

Lack of clean water, food and energy is affecting the growth of developing countries: Kofi Annan

New Delhi, February 6th 2014: Global think tank TERI launched the 14th edition of its annual flagship event, The 'Delhi Sustainable Development Summit' (DSDS) today. The theme of this year's Summit is "Attaining Food, Water, and Energy Security For All".

Delivering the keynote address, **Mr Kofi Annan**, Nobel Laureate and Former Secretary-General, United Nations said "Asia is a major driver of the global economy, where most of the developing countries are struggling to overcome various kinds of disparities. We cannot continue to exploit the resources of the world like the developed countries have done. Lack of access to water, energy and food is impeding the growth of developing countries." He said that climate change continues to affect the poor countries more than the developed countries, adding that a fundamental shift would be needed to integrate policy making and reverse this trend.

"We need the right kind of incentives and support to counter the effects of climate change. Richer countries need to take up global commitments to reduce the amount of global gas emissions." He added that sustainability must be at the core of global policy planning. "Governments and the corporate must come up with incentives and innovations to make development truly sustainable."

Mr Salman Khurshid, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs said: "The theme of the DSDS is topical and critical. We need a new global awakening where the needs of the poor are addressed adequately." He said that the problems of food, water and energy have become acute and urgent steps would be needed by all stakeholders to reverse this trend. Conservation and preservation have become the keys to environmental sustainability and global policy making, adding that the global community must be at the fore-front to usher in a fundamental change in sustainable development.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy said: "To achieve sustainable development for all it is important that we need to think and act together. We have been thinking separately and individually for a long time. It is time we put our narrow differences aside and work together, because only if we work together, we can survive together." In India, more than 40 per cent of people do not have access to clean energy, he said. We need to use harness all sources of energy, even nuclear energy, till the time renewable energy is able to achieve its targets, he added.

Mr Danny Faure, Vice- President of Seychelles said: “It is the oceans that drive the global climate, but the world is paying far less attention to the oceans and our understanding of the oceans is still very sparse.” He said that small and island states of the world are the worst affected by climate change and the rise in greenhouse gas emissions. He added that the global agenda need to move towards a blue economy, where the survival of the small and island nations are taken into consideration.

Dr. R. K. Pachauri, Director General, TERI said: “The Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) assembles the highest level of talent that an event of this nature can mobilise from across the globe on an annual basis. The theme for this year’s Summit which is "Attaining Energy, Water, Food Security for All" focuses on a problem which is growing to serious proportions in several parts of the world. The Summit will address strategies and challenges through the presence and involvement of world leaders, Nobel Prize winners, ministers from several countries and leaders from business, academia and civil society. The proceedings of the Summit would be disseminated on a wide scale so that the collective wisdom generated in DSDS 2014 benefits global society at large.

On the occasion, the Tenth Sustainable Development Leadership Award was given to Mr Anand Mahindra, who is the Chairman and Managing Director of Mahindra & Mahindra. The Award felicitates global leaders for their contributions in the field of sustainable development. It is presented during the Summit as TERI’s tribute to eminent individuals engaged in encouraging global initiatives that can lead the world towards a sustainable future. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Mahindra said we must work towards ways to make sustainability a profitable buzzword in business. “

The Summit is also hosting an exhibition this year where exhibitors from across the world to demonstrate and showcase their environment-friendly technologies, innovations, products and services.

A poster session is also being held where young innovators and environment enthusiasts will submit their research and work in the fields of Energy, Water and Food Security. Each contribution will be scrutinized by an expert panel and the top ten contributors will get to not only display their poster at the DSDS 2014, but also a complimentary pass to attend the Summit.

The three day of the Summit will witness participation from a galaxy of eminent speakers which includes: **Mr Kofi Annan**, Nobel Laureate and Former Secretary-General, United Nations; **HE Mr James Alix Michel**, President, Seychelles; **H.E. Mr Bharrat Jagdeo**, Former President, Guyana; **Rt Hon’ble Lord John Prescott**, Former Deputy Prime Minister & Member of Parliament, House of Lords, UK ; **Mr Lance Ignon**, Director, San Francisco Office, Sitrick And Company, USA; **Rt Hon’ble Lord Deben John Gummer**, Former Member of Parliament, UK; **Rt Hon’ble Gregory Barker**, Minister of State for Climate Change, UK; **Mr Lance Ignon**, Director, San Francisco Office, Sitrick And Company, USA; **Mr. Takehiko Nakao**, President,

Asian Development Bank, the Philippines and **Mr. Luis Albertoo Moreno**, President, Inter-American Development Bank, U.S.A among others.

The three day Summit will comprise of plenary sessions on a range of issues, including: *Ensuring and Expanding Access to Energy, Water and Food; Re-thinking development; How Can Businesses Help Attain Energy, Water, and Food Security; Dealing with Energy, Water, and Food Security Challenges in Asia; The Energy, Water, Food Triangle; Tackling the Energy, Water, and Food Security Challenge; Gender: The Core Issue in Sustainable Development* etc. A special session with Indian Bureaucrats is also planned on 8th Feb 2014.

Press Meet between Kofi Annan and Dr R K Pachauri

Among the highlights of the first day was a press meet between **Mr Kofi Annan**, Nobel Laureate and Former Secretary-General, United Nations and **Dr. R. K. Pachauri**, Director General, TERI. Answering a question on the UN Millennium Development goals, Mr Kofi Annan said that these goals must be achieved to launch a frontal attack against poverty. "India means a lot to me. The South-South cooperation must be strengthened in times to come," he said.

Referring to the recent smog in India and China, Mr Annan said that India and China must work together to curb the high pollution load emanating from vehicular pollution, adding that developed countries need to take a lead in responding to climate change. Mr Pachauri added that the present climate change crisis is due to the accumulation of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere for the last 150 years, which is largely the responsibility of the developed nations. Mr Annan also said developing countries should not shy away from their own responsibilities to curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Answering another question, Mr Annan said that governments need to play a pro-active role in countering the impacts of climate change, but added that we must not leave it to politicians to do the job. "Governments need to push for greater responsibilities among the corporate and civil society organizations to meeting emission targets," he said. Mr Pachauri gave the example of California, which had achieved huge targets in emissions reduction, without any drop in economic growth. He said it was important for governments to create the right environment to achieve tangible overall development results.

Mr Annan also spoke of the growing urbanization the world-over the environment and social impacts of this unplanned growth. "About 50 per cent of with world is now living in cities. This has created huge problems for adequate infrastructure and sanitation. He placed special emphasis on small and island nations, which are worst affected by climate change, to forge an alliance in global events to place their problems in the international arena.

Replying to a question on the importance of Gram Swaraj in achieving sustainable development, Mr Annan said that governments need to come up with the right incentives and policy initiatives to protect the life and livelihood of local communities. Mr Pachauri added that the right kind of fiscal instruments, including agricultural incentives

need to be given to make Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Swaraj possible. He gave the example of solar energy campaign of TERI, adding that more than 3000 villages had been lit up due to innovation policies of TERI.

DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT (DSDS):

DSDS is a flagship event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) every year since 2001 that seeks to facilitate enlightened debate and discussion on the discourse of global sustainable development. Over the past 13 years, it has emerged as one of the most leading forums on issues of global sustainability. Through DSDS, TERI aims to create enabling platforms for global leaders, heads of State and Central governments, scientists, academicians, policy makers, entrepreneurs, corporate entities and the youth to exchange new ideas to expand the dimensions and scope of the debate over global sustainability issues. In the past, the summit has witnessed the participation of 36 heads of states, ministerial representation from 50 countries, and has been inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India since 2010.

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, IPCC, 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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