



Sustainable habitat solutions deliberated at the 6th GRIHA Summit

*Two-day conference offers best practices, eco-friendly models and building pathways
for clean and green habitats.*

New Delhi, 12 March, 2015: Leading professionals from the government, academia, civil society organisations, builders, architects and engineers participated in the sixth GRIHA Summit held today. Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) is the national rating system for green buildings in India and is the first indigenous attempt to address sustainability issues in the Indian construction sector.

The Summit provides a platform to showcase the rating's potential to achieve better performing buildings through its variances. More than 700 representatives from the construction industry participated in diverse discussions on breakthroughs in the urban and rural habitats. The Summit is being organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and is supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), and the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

Delivering the inaugural address, Dr Rajeev Gowda, Hon'ble Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, Government of India, commented, "While negotiating with other countries on environment and climate change issues, we emphasize that India is a low-carbon impact society. However, things are changing and adversely. But we can still pre-empt this kind of future. We can distill the knowledge of our ancestors, build a bridge between the ancient wisdom and our cutting edge technology."

Mr Amit Kumar, Adjunct Professor, TERI University and Vice President, GRIHA Council voiced his concerns on the need to introduce certain changes in the construction sector. Sharing the latest achievements of GRIHA he commented that "...we have over 21 million square metres that have been registered for GRIHA certification."

So far 575 projects have been registered, and it is expected that more than 150 projects will be further added in this year.

Dr Leena Srivastava, Acting Director-General, TERI who set the theme for the Summit with her welcome note, also stressed on the rapidly changing environment and the need to involve all stakeholders said, "Climate, as we know it, is changing. While we want people to occupy green buildings, and there are more energy service companies are stepping in with services required to facilitate this, it is important that the end-users are empowered to make informed decisions and understand that the economics work in their favour. The need for concerted action on enhancing energy efficiency is much higher today, both for global and domestic

reasons. This Summit is taking forward the initiatives started earlier and it should succeed in offering a number of solutions and ensure action in a systemic, holistic sense.”

GRIHA Council felicitated seven professionals and organisations from diverse fields for having done exemplary work on promotion of sustainable habitats. The professionals are: Ms Poorva Keskar, Director at VK: E-environmental & Principal in-Charge of Masters in Architecture at BRICK School of Architecture, Pune; Ms Swati Puchapalli Reddy, Environmental Building Consultants, Terra Viridis; Mr Anurag Bajpai, Director, Planning & Sustainable Design, GreenTree Building Energy Pvt. Ltd.; Mr P Sahel, Vice Chairman, Lotus Greens; and Ms Anamika Prasad, Director, Environmental Design Solutions.

Mr NP Agarwal, Executive Director, received the award on behalf of National Building Construction Corporation Ltd for mandating at least a 3-star rating for all its building projects and ensuring countrywide implementation of GRIHA by organising intensive training and capacity-building of its professionals all over the country through TERI. On behalf of Central Public Works Department, Mr Divakar Garg, Director General (Works) received the award for being at the forefront of promoting GRIHA and Green buildings, particularly in the public sector.

Some of the themes that were discussed on the first day of the Summit included:

- **Building India with GRIHA** – Analyzing GRIHA’s role in driving design and construction of sustainable habitats across the country, this session focused on the experiences and approaches of projects and teams across the country.
- **Designed in India!** – ‘Made in India’ corroborates the GRIHA school of thought focussing on indigenous strategies. This session focussed on local design solutions being propagated across the sub-continent by leading architects of India.
- There will be plenary sessions as well: **‘Aqua Access’** on the issue of water optimisation and availability of clean drinking water to all segments of society; and **‘Innovating urban futures’** dealing with the opportunities to develop urban centres into “hubs of innovation” ensuring environmentally sustainable and smart growth.

The two-day Summit will host eminent speakers such as representatives from the government, architecture, construction, education talk about their experiences and vision to drive India towards a greener future. Some of our key speakers are Padma Shri Gopal Shankar, Founder & Chief Architect, Habitat Technology Group; Mr Alan Abraham, Principal, Abraham John Architects; Mr Andrés Prera - Principal, LEED Fellow, 1/2ambiente, Guatemala; Mr Jagan Shah, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Government of India; Dr Leena Srivastava, Acting Director General, TERI; Ms Mili Majumdar – Director, Sustainable Habitat Division, TERI; Mr Mahesh Ramanujam, Chief Operating Officer - U.S. Green Building Council; Mr John Hardy, Founder, Green School, Bali Indonesia; Mr P Sahel, Vice Chairman, Lotus Greens Developers Pvt. Ltd.; Dr Steve Kardinal Jusuf, Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore; and Mr Rajeev Talwar, Group Executive Director, DLF.

The Summit comes in the wake of a revolution in the Indian construction industry. According to the 12th Five Year Plan, almost 600 million people would be living in urban areas, which may result in the emergence of about 60-70 cities with a population of more than a million by 2030. Green buildings are fast becoming a development imperative, as India is set to become the third largest construction market in the world by 2025.

Note to the media:

One of the key highlights of the Summit is the launch of the joint initiative by TERI and U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) tomorrow, 13 March between 2:00-3:00 pm that offers India-specific incentives to further building performance, energy savings and water conservation for Existing Buildings in India.

Media are specially invited to a ‘LEED for Existing Buildings’ panel discussion on Friday, 13 March at 2:00-3:00 pm. The panel will be jointly hosted by Ms Mili Majumdar, Director, Sustainable Habitat Division, TERI and Mr Mahesh Ramanujam, COO, USGBC.

Mr Mahesh Ramanujam and Ms Mili Majumdar, Director, Sustainable Habitat Division from TERI will also be available on 13 March for interviews after the 2 pm panel concludes.

About GRIHA

GRIHA is a tool to facilitate design, construction and operation of green buildings that measures “greenness” of a building in India. It has been recognized as an innovative tool for sustainable development by the United Nations. It evaluates the environmental performance of a building holistically over its entire life cycle, thereby providing a definitive standard for what constitutes a ‘green building’. The rating system, based on accepted energy and environmental principles, will seek to strike a balance between the established practices and emerging concepts, both national and international.

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.

For more details, please contact:

<p><u>TERI</u></p> <p>Pallavi Singh: 9873191597 pallavi.singh@teri.res.in</p> <p>Zainab Naeem: 8800286575 zainab.naeem@teri.res.in</p>	<p><u>Ketchum Sampark</u></p> <p>Prashant Gunjan: 9650026623 prashant.gunjan@ketchumsampark.com</p> <p>Sharat Shyam: 9953860601 Sharat.shyam@ketchumsampark.com</p>
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