



### Press Release

## **Smart urbanisation strategy is the key to accelerate smart city solutions in Bengaluru: TERI**

*TERI holds its first Regional Dialogue of the year as a precursor to World Sustainable Development Summit 2016*

**Bengaluru, August 10, 2016:** To address the issues pertaining to rapid urban sprawl, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), an independent, not-for-profit research institute, brought together multiple stakeholder groups to deliberate on the challenges to sustainable urban infrastructure, the required policy change and the need for effective implementation through public-private partnerships. The dialogue was attended by senior representatives of urban planning bodies, bureaucrats and top Indian conglomerates.

With a total population of 11.5 million, Bengaluru is the third most populous city in India. The 'Garden City' encounters a vast number of issues like high migration, urban transport, water supply, air pollution, waste management and socio-economic inequity.

Addressing the audience at the session, **Prof. S.L. Rao, Distinguished Fellow Emeritus, TERI** mentioned that Bangalore is the home of research and technology, which should be channelized to solve its urban issues. While public participation plays a key role, there is a need to look at governance and management in his view.

Highlighting her association with TERI's flagship event since its inception in 2001, **Dr. Annapurna Vancheswaran, Sr. Director, TERI**, stated that the aim of the Summit is to make Sustainable Development a 'globally shared goal' and that the Regional Dialogues that are being organised as pre-events ahead of the global summit is an effort to bring voices from the states and cities of India on to the global platform.

Under the theme "Urbanization, Innovation and Climate Resilience" the Bengaluru Regional Dialogue witnessed a summation of assessments and recommendations, both provocative and pragmatic on several aspects of existing programmes, including financing mechanisms for sustainable infrastructure, building capacities to potential PPP model to implement projects, policy and institutional coherence through the Smart City Mission or AMRUT and efficient and innovative partnership models to reduce the limitations of this framework, she added.

**Dr Ravindra A, former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka**, who moderated the session ‘Sustainable Approach towards Urbanization’ said that in the past two to three decades, there have been many technological developments, but what we really need now is good governance. Simple, sensible administration has receded into the background at present.

The second session titled “Fostering Partnerships and Innovation for Sustainable Cities” witnessed conversations around the potential partnerships in Bengaluru and other Tier-II cities of Karnataka that can be explored and institutionalised to ensure quality of governance and improve service delivery. Fostering partnership with civil societies, government agencies and corporations is essential to serve the purpose of improving the quality of governance and service delivery.

Highlighting the efforts, **Nicolas Fornage, AFD Regional Director for India & Bangladesh**, said, “Carbon-sober mass transport systems as the Bengaluru metro, being supported by AFD, represent not only a significant improvement of the living conditions of the urban population, but also a true way to mitigate climate change and reduce pollution through a better urban mobility.”

Other eminent speakers who participated in the discussions at the Dialogue today are as follows - Hariprasad Hegde, Wipro; V Ravichandar, Feedback Business Consulting; Venkatesh Valluri, Valluri Technology Accelerators; Angshik Chaudhuri, Cisco Systems, Inc; Jaya Dhindaw, & Alok Gupta, EMBARQ India, WRI; Dr. Venkatesh Panchapagesan, IIM Bangalore; and Chandrashekar Hariharan, BCIL.

In the run-up to WSDS 2016, TERI is hosting a series of regional dialogues across the country – Bengaluru, Mumbai and Guwahati. The WSDS 2016 carries forward the legacy of Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS). WSDS 2016, themed 'Beyond 2015: People, Planet & Progress', 5-8 October, will be among the first international platforms to discuss the new development agenda post the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the signing of the Paris Agreement at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21). The attempt will be to initiate discussions on methodologies that need to be adopted to chalk a path to realize the SDGs beyond 2015.

### **About TERI**

The Energy and Resources Institute 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.

For more information, please contact:

**TERI** - Pallavi Singh: +91 9873191597 | [pallavi.singh@teri.res.in](mailto:pallavi.singh@teri.res.in)

**Avian Media** - Avika Sood: +91 9818829707 | [avika@avian-media.com](mailto:avika@avian-media.com)

Sharat Shyam: +91 9953860601 | [sharat@avian-media.com](mailto:sharat@avian-media.com)