

A Few Words on Kanchan Chopra's Role in the Early Years of the International Society for Ecological Economics



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I knew Professor Chopra before the founding of INSEE in 1998, but I am having difficulty remembering the context in which I first came to know her. I had made several trips to India before 1998 during which I would likely have met her. Kanchan Chopra may also have come to an ISEE biennial meeting before 1998.

On behalf of the Institute of Economic Growth, she graciously invited me to give its 10th V. T. Krishnamachari Lecture in 1998 that, given my modest performance, I surely should not have accepted. Yet the lecture brought me to Delhi, and I was also able to participate in the founding gathering of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) the next day. This was an especially joyous event for me. The participants at the founding of INSEE were dedicated, both connected to and critical of government, and top scholars.

She helped organize a strong delegation from INSEE to attend the 2000 biennial ISEE meeting in Canberra. The International Society was finally feeling international with a significant Asian contingent. While a good number of INSEE members would be at ISEE biennial meetings, it was Kanchan Chopra who was most likely to present a view from the South, to participate vocally in the member meetings, and be talking in the hallways between events. I remember her being at the meeting in Sousse, Tunisia, in 2002 and in Montreal, Canada, in 2004.

Most importantly, among others, Kanchan Chopra was central to bringing the ISEE meeting to Delhi in 2006. If my recollection serves me correctly, the INSEE delegation took responsibility for hosting the 2006 meeting during the 2000 meeting in Canberra. Surely, I am unduly fond of the Delhi meeting for I received the Boulding Prize that year, but there was a strong combination of keynote speakers, and the attendance was strong and lively. I especially remember the intense discussions outside in the patio spaces during breaks. Thanks to Kanchan and to all who made the 2006 ISEE biennial meeting so memorable.

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