

## Global Dialogue on Sustainable Development (Bangkok, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013)

Ms. Manu Shrivastava was invited to speak at “The 2013 Bangkok Conference – Global Dialogue on Sustainable Development” on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference was hosted by the Caux Round Table, which is an international network of



business leaders working to promote moral capitalism, and by the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Thailand Development Research Institute, to push forward the need for action on long-term sustainable development.

Ms. Shrivastava was a panelist in Group 4 of this ASEAN conference, focusing on area-based sustainable community development,

along with Dr. Sandro Calvani, Senior Advisor on Strategic Planning at Mae Fah Luang Foundation and Ms. Veronica Colondam, Founder and CEO of Indonesia’s YCAB Foundation. The panel emphasized the role of civil society to maintain a balance between profit, people and planet and talked about case studies in Indonesia and India.

As a representative from CECOEDECON, a grassroots organization, Ms. Shrivastava expressed the essentials in intensifying and increasing people’s participation in sustainable development and to make it a truly democratic process with more people-oriented global policies. In this quest, she advocated the role of civil society and highlighted a few success stories that CECOEDECON has demonstrated in the past.

These include the People’s Manifesto Campaign undertaken by the organization in the election years of 2008 and 2013 in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh; the very successful anti-GMO campaign in Rajasthan; the inspiring stories of Elected Women Representatives and how they are transforming the villages and families in it by empowering more women. The examples clearly showcase the innovative approach undertaken by CECOEDECON in its developmental activities by making the process more people centric and people inclusive and how this has ensured sustained benefits to the community and the environment.