

Being a Youth Leader at DSDS 2015 was a truly rewarding experience. Apart from being an intellectually stimulating exercise, it also provided us with a platform for informal interactions with experts from the academia, government and the corporate sector. For me the most defining moment was my participation as an observer in the thematic breakaway on the theme “Efficient waste management”, during the High Level Corporate dialogue, on 4 February. It was particularly important for me since the topic for my Doctoral thesis at the Graduate Program in Sustainability Science at the University of Tokyo is on waste management in Delhi. The experts in this group shared their opinion on the pertinent issues related to waste management in Delhi. In my doctoral thesis I am discussing similar issues, like waste segregation at source, inclusion of the informal sector, behavioral change in the residents of Delhi and the importance of 3R. While corporate intervention is definitely a requirement for solving the problem, it would be important for the corporates to establish networks with think-tanks, and NGOs, in order to develop partnerships with the people, to ensure the success of their work. Apart from this, it was the very first time that I had an opportunity to interact with Nobel Laureates in person, and to be in the midst of the discussions regarding climate change in a year which is filled with significant events. I would have also liked to participate in the Poster session or a Student’s Presentation session.

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