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TERI to hold partners' meet of TBT project

NT Staff Reporter

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Sept 25: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Dona Paula, will host the First Partners' Meet of the project entitled "assessing impacts of TBT on multiple coastal uses (TBT-IMPACTS)" at the International Centre between September 27 and 29.

The 'TBT-IMPACTS' is a project supported by the European Commission and aimed at revisiting the debate on the phasing out of organotin compounds in antifouling systems that are applied on the hulls of ships and boats to control the growth of fouling organisms. Dr Sangeeta Sonak, area convenor, western regional centre, TERI, is the scientific coordinator for the project.

A press note issued by Ms Sonak said that the project

TBT-IMPACTS is being scientifically coordinated by TERI and comprises in all seven partners, including Ente Per Le Nuove Tecnologie, L'energia E L'ambiente, Italy; National Institute of Oceanography, India; National Institute of Ocean Technology, India; Goteborg University, Sweden; Stichting Katholieke Universiteit, The Netherlands and National Ship Design Research Centre, India.

The project is of 'high socio-economic and ecological importance' and it seeks to address the issue of coastal resources degradation. It will help proper policy formulation to initiate the degradation caused by antifouling paints applied on ship hull and re-creational yachts and their impacts on coastal fisheries, aquaculture and subsequently on human health. It will gener-

ate tools to help restoration of degraded ecosystems after considering environmental and economic impacts of the current development at global level. It will try to find equitable, innovative solutions appropriate to the social, economic, institutional and environmental contents, especially of developing countries.

This project will study the implications of TBT pollution and its ban and costs and benefits of TBT-based antifoulants and other alternatives. It will also suggest alternative antifouling strategies, develop tools for monitoring and managing environmental impacts of organotin compounds, and raise awareness towards this. It will develop a big-monitoring system to regulate TBT impacts that exist in coastal environments.