



YUVA Meet 2016

BACKGROUND

"You must either modify your dreams or magnify your skills" — Jim Rohn

India is one of the youngest nations in the world with more than 62 percent of the population in the working age group of 15 – 59 years, and more than 54 percent of the total population below 25 years of age. In the next 20 years, the labor force in the industrialized world will increase by a staggering 32 percent in India. This poses both a challenge and an opportunity for the youth population. In order to reap this enormous human dividend, India needs to equip its youth with employable skills, knowledge and the right values.

As the country moves progressively closer towards a global community, it must meet the rising aspirations of youth by providing them with opportunities to advance those skills that are relevant to the emerging economic environment while developing sustainably. The challenge not only lies in raising the quality of skill development facilities, but also providing an environment for the youth to use them enterprisingly. Additionally, rapid industrial and economic development calls for unwavering focus on issues of sustainability to ensure better living conditions in the future. The present developmental scenario of our planet challenges and urges organizations and individuals alike to take proactive approaches of social responsibility through entrepreneurship. If business is utilized by social entrepreneurs to spur positive change, it will act as a powerful tool to achieve sustainability.

With this background, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is once again organizing the YUVA (Youth Unite for Voluntary Action) Meet by bringing together young people from various parts of the world. TERI has been organizing this youth meet, annually since 2009. Eighth in the series, this year's meet will be held from 29-30 January 2016 at India International Centre, Max Muller Marg, New Delhi on the theme –

Developing Skills and Social Entrepreneurship: Vision to Action for a Sustainable Future

We have witnessed local participation from all across India and international participation from over twenty five nations and this year we look forward to increasing our outreach. These meets have been successful in engaging the participants in diverse activities during as well as after the YUVA meet. In the last seven years YUVA Meet has received support from the Government of India, Delhi Government, British Council, RCE Network, United Nations University IAS, Tetra Pak India Pvt. Ltd. Dell Global Giving and Genpact.

As part of the YUVA Meet, a series of State Level Youth Seminars under the theme ‘Entrepreneurship & Skilling: A Springboard for Sustainable Development’ are being organized across 7 states of the country, namely Assam (Guwahati), Jharkhand (Ranchi), Rajasthan (Jaipur), Madhya Pradesh (Indore), Himachal Pradesh (Shimla), Telanagana (Hyderabad), Haryana (Ambala).

Around 150 youth from colleges/ Universities; NGOs, NSS, NYKS and youth groups from the respective states will be participating in each of these two-day seminars. These seminars provide an opportunity for youth to enhance their understanding on the trending issue of entrepreneurial and skill development. Each youth seminar will be focusing on pertinent and pressing issues and the brave & innovative enterprises and skills that have been used to tackle them in the state/region.

Objectives of YUVA Meet

- To educate and create awareness on skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities available for youth in the social and environmental sector.
- To engage youth with local communities, governments and other stakeholders to create opportunities for sustainable livelihood options through social enterprises.
- To motivate and engage youth to play a proactive role in addressing social, economic and environmental issues through skill development and entrepreneurship. To build a network of likeminded youth to act as peer educators and role models and ensure a collective voice.

YUVA Meet 2016

Sessions and Highlights

Expert session on understanding ‘Rights, Values and Ethics: A limiting factor for building enterprises?’ as a guiding force behind Developing Skills and Social Entrepreneurship. This session will highlight the importance of dealing with the rising ethical challenges that the social sector has begun to face and has led to entrepreneurs being overly cautious about working in grey areas.

- **Panel Discussion:** The youth seminar will hold Panel Discussions on diverse issues related to the overall theme of the meet. Participants will get a chance to interact with experts, practitioners, government officials, civil society and educators working in the above mentioned areas.
- **Youth Panel:** A platform for young participants to voice their opinion on the issues related to skill development & youth participation vis-a-vis entrepreneurship. A select group of national and international participants will be given a chance to be a part of the panel.
- **Simulation Exercise, Group Activities and Presentations:** Simulation Exercise based on environmental and sustainability concerns, group activities and presentations will be organized for the participants.
- **Opportunities** for participants to enhance their leadership potential and **establish networks** with national and international participants.

Participant Profile

- Undergraduate and Postgraduate students between the age group of 18 - 24 years from any recognized university and college are eligible to participate in the Youth Seminars
- Young professionals under the age group of 30 years
- Young enthusiastic individuals willing to voice their opinions and contribute towards a sustainable future.

Past YUVA Meets

The first YUVA Meet, held in 2009 on the theme ‘Climate Change’, witnessed participation from approximately 150 youth from across India. The Second meet in the series was held in February 2010 on the theme ‘*Understanding Climate Change through the Social Glass*’. YUVA Meet 2011, the third in the series was held from 1-2 February 2011 on the theme ‘Road to Global Sustainability via Local Initiatives’. YUVA Meet 2012, held from 30-31 January 2012 at New Delhi, focused on the theme ‘Conserving Global Commons: Transforming Knowledge into Action’. The meet focused on how the existing knowledge about issues related to global commons and sustainable management can be converted into action and inspire the youth to work towards a sustainable future.

YUVA Meet 2014, held from 3-4 February 2014 at New Delhi focused on the theme, ‘*Innovations for a Sustainable Future - Transforming Learning into Action*’. The meet focused on how the role of youth in innovation for a better society and sustainable future is linked at multiple levels-

with youth acting as contributors in the development of innovative technologies, practices; as receiver of the impact of the technologies; as a link between innovation and heritage practices and youth as tomorrow's innovators. 173 young participants from 66 colleges/universities in India and 8 other nations (Indonesia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, Canada, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Swaziland) came together to participate in this meet. The meet served as a platform for youth to collectively air their views and form a common network, thereby reaching out to many more like minded people. 25 young people from YUVA Meet 2014 were short listed to represent youth at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2014.

YUVA Meet 2015 was organized from 2-3 February 2015 at the India International Centre, New Delhi by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) with the support from Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and knowledge support from British Council and United Nations University. It was organized on the theme, 'Sustainable Solutions: Safe Water for All'. It focused on understanding innovation and indigenous knowledge as a guiding force behind Sustainable Solutions to Safe Water issues. The Conference witnessed participation of 225 participants from 6 nations. The YUVA Meet 2015 and the seven State Level Youth Seminars witnessed participation from more than 1200 young people from India and abroad, making it a successful programme. The design of the sessions and activities as part of these events was done in a manner to draw out the perspectives, creativity and innovative ideas of youth along with building awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility in them towards sustainable development.

It was enthralling to observe the creativity, ideas and skills of youth as reflected by their presentations during the group activity, organized as part of the National YUVA Meet 2015 'The Blue Manifesto'. It brought to the surface the immense knowledge and research abilities possessed by the youth today.

For Further Details, Contact:

Ms Meghna Goyal/Ms Pallavi Barua

Educating Youth for Sustainable Development

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003, India

Phone Number: +91 11 46444500, 24339606- 08. Extn. 4208/ 022 41233757

Fax: +91 11 24339609, 24682145-44

Email: meghna.goyal@teri.res.in/pallavi.barua@teri.res.in

Website: www.teriin.org

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/yuvameetindia