CAP India project launch for schools in Kanpur

TERI, in partnership with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has launched 'Clean Air Project in India (CAP-India)' that aims to support India's efforts to improve air quality, while contributing to issues related to public health, environment and climate change mitigation. This project is spread across four cities in India: Lucknow, Kanpur, Nashik and Pune.

Launch of CAP India in Kanpur was organised on 28 August 2020 through a webinar. The online launch event received registrations from 227 students and teachers from 9 schools in Kanpur. Dr Anand Shukla, Senior Thematic Advisor, SDC and Prof. Mukesh Sharma, Department of Civil Engineering Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur graced the occasion with their presence in the webinar along with Dr Sumit Sharma, Director, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, TERI, Dr Livleen K Kahlon, Associate Director, Environmental Education and Awareness, TERI, Ms Neha, Fellow, Environmental Education and Awareness, TERI and Dr Anju Goel, Fellow, Earth Science and Climate Change division, TERI.

Dr Kahlon delivered the welcome address. She shared her insights on the interconnection of environmental issues being cyclic in nature and that solution to one issue can help resolving other issues as well. She explained that air pollution is linked to all aspects in our daily life and there is a need to develop deeper understanding of the issue. On that note, she encouraged the participants to find solutions as the power to combat air pollution lies within them.

Prof Sharma during the special address discussed about the importance of air quality, its impacts and how students can play an important role in combating air pollution. He applauded the curious young minds participating in the workshop and encouraged them to create a career in the field of environment. He encouraged the participants to discuss and question about air pollution issues with their family and at school. During his address he also referred to a quote by Mahatma Gandhi which gave a message that if the path is correct, speed doesn't matter. Speed is rather counterproductive. He added that this project will help us in selecting the right path and we'll get our desired results.

Dr Shukla initiated his address on the occasion by apprising the students about the fact that 15 cities from India are amongst 20 worlds' most polluted and Kanpur is also part of this list. Dr Shukla familiarise students with 'Clean Air Project' and emphasised on the fact that understanding the air pollution topic from different alternatives is very important to work on this project. While showcasing a case study of Switzerland, Dr Shukla stated "We need to learn and adopt Switzerland's good things. This can only be done through the medium of international cooperation. This project involves many players and well established renowned institutions who will work together to provide successful results."

Dr Sharma at the onset highlighted the importance of clean air while stating that we can live without eating food or drinking water for 2-3 days but can't live without air for more than 2-3 minutes. Following this, he briefed the participants about Clean Air Project India and expressed that the young students are the ones who will have the capability to deteriorate or reconstruct the environment and the air quality of India. Dr Sharma during his talk stated that "Yearly, 6 LAKH people die in India due to problems caused by high air pollution." We need support from school children because not only they can demand for better air quality but also find solutions to this problem."

Post the inaugural session, Ms Neha and Dr Goel conducted an interactive session with students where they apprised the students about air pollution, highlighting facts about Kanpur. This session was an infusion of quiz session, visuals on air pollution and information dissemination on air pollution and its impacts and solutions. Students participated in the launch event very enthusiastically and were provided with a chance to interact with the experts.

Screenshots:





