



High-Level South Asia Network for Sustainable Development Solutions launched today

New Delhi, July 6: The South Asia Regional Network of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was launched in New Delhi today. The SDSN is a unique global collaboration to mobilize expertise and experience from academia, civil society, and the private sector to help find solutions for some of the world's most pressing – and interconnected – environmental, social, and economic challenges. The mission of the SDSN is to accelerate practical problem solving for sustainable development at local, national and global scales. For this purpose, the SDSN seeks to work closely with stakeholders including government, business, civil society, UN agencies, and other international organizations. TERI University (India) and BRAC University (Bangladesh) are the Regional SDSN Centers for South Asia. The global SDSN is hosted by Columbia University, and is governed by an international Leadership Council.

Dr Jeffrey Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, and Director, SDSN, said: “We are grateful to TERI University and BRAC University for hosting the South Asia SDSN. South Asia is a region in vital need of sustainable development in order to end poverty, empower women, reduce inequality, and protect a very fragile natural environment. The entire global network of universities in the SDSN is excited to work with our close friends and colleagues in South Asia to advance the cause of sustainable development within the region and globally.”

Dr. R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI, said: “The term sustainable development (SD) has been popular since it was highlighted by the World Commission on Environment and Development, which came out with its report in 1987. Indian society has practised SD for thousands of years, because sustainability was the foundation and the very essence of development in this country. Modern society, with its growing emphasis on consumption-driven lifestyles, including in this country, needs models of sustainable development that build on modern economic systems and structures. That is where sustainable development solutions are important, and need to be devised by networks of knowledge organisations across the globe. The South Asia Regional Network of SDSN aims to provide a platform for the creation and application of solutions in this field in South Asia. It is hoped that with the launch and functioning of this network, the South Asia Region will develop and implement solutions that would promote sustainability across the entire region.”

Dr. Leena Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, TERI University, said: “The TERI University, together with the BRAC University in Bangladesh, is proud to host the Regional Hub for SDSN. The most valuable opportunity that this provides us is to strengthen sustainable development research, education, and application in the University system in South Asia. Focusing on such an inclusive approach, with an aim to broad-base the search for, and application of, sustainable development solutions across the length and breadth of the region, promises to accelerate the transition to more sustainable growth.”

Launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in August 2012, the SDSN and the SDSN Regional Centers will help coordinate the activities of a network of stakeholders and facilitate solution-oriented partnerships on a sub-set of the following critical development challenges: macroeconomics, population dynamics and planetary boundaries; reducing poverty and building peace in fragile regions; challenges of social inclusion; health for all; deep decarbonization pathways; sustainable agriculture and food systems; forests, oceans, biodiversity, and ecosystem services; sustainable cities; good governance of extractive and land resources; global governance and norms for sustainable development; and redefining the role of business for sustainable development.

Today’s launch included a half-day brainstorming workshop to identify priority sustainability challenges of South Asia. High-level representatives of universities, research institutes, development organizations, and corporate entities in South Asia attended the launch.

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, and civil society at large.

For more details, please click: <http://www.teriin.org/index.php>

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