

My thoughts on DSDS@2015

During our introductory conversation with Dr Annapurna, her articulation that youth leaders were invited to be in attendance at summit to witness the efforts being put in by our senior generation to affect the change which they truly believe is important, was striking.

It was heartening to see the amount of effort put in by various participants in their respective pursuits, of which we got a glimpse during the four day event. At the same time we got a firsthand experience of what the historic multilateral negotiations on climate change and development are infamous for. The task is daunting but despite the disagreements it is important to not become cynical and continue to pursue breakthroughs supported by facts, rigorous science and public outreach.

On the energy front – which is crucial for mitigation, adaptation as well as development - It was hard to miss the strong political will. The emphasis on India undertaking the electricity transition of its own volition was convincing. Although several technical and policy challenges remain along: planning and managing flexibility of grid, transmission infrastructure, access and financing as were discussed at length during the thematic tracks.

During the course of summit patterns did emerge on what all stakeholders: researchers, civil society, enterprises, organizations and politicians need to do to move the development and climate agenda forward. The enthusiasm for ‘action’ was contagious. Whether or not the outcomes manifest will depend on the extent to which stakeholders complete their respective jobs.

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