



## Press Release

# Experts share best practices and solutions to increase our Green Building Footprint

*Organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)-South Regional Centre and ADaRSH (Association for Development and Research of Sustainable Habitats), the conference deliberated on 'Accelerating Sustainability in Built Environment'. The conference comes in the wake of the recent government policy on Smart Cities.*

**Bengaluru, February 3:** Participants at the 2015 GRIHA Bangalore Conference came up with solutions and ideas to achieve maximum built environment in India that are sustainable and efficient. The two-day conference, jointly organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)-South Regional Centre and ADaRSH (Association for Development and Research of Sustainable Habitats), deliberated on 'Accelerating Sustainability in Built Environment', the theme of the conference. The conference brought together eminent scientists, research professionals, academicians, practitioners and building industry stakeholders enabling the sharing of best practices and latest developments on sustainable habitats achieved globally and locally that are sensitive to regional concerns. Along with the conference, an exhibition was also held on sustainable materials and technologies.

In his video message, **Dr R K Pachauri**, Director General, TERI, said: "There is an urgent need for a radical transformation in design of buildings and building activities to reduce emissions and to make buildings more resilient to climate change. Buildings need to become more energy efficient to ensure sustainability for this generation as well as for future generations."

Said **Mr K Jairaj**, Former Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, and Advisor, Ernst and Young: “Four important points need to be stressed – emphasis on conservation; lack of State policy in built environment; need for State enforcement at levels acceptable to the public; and, lack of public awareness.”

**Prof Krishna Rao Jaisim**, JAISIM-FOUNTAINHEAD, shared his views on the influence of key players in the built environment, which were ironically not the architects, but the builders and politicians. He also spoke about transforming cities into liveable cities, instead of smart cities. He denounced the practice of aping the West in this domain and encouraged more of public transport and cycles.

The conference assumes significance as India is expected to become the third largest construction market in the world by 2025. The current Indian construction market is booming with technology and propelled by government policies, such as the most recent announcement of the Ministry of Urban Development on Smart Cities. However, the Green Building Footprint is just about three per cent of the current building stock of 25 billion sq ft, and this is expected to reach 100 billion sq ft by 2030.

A number of themes will be discussed during the two-day conference: Built Environment in Response to Climate Vulnerabilities; Efficiency in Existing Building Stock; Low Cost and replicable Green Building Technologies; Is Prefab Construction Sustainable?; Air Quality in Healthy Built Environment; Sustainability in Livable Cities; and, Role of Various Stakeholders in Mainstreaming Sustainable Buildings in India.

The 2015 GRIHA Bangalore Conference aims to build upon a series that started in 2011 in Bangalore, followed by conferences in Pune (2012), Bangalore (2012 & 2013) and Nashik (2014).

### **About TERI**

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is an independent, not-for-profit research organization deeply committed to every aspect of energy, environment, and sustainable development. From providing environment-friendly solutions to rural energy problems, to helping shape the development of the Indian oil and gas sector; from tackling global climate change issues across many continents to enhancing forest conservation efforts among local communities; from advancing solutions to growing urban transportation and air pollution problems to promoting energy efficiency in Indian industries, the emphasis has always been on finding innovative solutions to make the world a better place to live in. All activities at TERI move from formulating local and national-level strategies to suggesting global solutions tackling critical energy and environment related issues.

Headed by Dr R K Pachauri, also the chairperson of the Nobel Peace Prize winning climate change body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), TERI has emerged as an institution of excellence for its path-breaking research, and is a global brand widely respected by political leaders, policymakers, corporate entities as well as the civil society at large.

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