



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS



BRITISH
COUNCIL

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The Energy and Resources Institute

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TERI organizes YUVA Meet supporting the government's mandates of Skill India and Startup India

250 young enthusiasts exchange ideas and opinions during the two-day conference

New Delhi, 29 January, 2016: Emphasizing the crucial role that the youth can play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of India, **Shri Rajeev Gupta**, Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India said during his inaugural address, “The topic of today’s programme is most relevant in view of the fact that all countries of the world now recognise the importance of sustainability. This can only happen if our youth can be trained with relevant skills to help them drive the future of the country.” He mentioned that today only 4.69% of India’s work force is skilled, leaving an enormous section of the population unemployed. “You do not have to become only job-seekers, but also job-creators. I hope you will go back as 250 motivated youth who can contribute to the society”.

Dr Vibha Dhawan, Distinguished Fellow and Senior Director, while welcoming the attendees at the conference said, “Youth are an important source of creativity, enthusiasm and drivers of social change. Our objective is to create awareness by helping young people comprehend their relationship with the environment and make concentrated efforts to conserve it.”

Stressing on the importance of innovation and international collaboration, **Mr. Richard Everitt**, Director - Education and Society, British Council India said, “2016 is the UK-India year of education, research and innovation” as implicitly expressed during Prime Minister’s Modi’s visit to the UK. “Social enterprise and social values are going to be a critical issue. This sector is also gradually gaining attention in the UK too, where it employs about a million individuals. Even big businesses now need to have a social aspect embedded in their businesses.”

Also present on the occasion was **Mr Nitin Bhat**, Sales Operation Leader, Genpact, who said, “Curiosity Quotient or C.Q., situational leadership and execution skills are some of the most important skills in the new global workplace. The ability to learn is crucial to stay relevant in the future context and to have a global career.”

Mr. Stanzin Dawa, Regional Coordinator, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Youth Development said, “If we do not have skills, innovation and creativity, social entrepreneurship is a distant dream. He emphasized that social entrepreneurship is “a process that requires an enabling environment, policy, investment and a strong commitment.” Interestingly, our government has introduced the Skill India programme to develop competencies.” Emphasising the presence of skills as the basic

factor in social enterprise, he said “Not people, but skilled people are the assets of an organization.”

To reap the benefits of the enormous demographic dividend of our country, the youth will need to be skilled. It is to facilitate this that TERI organizes YUVA (Youth Unite for Voluntary Action) Meet by bringing together young enthusiastic individuals from various parts of the world. The platform provides an opportunity for the youth to enhance their understanding on the trending issue of entrepreneurial and skill development. It focuses on pertinent and pressing issues and the brave & innovative enterprises and skills that have been used to tackle them in the state/region. More than 250 youth participants from colleges/ Universities; NGOs, NSS, NYKS participated in the Meet this year.

In the last seven years, the YUVA Meet has received support from the *Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India*, Delhi Government, and various other organisations such as British Council, RCE Network, United Nations University IAS, Tetra Pak India Pvt. Ltd. Dell Global Giving and Genpact.

Following are some of the Meet participants from previous years who have made a contribution towards preserving the environment in their own way:

- **Shrikant Fakirba Bangale** Planted trees to combat Drought; Rehabilitation of village, sensitizing towards clean water
- **Vaskar Ghosh** Research on the effect of macroflora and other urban structures and their shade canopy on the local microclimate in urban and semi urban setups
And, tree plantation, sensitization about environment and written various papers on biodiversity
- **Shakib Galib Pasha** Building awareness and sensitizing locals towards water conservation
- **Abhishek Royal** Building awareness about nutrition, hygiene and water conservation
- **Haley Trivedi** Research work on bio control of aquatic weed; and impact of recreational activities on wildlife of Sinhagadh fort area, Pune Maharashtra.

ABOUT TERI:

TERI is an independent, not-for-profit research institute focused on energy, environment, and sustainable development and devoted to efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. Since its inception in 1974, TERI has emerged as an institution of excellence for its path-breaking research, and is a global brand widely respected by political leaders, policy makers, corporate entities as well as the civil society at large.

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