

## DSDS 2011

### THIS AND THAT

#### DSDS 2011 Partners

**Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India:** The working of the MoEF is essentially guided by the principle of sustainable development and enhancement of human well being.

**Norwegian Embassy:** It is promoting bilateral cooperation with India on environment, climate change and renewable energy, both at the government level, between institutions and business.

**The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and Cleantech Finland:** The Government of Finland is committed to promoting economically, socially and ecologically sustainable development.

**CLP India:** CLP India contributes to sustainable power generation with its balanced portfolio of renewable and conventional sources.

**The Rockefeller Foundation's Is Smart Power for Environmentally-sound Economic Development initiative:** aims to advance electrification and economic development in rural communities by promoting off-grid renewable energy solutions.

**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC):** An international agency of Switzerland's Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs active in India since 1963. SDC's engagement in India currently focuses on energy efficiency, clean energy, climate change adaptation including water and food security and climate resilient development.

**Asian Development Bank:** It is promoting the mainstreaming of mitigation and adaptation considerations into development planning throughout Asia and the Pacific.

**The Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Partnership:** This is a high-profile non-profit organisation aiming to boost market conditions for clean energy in developing countries and emerging markets.

**GIZ:** The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development owned by the German Government.

**Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Australian Government:** This is the lead agency in the Australian Government's response to Climate Change.

**Telcel:** In all our markets, Telcel Group wants to help people get the full benefit of communications services in their daily lives.

**French Development Agency (AFD):** AFD is active in India, especially in the field of climate change mitigation, since 2008.

**NRDC:** The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an international non-profit environmental organisation.

## 'Spread information and knowledge to people'

The entire population of this country would be our most effective lobby for protecting the environment, believes RK Pachauri, Director-General, TERI

World leaders, environmentalists and people from business community come together for all sorts of international environment conclaves, conferences and meets. Keeping in with the theme for DSDS-2011, how do you propose the world moves forward on a platform such as DSDS?

I believe there are two types of prospects that would determine how the world moves forward on a platform such as DSDS. The first depends on our ability to attract leaders from every walk of life who could get sensitized and enthused about actions that should be taken for moving the world towards the objectives of sustainable development. The second means by which the effectiveness of DSDS could be ensured is through a major outreach effort by which we could disseminate the messages that would come out of this major gathering. We see that there has been a progressive movement forward in both these aspects, but we realize that we have a long way to go.

Environment is becoming a big word for corporate India. Every single company is working on the green concepts and technology and implementing them in whichever way they can. But, as an environmentalist, do you think they are doing enough? What else needs to be done?

The corporate sector is certainly getting deeply interested in green concepts and actions, but the picture at this juncture is very mixed. There are some companies that are doing a significant amount, while others are essentially using greenness only as a label without too much substance behind it. Still others are groping around looking for solutions and answers by which they can further their own plans to become



green. All of this, however, has to be driven not by any philanthropic goal but by purely business considerations. Companies make investments in the future based on opportunities and situations that they are in a position to predict. Accordingly, most companies must realize that environmental regulations and their enforcement will become tighter over time. Also, consumers and the public would place much greater importance on greenness, both in respect of products that companies produce and the processes that they follow. It would, therefore, be in the interest of business organizations to become genuinely green. Finally, in a globalized world the market for green products and technologies should be a major attraction for Indian companies to invest in. If they do not, they would find opportunities for them shrinking in the global market which would inevitably become green.



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this generation and for their children and grandchildren then they would demand certain actions by our decision makers. Political leaders will then respond to the priorities that the public lays down for them. Lobbyists, if anything, are likely to resist activists to protect the environment particularly if companies have been making large profits with negative im-

pacts on the environment because they would find it more convenient to engage lobbyists to restrict and restrain action by government and society rather than conform to demands by the public. We have seen that in the case of the pro-tobacco lobby delaying action in restrictions on smoking. There is, in my view, nothing more effective than informing the public and more importantly school children and the youth of this country. The entire population of this country would be our most effective lobby for protecting the environment.

How big is sustainable development a challenge across the world? With special reference to a country like ours, how can we deal with it effectively?

Worldwide, sustainable development is a huge challenge because in simple terms the world has been pursuing largely unsustainable paths of development ever since industrialization began and consumerism became our guiding mantra. However, India is still in the early stages of development, and we also have the benefit of tradition and beliefs which respect environmental protection. Hence, if we can change our mindsets and shed our fixation with western notions, we would really find it much easier to embark on a path which is sustainable.

DSDS has carved a niche for itself as a place where the world talks tough on environment. What is going to be the focus this year and what do you hope to achieve out of it?

The theme for DSDS this year is 'Tapping local initiatives and tackling global inertia'. We have chosen this with careful deliberation because despite the fact that in the field of climate change, for instance, we still do not have any signs of a global agreement, there are several examples across the globe and people and organizations showing remarkable initiative in implementing solutions which represent sustainable use of natural resources. It is in the interest of local communities and of course the world as a whole to focus on and pursue all these examples of best practices, so that they can be emulated across the globe. We also hope that the message from DSDS this year will create confidence across the world by which hopefully we would get a global agreement on climate change sooner rather than later.

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

Lord Meghnad Desai

Professor Emeritus, Centre for the Study of Global Governance, London School of Economics

"The issue of global inertia is just the obverse part of local initiatives. The global approach is highly aggregative and ignores local variations in climate change and its impact as well as the opportunity cost of laddering climate change. We need to take a different approach to the nature of knowledge as Hayek exhorted us merely 75 years ago and see how we can harness local knowledge to tackle this problem."

Nobel Laureate Sir James A Mirrlees,

Professor of Political Economy, University of Cambridge, UK

"Governments have set the right target, to limit global warming, but few if any are committed to the actions required. We must show again what will be gained from public policies to reduce climate change, and look for private initiatives and contributions from people everywhere."

Terry Tamminen, CEO & Founder of Seventh Generation Advisors, USA

"The wisdom of the old saying 'Think global, but act local' will be evident at the DSDS 2011. Our communities are living laboratories, where innovation in sustainability is taking place every day, providing valuable lessons that our national leaders can leverage to solve global challenges such as climate change and scarcity of food and water."

### Exhibitors at DSDS 2011

• Cleantech Finland • Metso • Phoenix • Kemira • The Switch  
• Ricoh • Embassy of Italy in New Delhi • Italian Trade Commission • Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea, Embassy of Poland • GIZ, Turbec SPA/FAM Group • Faverre Milan Ingegnieri Spa • Archimede Solar Energy • Kyllös Srl • Grandi Frattini Spa • Arston Thermo Group • Infrastructure SPA • Telenor • Norwegian Embassy • Global Green Energy Sustainability Solutions Pvt Limited • French Development Agency (AFD) • Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India • Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India • Mammian Publishers India • Heller School, Brandeis University • Africa • Asian Development Bank

### DSDS 2011

The 11th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS), TERI's annual flagship event, will be held from 3-5 February 2011 in New Delhi at Hotel Taj Palace. The theme of the summit this year will be Tapping Local Initiatives and Tackling Global Inertia. The World CEO Forum on 2 February, 2011 will be a curtain raiser to DSDS.