

DSDS 2015 was a truly memorable experience for me. Not only did I find hearing the ideas of the world's greatest political and thought leaders first-hand inspiring, but I also found Delhi to be a befitting context for the summit. In many ways, Delhi is representative of other communities in the world who are grappling with the very real dilemma between economic growth and environmental well-being. For me, that Delhi is leading the discussions on sustainability paints a hopeful picture that similar discussions are taking place in other communities as well.

My most favorite part of the summit was the closing session graced by the presence of India's highest religious leaders and by their thoughts on what we all need to do to achieve sustainability. Although political leadership has often been cited as key to a decisive climate change agreement, I have come to believe that more than political authority, our leaders need to have moral authority as well.

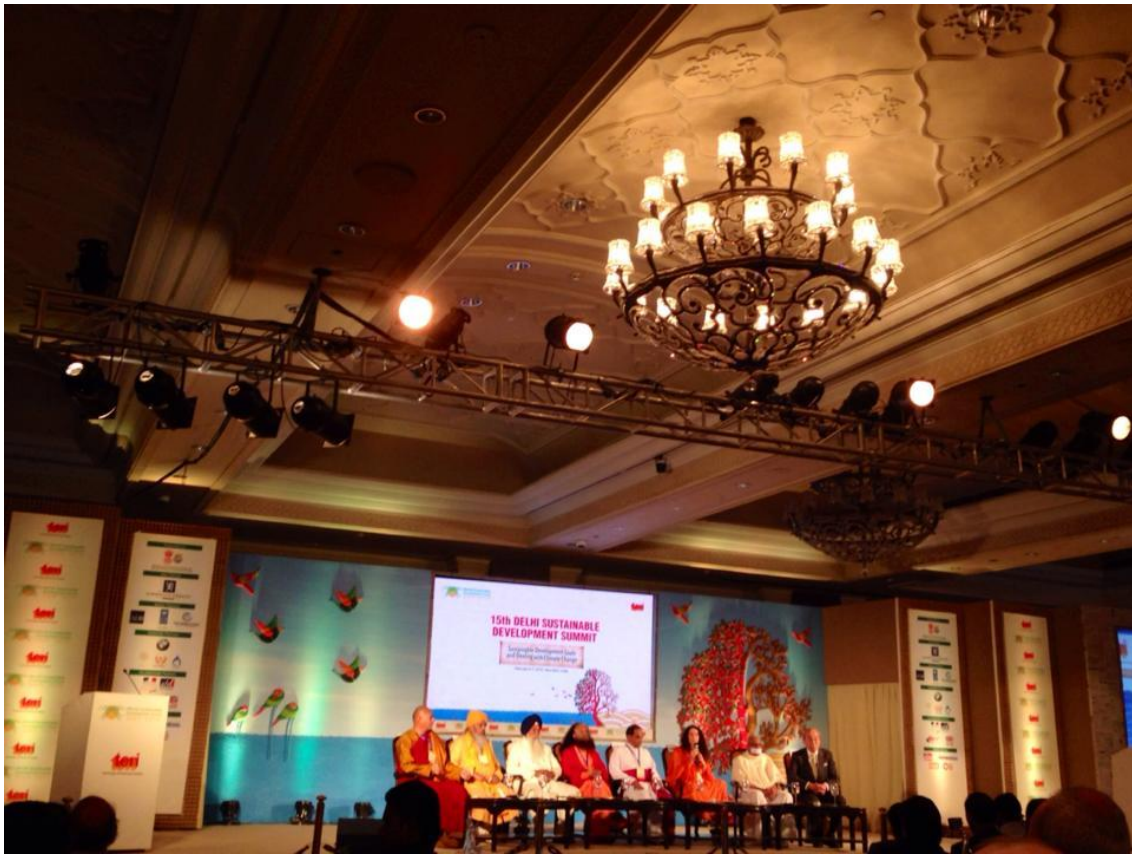
Ultimately, our action towards climate change is but a reflection of our values as different peoples and, simultaneously, as one human race. Thus, in combating climate change, we will need leaders with well-informed moral compasses to guide us through the difficult terrains of value judgment and conflict resolution. For this particular task, I am placing my hope in the idealism of the youth.



Enjoying the company of my new found friend.



Myself at the end of the summit.



Question: What is the one mantra from your dharma that, if we all follow, will lead us to the sustainable development path?

Hindu: The whole world is one family. Worship your own and respect all.

Christian: Don't forget the poor.

Ajmer Sharif: If we destroy the environment, we destroy ourselves.

Akal Takht: God has created us with love and we should love all.

Manav Mandir: Reverence for others first. Do not hurt, even by your speech.

Buddhism: Harmony with nature. Live a simple life.