



Suresh Prabhu interacts with student delegation from Stanford University with TERI North America

New Delhi, 22 March, 2016: Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railways yesterday met a delegation of students of International Policy Studies Program from Stanford University, along with **Ms Kathleen Stephens, former U.S. Ambassador to India and Republic of Korea**, facilitated by TERI North America.

The study group comprised 25 students from more than 10 countries. Coming from diverse professional backgrounds in public policy, these "bright leaders of tomorrow" as Minister Prabhu remarked, were keen on hearing about the recent policies initiated by the Minister for Indian Railways and the challenges faced by his team.

The Minister wished them all the best as they step into the future "to shape up global policies". He further said, "The role of public policy is to make the world a better and happier place. There is only one neighbour that scores well on the happiness index that is Bhutan. Today, the major challenge for the world is to break away from the past and move to the direction in which we want to be going." Employing an analogy to the game of soccer for the benefit of students, the Minister said that today having the SDGs is like "having a goal post, but we do not know how to score a goal." Unless the national goals are aligned to global goals, one cannot succeed; and public policy can play a crucial role in this regard.

Delving into various aspects of development and the challenges that a large democracy like India faces, Shri Prabhu urged the students to "think differently" in using the existing public policy instrument to solve present day issues. He also spoke about Digital India and how that can help "leapfrog into a completely new world in the shortest possible time". Alluding to an example he said with 7 billion people travelling by railway everyday, digitalization has helped Indian Railways register each complaint on real-time basis.

Also present on the occasion were **Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI** and **Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran, Vice-President, TERI North America**.

One of the visiting students, Maria Doerr, will be pursuing summer fellowship under 'Young Sustainability Leaders Fellowship' by TERI NA as the selected Stanford in Government Fellow. The Fellowship programme aims to sensitize the future decision-makers about the concerns and challenges developing countries face in addressing environmental issues. This programme is a regular activity in which TERI North America engages every year apart from the well-received annual *US-India Energy Partnership Summit*, as part of its mandate to advance relations with the US in order to result in increased cooperation between the two nations in the field of sustainable development.

ABOUT TERI NORTH AMERICA

TERI North America is a publically supported, not-for-profit research organization based in Washington, DC, as an initiative of TERI, India. TERI NA's genesis is rooted in the realization that emerging global concerns about energy, environment and sustainable development must bring together new partnerships between the developing and the developed world.

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