

**First Environment Technologies Conference sees industry pioneers
brainstorming on water, waste and air pollution**

The **Environmental Technologies Conference** by TERI, powered by IFAT-India, concluded in Mumbai today with some of the best minds in the country brainstorming on urban water management, solid waste management and air pollution control.

The first-of-its-kind conference saw a fruitful engagement with senior government officials, members of civil society, academia and business houses.

Inaugurating the conference on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, **Mr Vijay Shivtare, Minister of state for Water resources and Water conservation, Maharashtra** said, "India continues to face multiple challenges, in the areas of the environment, water and waste management etc. Mumbai and Pune together, generate over 12,000 tonnes of waste, which could be a great opportunity for the Industry to get into a BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) kind of an arrangement to recycle and/or transform waste to energy. India, being a largely agricultural economy, would also look at innovative solutions, which would also need to be sustainable and affordable. IFAT India 2017, would provide the perfect platform for the various stakeholders from the Industry and the Government to congregate and discuss possibilities."

Speaking at the first Roundtable on Discussion on Solid Waste Management **Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI**, emphasised on the need for independent certification of the plethora of technologies which claim to treat solid waste.

Dr Malini Shankar, IAS, Director General of Shipping, Government of India said, "Leveraging technological innovation for cleaner air and water faces challenges. Possible solutions include: Spreading water literacy, mandating water and air quality data in public domain, promoting metering of water, driving research collaborations for affordable solutions and developing contracts that are technology central."

Speaking on water conservation and management, **Mr Ramesh B. Bambale, Deputy Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, (MCGM)** said, "Conservation of water is very important and citizens should do it, so that we will be able to make it possible to give adequate and safe water to every person in this world."

The second day of the conference on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 focussed on **Solid Waste Management**, particularly the initiatives in Maharashtra, **Urban Water Management**, centred around leveraging technological innovations for efficient urban water service delivery, and **Air Pollution**.

Moderating the session on solid waste management, **Dr Suneel Pandey, Senior Fellow & Director, Environment & Waste Management, TERI** said, "Cities grappling with solid waste management problems can improve the situation significantly by adopting decentralised solutions in partnerships."

On Urban Water Management, **Mr Anshuman, Senior Fellow & Associate Director, Water Resources Policy & Management, TERI** said, “Enhancing water demand management through reduction of leakage or losses, recycle and reuse of waste water, effective metering and rational water pricing is the key to achieving sustainable urban water use and management. Politics must support and facilitate promotion of efficient and affordable technologies through conducive public-private-partnership mechanisms.”

“Air quality management in India should follow a simple three step processes: believe in science, develop new science, and implement the science,” said **Mr Sumit Sharma, Fellow & Associate Director, Earth Science and Climate Change, TERI**.

Lauding the conference, **Mr Anirban Ghosh, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra & Mahindra** said, “Government officials, experts, business people came together for a very insightful conversation. There was ambition, conviction and hope”

"The Environment Technology Conference convened by TERI is a new addition to the IFAT India trade Fair series resulting in a convergence of technology and policy. The conference witnessed academia, civil society organisations, business and government addressing the three challenging environmental issues and identifying both impeding factors as well as key strategies for the future. TERI was glad to partner with IFAT India,” said **Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran, Senior Director, Communication Outreach & Advocacy Unit, TERI** in her concluding remarks.

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