**PRESS NOTE** July 10, 2015

**CMS VATAVARAN announces 8th CMS VATAVARAN Award Nominees**

*Films Depicting Challenges in Water to be in focus in upcoming 8th CMS VATAVARAN*

**New Delhi, July 10, 2015:** India’s longest standing and largest green film festival, 8th CMS VATAVARAN, has today announced this year’s Award Nominees who are in the running for 23 awards across 8 categories. A total of 75 Indian and International films have been nominated in eight categories out of the total 178 submissions that were received for the 8th competitive edition.

**NOMINATIONS OF FILMS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 8TH CMS VATAVARAN**

* 178 film entries (117 Indian and 61 International) received
* 75 films nominated (52 Indian and 23 International)
* The festival will have 23 Indian & International Awards
* Total Award money ranges from Rs 50,000 – Rs 1,50,000/- for Indian filmmakers
* International awards carry a citation and a trophy.
* All the 75 films will be screened at the 8th CMS VATAVARAN which is scheduled to be held from October 9-12, 2015
* Venue: New Convention Centre, New Delhi

**75 Thematic Films on Environment and Wildlife to be screened:** All the 75 nominated Indian and International films various categories, namely, Water for Life, Wildlife Conservation, Environmental Conservation, Climate Change & Sustainable Technologies, Livelihoods, Films for Children, Newcomer and Public Service Announcements will be screened at the 8th CMS VATAVARAN.The festival is scheduled to be screened across 4 days from October 9 to 12, 2015 at the New Convention Centre, New Delhi.

Some of the top categories that received the maximum number of films from both Indian and International filmmakers are Water for Life, Environmental Conservation, Wildlife Conservation, Climate Change & Sustainable Technologies and Livelihood**.**

**Films from 16 States and 11 Countries:** Of the 75 nominations, 52 were nominated from 16 states across India. *The maximum nominations were recorded from Delhi, which led with 19 films. With 8 film nominations, Maharashtra came second.* Consistent with past festivals, filmmakers from 26 countries have entered their films in the international section this year with a total of 61 submissions. Out of which, 23 films were nominated from 11 countries. *USA leads the chart with 9 film nominations, while Germany comes close with 5 films. This number is significant as the American Centre is the 8th CMS VATAVARAN’s Country Partner wherein various important issues that concerns the two countries will be in focus in the forthcoming festival.*

**Theme of the 8th Edition:** The theme for the 8th competitive edition is ‘Water for Life’ with a special focus on “Conserving our Water Bodies”, which will encompass various sub themes, including water sources, pollution, conservation, cleaning mechanism, health, social and management issues, corporatization, water conflicts and solutions.

To highlight this theme, CMS VATAVARAN has initiated a campaign called “We are Water” that involves students in schools and colleges through online competitions such as poster design and slogan writing and on ground activities such as film screenings, musical acts, quizzes, etc.

**Nomination Jury:** The Nomination Jury for the 8th CMS VATAVARAN was held from June 24 to 26, 2015 at the ISID, Vasant Kunj in New Delhi. *Mr. ‪Rajendra Singh, Stockholm ‪Water‬ Prize 2015 winner and popularly called the Water Man of India, was the ‪Nomination Jury‬ Chairperson. Together,* 24 Nomination Jury Members (experts from film, environment and media) viewed more than 83 hours of films to select these Nominations.

Now, these Nominated films will be presented to the Award Jury for selecting the award winners during Award Jury Meet to be held from August 26 to 28, 2015.

**Number of Awards:** The 2015 festival will award a total 23 awards in Indian and International categories to 75 filmmakers. The award money for Indian category ranges from INR 50,000 – 1, 50,000. International awards carry a citation and a trophy. A Best of the Festival Award will be awarded each in Indian and International categories. 5 Thematic Awards will be given out, one each for Wildlife Conservation, Climate Change & Sustainable Technologies, Environment Conservation, Water for Life and Livelihoods. 2 General Awards will be given to the best film under each of the categories: Film for Children and Newcomer. Lastly, there are 2 Technical Excellence Awards, one that will be awarded to the Best Public Service Announcement (PSA) and another for Best Cinematography.

**Upcoming 8th CMS VATAVARAN:** All nominated films will then be screened in the upcoming film festival and forum. All National and International Film makers of these Nominated films are invited to attend this festival. The 8th edition has been scheduled to be held from October 9– 12, 2015 at NDMC New Convention Center, Janpath, Opposite Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. The winning filmmakers will be receiving the Awards on October 11, 2015 at a gala award ceremony.

With the theme, 'Water for Life', several interesting programmes such as film screenings, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, etc focussing on the environmental, social and economic aspects of water conservation will be organised. Eminent conservationists, policy makers, environment journalists and the conc erned communities will be engaged in deliberations and discourses on the range of the sub-themes and cross-cutting issues of water and conservation.

**About CMS VATAVARAN:** CMS VATAVARAN is not just a film festival celebrating the cinematic art of films but focuses more on using the films as a tool and catalyst for creating impact**.** CMS VATAVARAN remains resolute to encourage environment films and forums resulting change in perception, practice and policy. Since its inception in 2002, 7 competitive and 41 travelling festivals in 36 cities of 25 Indian states have been organised. It has reached to more than 500000 people directly. **CMS VATAVARAN has now become a movement and inspired many organizations and individuals to use films and film festivals as a medium to catalyse change. www.cmsvatavaran.org**

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