

Changemakers for Climate Action (CCA)

An innovative approach to engage, educate, and empower youth to adopt positive actions to combat climate change

An Embassy of Italy and TERI Initiative

Introduction

As the novel coronavirus continues to impact lives, threats posed by biological organisms cannot be taken lightly anymore. As studies on COVID-19 suggest that it has a zoonotic source, the impact of climate change is likely to create many more similar environmental and health hazards in the future. In the current scenario, the global mean temperature continues to increase due to various activities including fallout of deforestation, land-use changes, captive animal breeding, and human-induced activities. The increase in temperature leads to disturbances in permafrost, causing release of new viruses and bacteria trapped in them. In the wake of these unpleasant surprises, protection of children and educational facilities is particularly important. It is imperative to educate our young citizenry so that they can avoid pathways that lead to destruction of human race.

Youth have a major role to play in post-COVID-19 recovery to return to near-normal situation. Apart from direct impact on health, the pandemic has nearly crippled the world economy. In these circumstances it is important that youth are empowered towards meaningful changes in their lives so as to usher in an era of new normal. Youth also symbolize young innovators and change-makers who will bring in with them a new era of governance and models of start-ups to develop technological solutions to address future threats of pandemics. Globally it is realized that the current governance model needs a youth-driven policy response that is tailored to specific contexts.

In this respect, Embassy of Italy and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) envisage to engage and deliberate with youth around issues related to climate change. A special youth feature – **Change-makers for Climate Action (CCA)** was launched as a joint programme to reach out to youth across India. Under this, youth voices will be brought forward through deliberations and dialogues around evidence-based, proportionate, and important environment and sustainable development issues. Recommendations from youth will be



compiled through a bottom–up approach and viewpoints of participants from across the country will be recorded. CCA is also seen as an opportunity for young entrepreneurs and innovators to connect with governments, mentors, incubators, and investors, who would help them to equip with ecopreneurship skills.

Objectives

The beneficiaries will be in the age group of 18–30 years who would bring together educators, policy-makers including school principals, representatives from the education and environment sectors, as well as youth representatives and NGOs to:

- Engage youth in constructive dialogues and action leading towards environment improvement
- Facilitate global citizenship competencies amongst youth
- Embed practices of inclusion of youth voices in global learning spaces

Highlights

- A learning opportunity to understand environmental issues through special sessions curated by sustainability practitioners
- An opportunity to contribute towards a national assessment of youth perceptions on environmental concerns, for development of a ‘Youth Working Document’ to be presented at a pre-COP youth event in Milan, Italy
- An ensured entry to the ‘National Youth Forum’
- Be a part of a robust network of enviro-conscious youth to network and liaison with mentors, incubators and expert

Expected Outcomes

- Organize a ‘National Youth Forum’ to catalyse a bottom–up approach by including youth’s viewpoint through questionnaires and deliberations
- Document major findings of the questionnaire to highlight the relevance of youth opinion in national and global governance channels
- Create a sustainable network that would work across political and geographical boundaries for attainment of a global partnership of youth that will deliberate and work towards achievement of universal goals
- Draft a ‘Youth Working Document’ to be presented during pre-COP youth event, in Milan in September 2021

For further information, please contact:

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