



Press Release

Global thought leaders and policy makers pledge to protect the global commons and adopt sustainable methods at TERI DSDS 2012

The theme for DSDS 2013 to be 'The Global Challenge for Resource Efficient and Low Carbon Development'

New Delhi: 4th Feb 2012: Global leaders and policy makers from across 29 countries pledged to protect the global commons and adopt sustainable methods on the final (3rd) day of TERI DSDS 2012.

The Global Challenge for Resource Efficient and Low Carbon Development will be the theme for TERI DSDS 2013. This was unveiled *at the valedictory session*. of DSDS 2012.

The TERI DSDS 2012 had representatives from all six continents – North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. The participants, delegates and speakers were from both developed and developing countries.

Summing up the summit **Dr RK Pachauri**, Director-General, TERI said, “The Delhi Sustainable Development Summit is a very important platform, and this year’s theme highlighted the over-exploitation of the earth’s commons, which is cumulative result of decades of growth and development with serious impacts on our ecosystems. We, therefore, owe it to generations yet to come, and the underprivileged of this generation to see that we bring about a major shift in priorities and rejuvenation of resources which have been depleted. We at TERI have been established with clearly defined objectives of addressing some of the ecological and environmental problems that we see at the global level not only through our own research but also in our own practice.”

He further added, “We believe that the theme this year is particularly important in the light of the major event scheduled to be held in Rio in June at which the global community would not only review the progress and the lack of it since 1992, but also set directions for the future.”

Earlier in the day Dr Pachauri stated, “India has a very important role to play in sustainable development not just for its own people but for the rest of the world too. We at TERI believe what we are doing is obviously of relevance to the whole of humanity and not just to India. I believe India really has to be in the lead in setting an agenda and creating a framework of sustainable development not only is good for our people but be a beacon light for the rest of the world.

The three-day long summit was inaugurated by Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, India. Present at the TERI DSDS 2012 inaugural ceremony were H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President, Finland, H.E. Mr James Alix Michel, President, Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Anote Tong, President of the

Republic of Kiribati, H.E. Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Former President, Guyana and H.E. Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Former Prime Minister of Norway and Member of the UN Secretary General's Sustainability Panel, Norway. Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Founding Chair, R20 - Regions of Climate Change and Former Governor of California, Hon'ble Dr. Farooq Abdullah **Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Government of India**, and Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon'ble **Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Govt. of India** was also present at the occasion.

The summit this year was represented by political leaders and ministers from Australia, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Canada, Congo, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Guyana, Japan, Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Poland, Quebec, Seirra Leone, Seychelles, U.K., Uganda, U.S.A. and India, including Nobel laureate Elinor Ostrom and several distinguished business leaders

DSDS 2012 also had a total of 16 special events including the World CEO Sustainability Summit which drew participation from 90 CEOs and corporate representatives, 40 government representatives and 50 institutional / NGOs. The overall focus of the CEO Summit was "Doing Business: While Protecting the Global commons". This was organized by TERI BCSD in association with WBCSD. The two panel discussion at this summit delved into business challenges and opportunities while protecting the global commons.

The 3rd day of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2012 (DSDS) began with a ministerial session on '**Preserving the Global Commons**'. The ministerial session discussed ways in which the global commons can be preserved in the face of challenges. They also discussed about methods that need to be adopted to preserve the global commons.

In the session **New Frontiers in Combating Climate Change**, esteemed panelists discussed new sustainable ways such as renewable energy and clean technology that would help counter climate change. Creative and practical ways were looked into to address the problems of climate change and address the issue.

Day 3 also saw an exchange of ideas on Clean Energy, dialogue on how to overcome the divide between Global North and South and discussions on Century of Knowledge.

The special events at the sidelines of DSDS 2012 covered a wide array of topics including Women in Green Economy, Regional Rollout of the 'Sustainable Energy for All' Year, Clean and Green cities, Water commons, YUVA Meet, Mountain Ecology, Biodiversity and the like.

About DSDS

The DSDS (Delhi Sustainable Development Summit) has been the flagship conference of TERI since 2001. It is a global forum that seeks to provide long-term solutions to protect this planet. Held annually, DSDS is the only event of its kind in the world with participation by global stakeholders—multilateral and bilateral development organizations, governments, the corporate sector, non-governmental organizations, and academic and research institutions. Now globally esteemed as a credible summit on global issues related to sustainable

development, it continues to provide hope to communities lagging behind on development indicators. For more details please log into <http://dsds.teriin.org/2012/>

About: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

From microbiology to global climate change, from smoke-filled rural kitchens to plush corporate boardrooms, from schoolchildren to heads of state—no sphere of human endeavor is unfamiliar to TERI. Headed by world-renowned economist and Head of the Nobel Prize winning UN Climate panel, Dr. R K Pachauri, TERI is best described as an independent, not-for-profit research institute focused on energy, environment, and sustainable development and devoted to efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.

A dynamic and flexible organization established in 1974, all activities in TERI move from formulating local and national level strategies to suggesting global solutions to critical energy and environment-related issues. Headquartered in New Delhi, TERI has established regional offices in Mumbai, Bangalore, Goa, Guwahati and Mukhteshwer in the Himalaya's and International centers in Japan, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Washington DC, London and Utrecht, The Netherlands.

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