



South Asia Democratic Forum

Palais des Académies - Galerie de Marbre

- Rue Ducale 1-

INVITATION

14th of November, 2013

RABINTRANATH TAGORE

Centenary Nobel Prize Award Celebration



16:00 – Words of welcome by Mr Paulo Casaca, Executive Director, SADF

Opening Address - H.E. Ismat Jahan, Ambassador of Bangladesh in Belgium and to the EU

Keynote Address – ‘Rabindranath Tagore: A Global Prophet of the Post-modern’

Prof. Subrata K. Mitra, Ph.D. (Rochester), Head of the Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg & Chairman, SADF

Dance Performance by Ms Kaberi Chatterjee, Ph.D.in Dance, Visva-Bharati University, traditional Manipuri dancer and authority on the Tagore dance form

17:30 - Reception.

Please RSVP to events@sadf.eu before Monday, 11th of November



South Asia Democratic Forum

Rabindranath Tagore Centenary Nobel Prize Award Celebration

Poet, musician, painter, educationist and philosopher, Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), belongs to all ages, and people everywhere. The global prophet of the post-modern, Tagore was born in India but reached out to the whole world beyond the narrow confines of nationalism. With a poet's uncanny sense of the trans-cultural, Tagore lovingly celebrated the joys of everyday life, and given voice and dignity to the oppressed, in his poetry, stories, music, dance and philosophy. With a vision of the true cosmopolitan, Tagore had brought inspiration from across the world to bear on his creative arts, pedagogy and teaching.

A citizen of the world before the concept of globalisation became a cliché; Tagore remained firmly anchored to the life of his beloved Bengal which gave his voice its powerful authenticity. For the world today, chafing at the limits of power, the nation-state, dogma and material progress, and yet not sure of how to transcend these, an invocation of Tagore is timely, as indeed, it is timeless. SADF, whose mission embodies the values Tagore stood for, invites you to join us in our celebration of his legacy.

The heritage of Rabindranath Tagore can be seen in the cultural and philosophical foundations of one of the most open, secular and democratic states – Bangladesh. It is therefore an honour to have **Her Excellency Ismat Jahan, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Belgium and the European Union** with us. Ambassador Jahan is also a leading international sponsor for the rights of women, particularly as Vice President of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

As keynote speaker we have **Professor Subrata Mitra**, a Bengali himself and a leading academic on political science in general and Rabindranath Tagore himself. Born in India, a French citizen, having lived most of his life in Britain he is a leading scholar in Germany and he symbolises better than anything else the European spirit and the imperative of Euro-South Asian understanding and cooperation under the spirit of Tagore.

No celebration of Tagore would be complete without a live performance of his work, particularly dance. We will be joined by **Dr Kaberi Chatterjee**, who performed the title roles in film versions of the Tagore dance-dramas Chandalika, Chitrangada and Shyama. Kaberi was the first to be awarded a PhD in Dance by Visva-Bharati University, for her doctoral thesis on the Tagore dance form.

Palais des Académies - Galerie de Marbre

- Rue Ducale 1-

14th of November, 2013