# **Michael German**

Environment Engineering Ph.D. Graduate 2015

### **WHERE**

Hometown: Baltimore, MD

Fulbright assignment location: Kolkata, West Bengal, India and the

surrounding region.

#### WHAT

Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship, for at least nine months, beginning late October, 2012. This may be extended to twelve months if a Critical Language Enhancement Award (CLEA) is obtained.

I will be bringing a product from lab to village and every step in between. This will involve a variety of skills and activities: lab work, teaching, marketing, local governance development, chemical plant design and operation, sales/price negotiations, regulatory compliance issues, video documentaries, etc.



### WHY

A friend of mine did a Fulbright fellowship and had a wonderful, transformative experience. Also, my adviser is currently on a Fulbright sabbatical doing work that I hope to continue.

Short term: It was a great opportunity to push life giving technology into application. A wonderful opportunity to explore all facets of India- booming economy, wealth and health disparities, social business opportunities, etc.

Long term: A great introduction to international development work.

### HOW

I obtained my undergraduate education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), where I was able to immerse myself in a strong academic program, community service opportunities, and leadership activities. My activities in and outside of class at UMBC definitely pushed me to where I am now.

As a result of working with Dr. SenGupta at Lehigh University, I have become immersed in his work of treating naturally contaminated groundwater in a sustainable and impactful manner. I've learned a great deal from Dr. SenGupta about how to properly start to address issues in developing countries. But, by being in India for a year I'll come to gather a holistic understanding of the challenges in building community capacity.

### THE CHALLENGE

I applied seven months ago, and the application process seemed pretty straight forward.

### **GOALS**

In this timeframe we will hopefully be able to have new, patent-pending material verified for use in India, develop production lines, and begin sales and distribution of materials. As I travel around I hope to take a lot of video footage that can be used to increase awareness of public health issues and the opportunities for profitable business solutions. Make progress with projects in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Cambodia. Eat and couch surf everywhere. See the Himalayas. Go to an Indian wedding. Everything!

## THE FUTURE

Awesome dreams and inventions Asian Karaoke Franchise Founder Successful social entrepreneur Politician (?)