



YUVA Meet 2014

Background

Youth comprise nearly 30 per cent of the world's population. The involvement of today's youth is imperative in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes. Youth, sustainability and technology are not just three distinct terms but they carry an implicit purpose and power to make the world a better place for all to live. The role of youth in innovation for a better society and sustainable future is linked at multiple levels- with youth acting as contributors in development of innovative technologies, practices; youth as receiver of the impact of the technologies; youth as a link between innovation and heritage practices and youth as tomorrow's innovators. At a time when unsustainable use of natural resources and environmental degradation have emerged as the greatest challenge that the society faces at the global, regional and local level, it is time to understand and use the existing knowledge to frame innovative solutions and action plans.

With this background, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is once again organizing YUVA (Youth Unite for Voluntary Action) Meet by bringing together young people from various parts of the world. TERI has been organizing this Meet, which is a youth event –annually since 2009. The YUVA Meet is a special event of DSDS (Delhi Sustainable Development Summit) and is held a day prior to the event so that the voice of the young can be heard at this major international forum. Sixth in the series, this year's meet will be held from 3-4 February 2014 at India International Centre, Max Muller Marg, New Delhi on the theme, ***“Innovations for a Sustainable Future - Transforming Learning into Action”***. We have witnessed international participation from over twenty five nations and this year we look forward to increasing our global outreach. These meets have been successful in engaging the international participants in diverse activities during as well as after the YUVA meet. In the last five years YUVA Meet has received support from Government of India, Delhi Government, British Council, RCE Network, United Nations University IAS, Tetra Pak India Pvt. Ltd. and Dell Global Giving.

As part of the YUVA Meet, a series of State Level Youth Seminars under the theme ***‘New Ideas for a New Tomorrow – Promoting Innovation and Youth Participation’*** are being organized across 7 states of the country namely **Assam** (Guwahati), **Maharashtra** (Nagpur), **Uttar Pradesh** (Aligarh), **Odisha** (Bhubaneswar), **Jammu and Kashmir** (Jammu), **Kerala** (Cochin) and **Gujarat** (Ahmedabad). Around 150 youth from colleges/ Universities; NGOs, NSS, NYKS and youth groups from the respective states will be participating in each of these two-day seminars. These seminars provide an opportunity for youth to enhance their understanding on issues concerning innovation, youth

engagement and sustainable development. Each youth seminar will be focussing on a pertinent and pressing environmental challenge in the state/region.

Objectives of YUVA Meet

- To educate youth to enhance their understanding of issues concerning sustainable development and innovation
- To instill a sense of responsibility and engage youth in environmental stewardship.
- To motivate and engage youth to play a pro-active role in addressing issues related to sustainable development
- To build a network of like-minded youth to ensure a collective voice

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Sessions and Highlights

- **Expert session on understanding ‘Innovation’ as a concept:** This session will throw light on the concept of innovation and invention, the product and process driven approaches to innovation.
- **Panel Discussion:** The youth seminar will hold Panel Discussions on diverse issues related to the overall theme of the meet. Participants will get a chance to interact with experts, practitioners, government officials, and educators working in the above mentioned areas.
- **Youth Panel:** A platform for young participants to voice their opinion on the issues related to innovation & youth participation vis-a-vis sustainable development. Select group of national and international participants will be given a chance to be a part of the panel
- **Simulation Exercise, Group Activities and Presentations:** Simulation Exercise based on environmental and sustainability concerns, group activities and presentations will be organized for the participants.
- **Opportunities** for participants to enhance their leadership potential and **Establish Networks** with national and international participants.

Participant Profile

- Undergraduate and Post graduate students between the age group of 18- 24 years from any recognized university and college are eligible to participate in the Youth Seminars
- Young professionals under the age group of 30 years
- Young enthusiastic individuals willing to voice their opinions and contribute towards a sustainable future.

Past YUVA Meets

The first YUVA Meet, held in **2009** on the theme ‘Climate Change’, witnessed participation from approximately **150** youth from across India. The Second meet in the series was held in February **2010** on the theme ‘Understanding Climate Change through the Social Glass’. YUVA Meet **2011**, the third in the series was held from 1–2 February 2011 on the theme ‘Road to Global Sustainability via Local Initiatives’. The meet enabled the young participants to share their ideas and initiatives and enhance their understanding on concepts related to sustainability and interlinkages between local knowledge and global sustainability.

YUVA Meet 2012, held from 30-31 January 2012 at New Delhi, focused on the theme ‘Conserving Global Commons: Transforming Knowledge into Action’. The meet focused on how the existing knowledge about issues related to global commons and sustainable management can be converted into action and inspire the youth to work towards a sustainable future. **227** young participants from 66 colleges/universities in India and **13** other nations (China, United Kingdom, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, Netherlands, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Swaziland) came together to participate in this meet. The meet served as a platform for youth to collectively air their views and form a common network thereby reaching out to many more like minded people. 20 young people from YUVA Meet 2012 were short listed to represent youth at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2012.

YUVA Meet 2013 was held from 28-29 Jan 2013 on the theme, ‘Green Growth – Preparing Youth for Sustainable Living’ with a focus on enhancing the knowledge and understanding of youth on issues and challenges related to green growth and developing their capacities to be able to contribute for the development which is sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. Participants were involved in panel discussions, interactive sessions and activities focussing on the theme. More than **200** young participants from **9** nations came together to participate in the YUVA Meet namely India, Russia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Swaziland, Namibia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. During the meet a special session on the role of youth on green growth was organized, which had 2 International Climate Champions and 3 International participants as the speakers. In addition, 10 most proactive participants were chosen as youth delegates to participate at DSDS 2013.

For further information, please contact:

Educating Youth for Sustainable Development
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
Darbari Seth Block, India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003, India
Tele: + 91-11 - 2433 9606 or 46444500 (Extn.4204/4232)
Fax: + 91-11 - 24339609
Website: www.teriin.org
Email: ranjana@teri.res.in
ragini.kumar@teri.res.in
sajuvk@teri.res.in