Consultant/
Advisor**

- United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi
- United Nations Development Programme, New York
- World Bank, Washington D.C.
- Global Environment Facility, Washington, D.C.
- United Nations University, Tokyo
- International Development Research Center, Ottawa
- World Conservation Union (IUCN), Gland
- International Council of Scientific Unions, Paris
- World Resources Institute, Washington D.C.
- East-West Center, Hawaii
- Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm
- MacArthur Foundation, Chicago
- Ministry of Environment, Government of India, New Delhi
- Ministry of Science & Technology, G.O.I., New Delhi
- Ministry of Rural Development, G.O.I., New Delhi
- Planning Commission, G.O.I., New Delhi

Honors

- Honorary Member of IUCN, 2016
- UNEP Lifetime Award for Science Policy, 2016
- Zayed International Environment Prize, 2015
- WWF Duke of Edinburgh Medal, 2011
- Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), 2009
- Schwab Foundation Award for Outstanding Social Entrepreneur, 2004
- The United Nations Sasakawa Environment Prize, 2002
- The Stockholm Challenge Award, 2001
- The Jawaharlal Nehru Prize for Application of Science (for TARA), 1999
- Global 500 Roll of Honour of the United Nations Environment Prog., 1992
- The Golden Ark of the Netherlands, 1991

Keynote

Addresses

- 30th Anniversary of IIED, London
- 25th Anniversary of UNCHE in the Swedish Parliament, Stockholm
- First World Conservation Congress (IUCN), Montreal
- Urban Summit (Mayors' Conference), Montreal
- WBCSD at the Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro
- 20 Other major events

Publications and Reports

Book co-edited with Roger Revelle and Maris Vinovskis on population, resources and the environment entitled "The Survival Equation", published by Houghton Mifflin. Over three hundred articles and reports published or presented in international meetings.

Meetings and Conferences

Participated in more than three hundred international conferences, meetings and seminars on behalf of the Government of India, the United Nations Environment Programme, Development Alternatives, or in personal capacity.

Travel

Have lived for 15 years in UK and Europe. 10 years in North America. 6 years in Africa. 40 years in India. Travelled extensively in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific. Worked in or visited more than eighty countries.

Computers

Thirty years of experience with four generations of Mainframes, Minicomputers, Microcomputers, Word Processors, Software development and programming in most major computer languages and packages. Assembler, Fortran, Basic, Pascal, Operating Systems, Spreadsheets, Database Management Systems, Project Management Systems, Graphics, Applications, Office Suites.

Education

1962 to 1971

Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

Ph.D. in Physics. Dissertation in Experimental Physics: "Magnetic Resonance Experiments with Supersonic Molecular Beams". Research Assistant in the Cyclotron Laboratory, Cambridge Electron Accelerator, and the Molecular Beam Laboratory. Associate of the Harvard Center for Population Studies. Research Associate at Harvard Centre for International Affairs. Took courses and seminars in International Affairs. Took courses and seminars in Physics, Science and Public Policy, Economic Development and Planning, Project Analysis, Scientific Management Methods, Operations Research and Systems Analysis, and Computer Sciences, Extensive experience with computers.

1958 to 1962

Cambridge University, Cambridge, England

B.A. (Hons.) in Natural Sciences. Majored in Physics. Smart Scholarship. Tait Prize. President, CU India Society. President, CU Majlis. Chairman, CU International Speakers Association. College Representative to National Union of Students. Executive Committee member CU United Nations Association. Representative for Peterhouse to Cambridge Union. Played on Peterhouse rugby and squash teams.

1955 to 1958

St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate, Kent, U.K.

G.C.E. (Oxford and Cambridge General Certificate Examination) at Ordinary level in 8 subjects. G.C.E. at Advanced and Scholarship levels in 4 subjects. Distinction in Physics. Several School Prizes. Prefect. Member of the Athenaeum, the literary society. Librarian. Officer in Cadet Corps Leadership course, H.M. Royal Army. Dramatic Society. Tennis colours.

Early Background

Born in Lahore, India. 31 March 1940. One younger brother. Father a lawyer, Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, diplomat and UN Advisor. Attended schools in Lahore, Srinagar, London, Rome, Delhi, Prague, Geneva and Belgrade.

Languages and Interests

English, Punjabi, Hindi, French
Music, literature, philosophy of science