



World Sustainable Development Summit 2016

Beyond 2015: People, Planet & Progress

SWITCH-Asia RPSC Event 2

'Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (SDG 12) through Higher Education Learning'

October 8, 2016

Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India

Concept Note

In the wake of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted therein, the world has seen varying levels of progress on key target areas envisioned in the 17 SDGs with differences highlighted between the developed and emerging nations. Of these SDGs, goal 12 – *Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns* – incorporates targets that are cross-cutting in nature and are interlinked with focus area objectives in the other sustainable development goals.

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) promotes resource and energy efficiency, sustainable human settlements, equitable access to basic services, green jobs and a better quality of life. In other words, SCP aims at 'doing more and better with less', increasing net welfare gain from economic activities by reducing resource use, and thereby environmental degradation and pollution while increasing the quality of life.

The implementation of SCP policies and practices helps to achieve overall national development plans, strengthen economic competitiveness, and reduce poverty. Importantly, the move towards SCP requires the participation of different stakeholders in the economy, including businesses, industry, consumers, policy makers, media, researchers, and academic and other developmental cooperation agencies. Some of the key targets under SDG 12: Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns – like,

- Promoting sustainable procurement practices in accordance with national policies and priorities
- Ensuring that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- Supporting developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- Rationalizing inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances

rely heavily on the impetus provided by national policy making incorporating SCP-oriented practices, effective implementation, accountability and monitoring of those policies.

In order to mainstream SCP into consumer and political conscience a systemic approach and cooperation between the different stakeholders is critical so as to create an all-encompassing impact across the supply chains and so help in the evolution of existing socio-economic scenarios towards SCP.

The need for introducing sustainable consumption and production concepts into higher education stems from the fact that emerging economies in the South Asian region are undergoing rapid transformation. The future of prosperity and sustainable development in this region will be highly influenced by changes in governance, business, as well as, consumption patterns & lifestyles in these countries. While there have been noticeable instances of awareness-generation and capacity building initiatives, the policy environment enabling resource efficiency for green growth while socio-economic development needs to be strengthened by enhancing the capacities of future policy makers to balance the demand and supply side requirements for ensuring SCP. Advanced knowledge of the concepts and significance of SCP in the local and national context, as well as, the skillset for critical thinking & analysis are necessary requirements to promote the shift towards SCP through successful implementation of sustainable development policies in the future.

India, with its significant young population, has emerged as one of the largest consumer and producer markets today. It is, therefore, envisioned that the incorporation of learning on sustainable development issues and challenges in higher education and for young policymakers, especially through the lens of sustainable consumption and production will have an important part to play in creating a conducive environment for integrating SCP into policy making.

With this background, the thematic track titled, '**Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (SDG 12) through Higher Education Learning**', is being organised at an opportune policy juncture at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2016 (October 5-8,2016) being hosted by The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi on **October 8, 2016**. The sessions are structured to stimulate a discussion among panelists and participants on the importance of enabling education policies for behavioural change and formation of social norms that can promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The sessions will endeavour to address the following issues related to SCP in higher education:-

- The importance of incorporating SCP concepts and practices into higher education learning and the expected benefits.
- The challenges facing effective integration of SCP into higher education pedagogy and potential opportunities areas for integration in existing educational systems
- The approach required for mainstreaming and practical application of SCP in policymaking in terms of objectives, challenges, and opportunities

This thematic track will be led by TERI University, New Delhi, a pioneer in education on sustainable development, in collaboration with UNEP under the European Union and 10YFP supported SWITCH-Asia Programme Regional Policy Support Component (RSPC). The RSPC is managed by UNEP under the 2014-2015 Programme of Work Project 614.2 "Mainstreaming resource efficiency aspects into sustainable development planning, policies and regulatory frameworks".

This thematic track on introducing SCP learning in higher education is being organised in the wake of a Masters' level course on Sustainable Consumption and Production introduced by TERI University in August 2016 as part of its postgraduate programmes, specifically as a core requirement in the programme of M.A. in Public Policy and Sustainable Development. The SCP course, aimed at Indian policymakers in India and the south Asian region for enhancing knowledge and capabilities on SCP, is the first such higher education course being offered in Asia. The objective of this course is to equip young policy makers with knowledge on the challenges and opportunities related to SCP, and familiarize them with the concepts and advancement in SCP in the Indian and south Asian context.



Advanced knowledge and a well-rounded skillset of policy makers and graduates today are necessary to structure and successfully implement sustainable development policies in future. While the significance of SCP and resource efficiency is well accepted in India, imparting knowledge to policy and decision makers is hoped to facilitate an enabling environment for comprehensive integration of SCP into policy making.

With support by the EU

