

Press Release

TERI hosts WSDS 2018, moots national Clean Air Mission framework for 'Swachh Bharat'

Framework launched at WSDS 2018 offers comprehensive roadmap to identify sector-specific sources of emissions and finding sustainable solutions for reduction

New Delhi, 15 February, 2018: On the first working day of the World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 (WSDS 2018), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched a framework document that can allow cities, towns and regions in India to comprehensively identify sources of pollution, and a range of customised source-specific solutions that can be implemented.

The summit, which will be inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi tomorrow, is the only global platform of its kind in the developing world, bringing together stakeholders from across nations to arrive at consensus and collaborations towards balancing the realities of ecosystem preservation with urbanization and rapid economic development.

WSDS 2018 brings together global stakeholders and decisionmakers

With participation from over 41 countries, the WSDS 2018 began today with a call for unparalleled global cooperation towards achieving mutually-sustainable goals. Over 2000 delegates are expected to participate over three days at the summit, including policy makers, researchers, think tanks, diplomats and representatives from both Indian and global corporations. The delegates represent leaders from a wide range of spheres like the development sector, the energy industry and the environment sector.

Dr Ajay Mathur, Director-General, TERI, while welcoming delegates began by placing the focus on current imperatives on the global effort for sustainable development, said, "We now have the triple priorities to enhance lives, achieve resource efficiency and minimise waste as we surely and steadily move towards a future where the world is environmentally, economically and socially better, safe and clean." Joining him on the stage were **HE Nils Ragnar Kamsvåg, the Royal Norwegian Ambassador to India; Mr Ashok Chawla, Chairman, TERI; and Prof Jeffrey David Sachs, Director, Earth Institute, Columbia University**, who also delivered the keynote address.

Prof Sachs delivered a hard-hitting discourse on the seriousness of the challenge the world is up against today, urging action at a speed "that is completely uncharacteristic of our societies". Pointing out the fact that time was running out fast he articulated the global imperatives that will define sustainability in the 21st century. Prof Sachs said, "We don't have time and we face potentially disastrous irreversibility. Many catastrophes are underway - oceanic pollution, acidification and air pollution. We are hitting catastrophe in so many environmental dimensions that we can barely keep track. We have to actually act, not only wish to act, and we have to do so at a speed that is completely uncharacteristic of our societies. India has to get this right for India and the world. The future of the world is going to be made here."

Creating a framework to tackle air pollution

A key thematic track during the summit's first day, '**Cleaning Air in Indian Cities**' witnessed debate and discussion at length woven around a discussion paper, "Measures to Control Air Pollution in Urban Centres of India", launched by TERI. The paper offers a comprehensive roadmap to identify

sources of emissions mapped by sectors across India and to find sustainable solutions for their reduction.

The session was chaired by Prof Mukesh Khare from IIT Delhi and Dr Urvashi Narain, Lead Economist, World Bank and the panel included Mr Sumit Sharma, Associate Director, TERI; Dr Anil Kumar, Director of Department of Environment, Government of Delhi; Shri D.R. Kumaraswami, Chief Environmental Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board; Dr B.B. Awasthi, Regional Officer, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board; and Dr Prashant Gargava, Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board. The session focused on the need for more stringent air pollution control standards India and the urgent need to align with WHO standards. The fact that despite multiple central and state government initiatives pollution levels are on the rise also allowed for a note of caution and the need to assess how this could change, including via a re-assessment of city-level strategies to understand what has worked and what did not (across sectors).

Mr Sumit Sharma, Associate Director, TERI, sharing his thoughts on the discussion paper, said, “It must be recognized that different measures are needed for different sectors across cities in India. The discussion paper recommends a nationwide clean air mission framework (CAM) to meet the prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards”.

The paper elaborates on city-specific strategic solutions, which include city planning, controlling refuse burning, maintaining quality and cleanliness of roads, dust control at construction sites, travel demand management and reforms in public transportation among several other across the country in a stipulated timeframe. The targets for CAM-INDIA are the pollutants defined in the National ambient air quality standards and primarily the particles referred to as PM2.5 to PM10 and Ozone. Control of PM and ozone will ensure virtual control over other pollutants, which act as precursors for their formations through secondary pollutant formulations.

Dr Prashant Gargava of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), sharing an overview of the measures taken by the government, said that the air quality index is a game changer as citizens have started talking about changing levels of pollution and the resultant impact on their health. Enforcement is a key issue until better infrastructure is put in place and a national-level roadmap therefore needs to be envisioned.

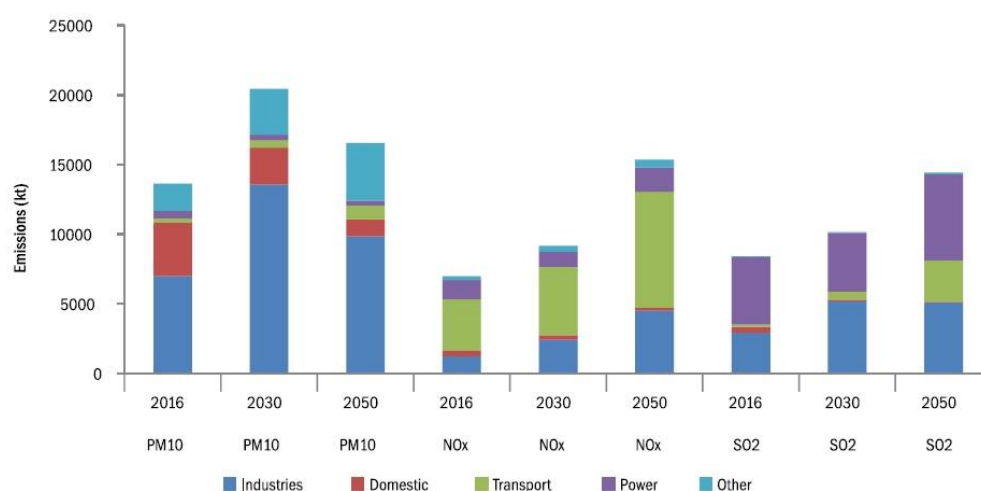


Figure 1: Sectoral air pollutant emission inventories for India (2016–50)

Source: TERI estimates

The second half of the day saw the release of a policy brief by TERI, “**Minimum Support Price of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Its Sustainable Harvest**”, which addresses the key issue of reducing land degradation and restoring ecosystems that can accelerate progress towards multiple SDGs such as poverty reduction, food and water security, biodiversity conservation and climate action.

About WSDS

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2018) is being held in New Delhi on February 15-17, 2018.

The WSDS has been the flagship event of TERI since 2001. It is a global forum that seeks to provide long-term solutions to protect our planet. Held annually, WSDS is the only event of its kind in the world with participation by global stakeholders—multilateral and bilateral development organizations, governments, the corporate sector, non-governmental organizations, and academic and research institutions. Now, globally esteemed as a credible summit on global issues related to sustainable development, it continues to provide hope to communities lagging behind on development indicators. 47 heads of state and government, 13 Nobel laureates, ministers from over 60 countries, 1500 business leaders, 1600+ speakers and delegates from across continents have participated over its past 16 editions.

About TERI

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a leading think tank dedicated to conducting research for sustainable development of India and the Global South. Established in 1974, TERI has become the pre-eminent institution for research, discussion and thought leadership on environmental governance and sustainable development

TERI is ranked globally as one of the five most impactful think tanks by the International Center for Climate Governance. The Institute is committed to the application of thought that drives action in the direction of tackling climate change

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