



## **Professor Inge Røpke and Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel chaired by Prof. Madhav Gadgil felicitated with TERI Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Awards**

**New Delhi, February 8<sup>th</sup> 2014:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) today felicitated the winners of the **Second Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Awards**. The Award comprises of two categories - Unconventional Thinking and Bioeconomic Practice. **Professor Inge Røpke** has been named the winner of the Georgescu-Roegen Award for Unconventional Thinking, while **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel chaired by Prof. Madhav Gadgil** for Bioeconomic Practice.

The winners were decided by a nomination-selection process with a seven-member jury comprising of distinguished thinkers and innovators who share Georgescu-Roegen's vision. The Award jury includes Prof. Herman Daly (Emeritus Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland), Dr. R K Pachauri (Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute), Joan Martinez-Alier (Professor, Autonomous University of Barcelona), Prof. John Gowdy (Professor, Department of Economics, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Dr. Rajeswari Raina (Scientist, National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies), Prof. Marina Fischer-Kowalski (Director, Institute of Social Ecology, Alpen Adria Universitaet), and Dr. Deepak Malghan (Assistant Professor, Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore).

The 'unconventional thinking' category rewards contributions in academia, and publication of research and literature that reflects unconventional thinking. **Professor Inge Røpke** has been named the winner of the Georgescu-Roegen Award for Unconventional Thinking. She has been conferred with the Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Award - 2014 for her important contribution to the consumption literature and for her service to the ecological economics school of thought.

The **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (chaired by Prof. Madhav Gadgil)** has been conferred with the Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen Award - 2014 in the Bioeconomic Practice Category for having accomplished a scientific policy framework based on a detailed and nuanced understanding of the dynamic interactions between people and ecosystems. The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, was constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests in February 2010 under the chairmanship of noted environmental expert Prof. Madhav Gadgil.

Prof. Inge Ropke, the winner of the award says, "Georgescu-Roegen was known for promoting ideas that could be very inconvenient and at odds with mainstream economics, such as the biophysical limits to growth. More than ever, there is a need to be "inconvenient" and emphasise that these limits call for sharing. If the social and economic systems imply that the living standards of the poor can only be improved by increasing the living standards of the rich, then the systems must be changed."

Prof Madhav Gadgil in his recent article published in The Hindu flagged the pattern of “Development by Exclusion, accompanied by Conservation by Exclusion” that prevails all over India, despite the well-entrenched democracy and the many constitutional and legal provisions to protect the environment and engage people in decision-making processes. He highlights that a modern technology driven economy must to assume a mutualistic, and not predatory, role towards the natural resource-based, labour intensive sector of the Indian economy.

TERI instituted the Georgescu-Roegen Awards to honour, remember and rekindle the wisdom of Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, an individual who had the courage and conviction to challenge conventional knowledge frameworks and prescribe a refreshingly different line of scholarship and intellectual endeavour. Georgescu-Roegen emphasised the need to account for inconvenient variables like energy and matter flows, fund and flow elements, and processes such as institutional inertia in the analysis of economic, ecological and social systems. Through his scholarly contributions, Georgescu-Roegen reminded the global knowledge community of mankind’s special mode of existence as one of the biological species on this planet.

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