WITNESSING participation from over 41 countries, the second annual edition of the WSDS 2018 commenced with a call for unparalleled global cooperation towards mutual sustainability goals. While defining the imperatives of global sustainability, Dr Ajay Mathur spoke about the need to build a better environment. Ambassador Kamsávag recounted the tragic story of the ‘Plastic Whale’ as a call to action for global cooperation.

In his keynote address, Dr Sachs defined a five-point way forward, wherein India could direct its capabilities towards sustainable growth and stated that India, like Dr Ajay Mathur, must open up endless frontiers of science and technology.

The session initiated with Dr Christian Siderius speaking about the HI AWARE project, focusing mainly on Delhi followed by Mr Bharat Mahadevan who elaborated on the IB valley in Odisha. Dr Richa Sharma focussed on climate change and urban heat island as the factors responsible for increase in night-time cooling. Ms Anjali Jaiswal added, “No one should be dying from heat”. As temperatures rise, the human body cannot survive without cooling measures. Dr Rohit Magotra spoke about how the NDMC Delhi will soon launch a heat stress action plan.

Dr Vinay Shankar Prasad Sinha said, “The mitigation plan should be looking at the three needs—boundary, canopy, and scheme.”

Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI, said, “We must move towards a future where the world is better environmentally, economically, and socially.”

Dr Prodipto Ghosh, Ms Bijal Brahmbhatt, Dr Richa Sharma
Mr Bharat Mahadevan, Dr Christian Siderius
Ms Suruchi Bhadwal, Ms Anjali Jaiswal, Mr Murli Kallur
Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Dr Ajay Mathur

Sustainable land management depends on creating a rights-based approach where building synergies with key stakeholders is a critical component. As land degradation and rural migration are closely linked, a key solution lies in a developmental agenda with restoration solutions. Developmental neutrality and partnerships are key to working with CSOs—all have a unique role in land sustainable design. Developers, incorporating the latest thinking on the practicality of achieving sustainability, will help students to incorporate resource efficiency and buildings of tomorrow. While Mr Sanjeev Seth advised that sustainable cities in India are imperative, in addition to adopting a stakeholder—producer, the informal sector, and the consumers—is imperative, in addition to adopting a shift to sustainable urbanization is made, global resources will continue to face increasing pressure. In alignment with the 11th Sustainable Development Goal, The Energy and Resources Institute and the Danish Embassy in New Delhi plan to initiate a policy dialogue series enabling smart and sustainable cities in India.

Toward Resource-Efficient Management of Plastic Waste

Moderator: Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI

Panelists: Mr Sanjay Seth, CEO, GRIHA Council; Mr Sanjeev Joshi, Senior Vice President, Experion Developers Pvt Ltd; Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI

We have reached the boundary and a shift needs to happen in the next 20 years not only in terms of decarbonization but making cities centres of human habitat.

Carbon Markets and Pricing: Demystifying Policy Landscape and the Role of the Private Sector

Speakers: Mr Dipak Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow, TERI; Former Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India; Mr Suman Bery, Former Chief Economist, Strategy and Business Environment, Shell International Ltd; Dr Chandria Sheikh-Sinha, Lead Climate Change Specialist, World Bank; Mr Archit Kumar, Deputy Director, BEE, Ministry of Power, Government of India; Mr Damodarpur Singh, Director, CDP India; Mr Arvind Groosh, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra Group; Mr Marish Mishra, Chief Regulatory Affairs, Tata Steel; Mr Sandeep Shrivastava, Head, Environment & Sustainability, Ambuja Cements Ltd

In the session on carbon markets and pricing, it was highlighted that carbon is a critical component. Carbon pricing hits two birds with one stone, that is, it puts a price on negative externalities of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and generates resources for cleaning the environment. However, the opportunity cost of saving carbon in India is higher, hence there is a need for global optimization and richer countries need to play a bigger role.

The Business of Land

Speakers: Dr A K Bhattacharya, CEO, National Green Highways Mission; Mr Subhash Chandra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines; Mr Chandan Bhavnani, Executive Vice President, Yes Bank; Mr Pia Sethi, Fellow and Area Convener, Centre for Biodiversity and ecosystem services, TERI; Ms Katherine Kennedy, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat; Mr Sun Jihan, Head of Sustainable Productivity China, Syngenta; Mr Arvind Rosin, Chairman, Sadhura Forest Kenya; Mr Paul Lui, Executive Secretary, 4 per 1000 Initiative Mr Llie Winterhalter, Professor of Environment and Sustainability at ESADE Business School

Chair: Mr Siddhartha Das, Director General, Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Government of India

Better stewardship of the land could have a much bigger role in fighting climate change than previously estimated. Forest landscape restoration has an invaluable carbon sequestration potential and offers a wide array of benefits like food security, soil conservation as well as rural development. India is committed to sequestering 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO2 by 2030. Highlighting the need to understand the value of degradation, the value of restoration, and the value of sustainable land management techniques, the session was concluded with an urgent call to action.
In view of India’s energy needs, it is unlikely that oil and gas would cease to have a role in India’s energy mix, said Mr Prabir Sengupta. Achieving the targets in the Paris Agreement would require decarbonization of the energy sector and electrification of the transport sector. Dr Ritu Mathur said India’s long-term energy demands are expected to be influenced by economic growth targets and by the way government policies and alternative technologies evolve in terms of their costs and efficiencies. Summing up, Dr Shrivastava said the Indian oil and gas sector should be concerned more from the resilience point of view rather than mitigation of GHG emissions.

**THEMATIC TRACKS**

**FUTURE OF OIL AND GAS SECTOR OF INDIA IN A CLIMATE-CONSTRAINED WORLD**

**Chair:** Dr Pradeep Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, TERI; Mr Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, UCLL; Opening Address: Mr Prabir Sengupta, Distinguished Fellow and Director, TERI

**Panelists:**
Dr Manish Shrivastava, Fellow, TERI; Ms Varalika Shukla, Executive Director, Technical, Engineers India Limited; Dr Ritu Mathur, Senior Fellow and Director, TERI; Mr Kamaal Kishore, Member, NDMC; Mr Aya Yashide, Head, Asia Pacific Partnership Division, International Energy Agency

**ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN INDIA: THE RESOURCE-EFFICIENT WAY**

**Speakers:** A Deepshikha, Deputy Director, AED; ARA, Charlotte Pisa, President & CEO, ClimateWorks Foundation; Schindler Gil, CEO, Global Business, Hero Electric & Director, Corporate Affairs; SMEV, Ajay Kumar Jindal, Head EV Engineering; Tata Motors; Gunsanprasad Mudapad, Managing Director, Bosh Automotive Electronics India Pvt. Ltd; Tanat Sahos, Sr Vice President, Engg, Research, Design & Development, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd; Abhishek R Ranjan, Head, Renewables BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd BRPL; Rahul Walavalkar, Executive Director, India Energy Storage Alliance; Saurabh Pothani, Deputy Director; SIAM; Abhishek EL Naik, Sr Marketing Manager, ABB; Ajoy Raychaudhuri, Founder Director, Battery and Recycling Foundation International

While electric vehicles (EVs) are not a new concept in India, they have begun gaining momentum only recently; major leaders, such as Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra, Tata Motors, and so on have provided this the necessary push. Not only are EVs more efficient, they have a higher reliability as compared to internal combustion engines; they are critical from the viewpoint of sustainability, and a step towards addressing fiscal as well as social concerns such as air quality. The session panelists also identified the many challenges that EV adoption faces in India today.

**PROTECTING OCEANS FROM CHEMICAL AND PLASTIC POLLUTION**

**Moderators:** Dr S K Sarkar, Distinguished Fellow and Senior Director, TERI; Dr Gaurika Brahm, TERI

**Speakers:** President Thorjorn Larsen, Research Director, Norwegian Institute of Water Research (NIVA); Anne M Mo Ravik, Norwegian Environmental Agency; Vikas Dughe, Scientist, ICAM; Ambassador, Nils R Karnsveig, Royal Norwegian Embassy; Enik Sannidal, Researcher, NIVA; Dr Ashutosh Laxmke, MSC, Chief Scientist and Head—National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Satish Sinha, Associate Director, Toxics Link; Luca Nizetto, Research Scientist, NIVA

With over billions of tonnes of waste dumped into the world’s oceans every year, the impact on marine and human lives is unprecedented. Management and mitigation of this waste, therefore, cannot be dealt in silos. This session, in essence, invoked the spirit of cooperation within and between countries. Towards implementation, India’s National Implementation Plan (NIP) has identified priority areas, of which developing infrastructure, technical and analytical capabilities through focus groups are primary.

**GREENING THE SUPPLY CHAIN OF SOLAR PV**

**Speakers:** Ashwini Kumar, Sr Director, Renewable Energy, TERI; Mr Shirish Gangar, Sr Fellow, TERI; Prof Virendra Datta, Centre for Energy Studies, IIT Delhi; Dr Sayyendra Kumar, CTO & Chairman, VS Satya EnerTech Pvt Ltd; Mr Sujoy Ghosh, Country Head India, First Solar; Mr Pradip Bhowmick, Ex-Dir SCC, Wastewater Energy Pvt Ltd

**Part II – Technical Session**

**Session chair:** Mr Binit Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, MoEFC; Mr Ashish Khanna, CEO & SED, Tata Power Solar Systems, Mr Sunil Jain, CEO & ED, Hero Future Energies Pvt Ltd; Mr Y Ramakrishnan, Director, TERI Systems Pvt Ltd; Mr Ayush Abhishek Kimbley, Principal Consultant, SunED, Mr Ritu Sawhali, Director, YES Bank

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T he discussions in this thematic track centred around the fact that there was an urgent need to combat climate change due to its direct impact on global food security. It was felt that climate change was perhaps the greatest challenge being faced by the world population today due to its widespread effects on our geology, economies, and societies. The panelists also discussed through the prism of climate change’s impact on India’s agricultural community, and the correct responses.

**CLEANING AIR IN INDIAN CITIES: BLENDING POLICY AND TECHNOLOGICAL ENFORCEMENT**

**Chair:** Dr Urvashi Narain, Lead Economist (The World Bank) and Professor Muleesh Khan, IIT Delhi

**Speaker:** Dr Anil Kumar, Director of Department of Environment, Government of Delhi; Shri D R Kamwami, Chief Environmental Officer, Kamataka State Pollution Control Board; Dr B B Awasthi, Regional Officer, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board; Mr Prashant Gargava, Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board; Mr Ravi Babu, General Manager (Environment), NTPC; Dr Sunil Sharma, TERI; Dr Markus Amann, IIASA

Despite multiple central and state government initiatives, pollution levels are on the rise. There is a need for discussion and reassessment, including city-level discussions, to understand what has worked and what has not (across sectors). As an important part of public health service, the role of forecasting air quality was emphasized not just as a crucial practice, but also as necessary information, thus enabling individuals, too, to rise to the occasion.

**TOWARDS CLIMATE SERVICES: NAVIGATING INTO AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE**

**Speakers:** Ambassador Mr Aji Mathur, Distinguished Fellow & Sr Advisor (Climate Change), TERI; Mr Jan Peter Borring, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment of The Royal Norwegian Embassy; Dr Su Dutt, Deputy Director General of Meteorology (DG) of India Meteorological Department; Dr Trond Vedled, Researcher Professor International Studies of Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR-HiOA); and Dr K Hege Heierstad, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR-HiOA)

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This thematic track part of the WSDS 2018, was presented in the context of Japan-India Technology-Matchmaking Platform (JITMAP)—a platform that accelerates the matching of relevant stakeholders from both countries and promotes the dissemination of Japanese low-carbon technologies (LCTs) in India. With the burgeoning role of Indian SMEs in the nation’s job creation, delegates agreed upon the need to bring together the technological needs of Indian SMEs across industrial clusters, while also showcasing the benefits from the infusion of new technologies.

Mr Krishan Dhawan
Chief Executive Officer, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

Our focus is to help India meet its economic goals sustainably. We will need technologies developed and perfected overseas.

CORPORATE GREEN LEADERSHIP: EXPERIENCES AND SCALING UP

Moderator: Mr Ajay Shankar, Distinguished Fellow, TERI; Dr Daniel Bradley, Team Leader – Low Carbon Growth – British High Commission, India; Mr Punit Desai, Infosys; Mr Satya Jain, Dalmia Cement; Mr Gurav Swarup, Vedanta; Mr Manish Mishra, Tata Steel; Ms Ritu Lal, British High Commission, India; Mr Punit Desai, Infosys; Dr Daniel Bradley, Team Leader – Low Carbon Growth – TERI

During this session, experts focused on the benefits of industry-led coalitions on green initiatives and their impact on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate-related financial disclosures. The panel also discussed the challenges faced by the coalitions in scaling up the initiatives. Dr Daniel Bradley underscored the importance of low-carbon agenda and described Tata Steel as the first Indian company to endorse the importance of low-carbon agenda and described new technologies.

The session focused on the lessons learnt from pilots under the HI-AWARE programme aiming to build adaptation capacities of vulnerable communities in the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra river basins. Prof Arabinda Mishra highlighted how the Hindu Kush Himalayan region was an ‘information blackhole’ since the project began with very poor availability of data or research evidence. Mr Abu Sayed spoke about the pilot on climate and flood-resilient housing in the lower Teesta Basin in northwestern Bangladesh and Mr Eklavya Prasad mentioned the Faydemand Shauchalaya or beneficial toilet in the west Champaran district of Bihar that converts human excreta into manure. Dr Ajay Mathur stressed how pilots provide a set of lessons to be put forward to policymakers for upscaling.

Mr Subhash Chandra
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines

In India, we are faced with a paradox that forests and mineral resources are overlaid in the same geographical location and these are the same areas where most of the poor population live. The challenge before us is to manage these resources and, at the same time, contribute to the economic and social development of the people living there.

Mr Arvind Kumar
Advisor, TERI

Data can be used to challenge and to correct inefficient transport system. Without reliable and valuable data, it will become impossible to compete in international markets.

Smart Micro-Grids: A New Mantra for Distributed Generation

Panelists: Dr Sanjay Bajpai, Scientist ‘G’, Dept of Science and Technology, NITs Rourkela; Kaviraj Norwegian Ambassador to India; Mr Joerg Gaiser, GIZ; Mr Jayan Ashary, Senior Energy Specialist, Asian Development Bank; Mr G Ganesh Das, Head – Strategy, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd; Dr Mohsin Kolhe, Professor, University of Agder, Norway; Dr Abu Kumar Verma, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power; Mr Reji Pillai, President, India Smart Grid Forum, Delhi; Ms Vinshali Dasth, Senior Research Engineer, Centre for Study of Technology and Policy, Bengaluru; Dr Rahul Mallawalker, Executive Director, India Energy Storage Alliance, Pune; Dr Ashok Das, Founder & CEO, SunMiksha, Odisha, Jeevan Kumar Jethani, Scientist ‘E’, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India

During the session, experts focused that micro-grids are complementary to grid-connected power and not an alternative. Dr Sanjay Bajpai emphasized that the challenge is to make renewable energy-based micro-grids affordable. Dr Kolhe presented his implementation of micro-grids in Norway’s villages under the SEMIAH (Scalable Energy Management Infrastructure for Aggregation of Households) project and Dr Das presented his experiences in a remote village in Odisha where electricity access also created employment opportunities. Mr Reji Pillai predicted that smart contracts executed through block chain will become a reality to sell excess power from micro-grids between consumers who will become prosumers.

Thematic Tracks

Promoting Environmentally Sound Technologies and Best Practices

Speakers: Rajneesh Tripathi, Sustainable Development Banking, Yes Bank; Krishan Dhawan, Chief Executive Officer, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation; Rinku Verber, Unit Chief, Industrial Resource Efficiency with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

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The Indian transportation sector is an important pillar of the economy, contributing close to 7% of the GDP. Despite this, the transport policy-planning is not an easy task in India. While the oil and gas sector meets the alternative fuel demands of the domestic, commercial, and industrial sectors, the possibility and potential of alternative fuels for the transport sector has not really been realized. According to the panelists, an efficient data management system is required to streamline the industry through policy interventions.

Home to 17% of world’s population and 18% of the world’s cattle, India possesses 2.5% of the world’s land. Around 2.5% of India’s annual GDP is lost to land degradation. It is, therefore, imperative for India to combat the degradation of land, an asset at risk.

Mr Ajay Kumar Lal raised the critical aspect of India’s land degradation problem and linked it to agricultural productivity, which needs to be increased by 75% to ensure access to food for India’s growing population. Mr B M S Rathore called for protecting land as a “people’s movement” which necessitates strengthening institutions and communication. Unprocessed urban solid waste, desertification, improper agricultural practices, and use of fertilizers, are some of the challenges compromising land health.

This session witnessed the launch of Energy Transitions Commission India (ETC India), a high-level, multi-stakeholder platform on energy and electricity sector transitions in India, to identify pathways for change in energy systems. ETC India is the first country-specific Commission that will act as a model for other emerging economies as they seek to move to renewable energy sources. According to Dr Ajay Mathur, the launch will enable strong engagement and continuous interactions with policymakers at various levels of government, industry and associations, civil society, and media to test the analysis and hypothesis formulated through ETC activities in India.