



Robert Bosch Stiftung



## TERI water and sanitation competition enables youth ambassadors address WASH issues in urban settings

*Swachh Bharat Mission Programme Management Unit announces creation of youth ambassadors task force from 1 February to work at the state and regional levels within the Mission's mandate*

**New Delhi, 28 January, 2016:** Highlighting the synergies between this competition and the Swachh Bharat Mission, **Ms Sanghamitra Bhattacharya**, representing PMU of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) emphasised on the occasion that the project *Strengthening Water and Sanitation in Urban Settings: Inter-University Competition on Water Resources Management* “wonderfully dovetails with the overall mandate of Swachh Bharat Mission”. The project has so far engaged over two lakhs individuals from various sections of the society by helping to develop a multi-disciplinary, evidence-based, and practically implementable Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) proposal. With the aim of creating awareness on water and sanitation challenges and an ownership of solutions at a wider stakeholder level, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and TERI University initiated this project in June 2014.

Around 500 youth champions from 75 teams selected from West Bengal, Assam, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, J&K, Delhi, U.P, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat) presented action-oriented, practicable and community participative proposals to address water and sanitation problems in their regions under a series of regional competitions held last year. The participants in the age group of 17-22 years belong to various vocational institutions and professional training institutes from across the country.

In her welcome address, **Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran**, Senior Director, Sustainable Development Outreach & Youth Education, TERI, said: With nearly 50 percent of the Indian population still lacking improved drinking and sanitation facilities, this issue is the need of the hour. While it affects general public health, it affects women and girls most adversely. This is also one of the primary reasons of girl child dropouts in primary education.” **Dr Rajiv Seth**, Acting Vice-Chancellor, TERI University was also present at the occasion.

In a special address, **Ms. Gabriella Hornung**, International Relations America and Asia, Robert Bosch Stiftung, emphasised that both Germany and India have been grappling with the pressing issue of

sustainable use of environment, including water resources and have been working hand-in-hand since 2006 towards this end.

Speaking to the participants, **Mr. Thakur Pherwani**, National Manager - Safety & Sustainability at Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. said, “We look forward to the translation of your ideas into reality. This is truly one of the ways in which we can give back to the nature, which is a commitment of Coca-Cola as well. We need more ambassadors like you to address the issue on ground.”

said, “Each of us need to take responsibility and making our individual contribution to a make the Mission truly effective and successful.”

Proposals shared by the shortlisted participating teams cover a holistic range of WASH issues related to management of water resources, such as rejuvenation of water bodies, management of these local water bodies, optimum use of the resources, etc. The winners of the competition will be announced at the end of the day-long programme.

#### **ABOUT TERI:**

TERI 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.

#### **COCA-COLA DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL WATER STUDIES, TERI UNIVERSITY:**

TERI University, devoted to education for sustainable development and the Coca-Cola company, committed to invest its resources to maintain vibrant and sustainable communities, have come together to respond to challenges that we face in managing water at research, education and policy advocacy levels by institutionalizing the Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies. The department will play a leading role in developing an international cadre of development professionals (fresh and mid-career), well-equipped to tackle, beyond cultural boundaries and across sectoral divisions, the interwoven challenges of water sustainability. It will also undertake to influence, through the independent policy and action research carried out in the University, the scientific management of water resources in the country and beyond.

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