

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND INDIAN ETHOS: MOVING TOWARDS THE SOLUTION

Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, Bhopal

Date: 6-7 September, 2014

Background & Objective

Environmental Planning & Coordination Organization (EPCO) under the Deptt. Of Urban Development and Environment (Madhya Pradesh) and CECOEDECON jointly organized a two day's National Conference (September 6 & 7) on "Environment, Climate Change and Indian ethos: Moving towards the solution". The conference was organized to discuss how Indian philosophy and traditional wisdom can contribute in resolution of major global issues of the day and help in formulation of a sustainable development pathway and also tried to evolve a national consensus on the issues of extreme and urgent relevance through and invite inputs of scientists, policymakers, and practitioners.

As we know that Heads of States are expected to address the UNGA in the forthcoming Climate Summit and 69th session of the UNGA in September 2014 where draft SDGs will also be discussed. In December 2014 the Climate Change Conference of Parties (CoP) will take place in Lima (Peru), which will be an important step towards Paris, where world is hoping to have another global agreement on climate change. This conference proposes to discuss these issues and come with *Bhopal Declaration*, which will synthesis the discussion, suggestions and major demands from the global community

Day-One

Welcome Session

In the welcome session of the conference Shri Bhupendra Singh, Minister, Transport and Sc. & Technology, GoMP welcome the participants. He gave an overview of the achievements and future planning of the Sc. & Technology department of Madhya Pradesh. Shri Kailash Vijayavargiya, Minister for Urban Development and Environment delivered the welcome speech. He said that Madhya Pradesh is one of the very few states which has a very realistic financial planning of state action plan of climate change. He said that the suggestions, inputs and recommendations emerged out from the two days conference will be culminated into Bhopal Declaration after a democratic process. It will be a very important document towards sensitizing national government in terms of including people's voice in shaping national policies and international negotiations on sustainable development and climate change. After the welcome address by both the ministers the State Action Plan of Climate Change (SAPCC) was officially released by the ministers.



Thematic Sessions



The Conference had 7 sessions on debating Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, Road to Paris, Reviewing to national climate Change Missions challenges in making sessions to Action Plan on Climate Change. Various eminent academicians and climate change experts like Shri. T. Jayaraman, TATA Institute of Social Sciences, Shri Devinder Sharma Food Policy Analyst, Dr. Mrs. Jyoti Parikh, IRAD, Shri Sanjay Vashist, CANSA, Ms. Aditi Kapoor, Shri Sowmya Dutta(BJVJ), Shri

Ajay K Jha, PAIRVI, Shri Afsar Jafri, Focus on the Global South, Shri Manish Shrivastava, TERI, Ms Vanita Suneja, OXFAM India delivered their presentations. Shri Ajay Jha(PAIRVI) and shri Lokendra Thakkar (EPCO) facilitated the sessions.

Lead Session

In the Lead Session of Day one **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh delivered the presidential speech. During his speech he recalled how environment concern has been an inherent part of the Indian tradition wherein people worship natural resources like rivers, trees and mother earth. State Knowledge Management Portal for Climate Change was also officially launched by the Chief Minister during the conference.



Eminent Thinker **Shri Suresh Soni** delivered a key note address. He covered all aspects of CC issues in India and on the earth besides giving valuable guidance on the way forward to civil societies, state/central governments and UN to work on Climate Change mitigation, adaptation and policy environment. He emphasized on the Indian traditional approach of having relationship with the nature and how this approach is relevant in resolving

the problems related environment and climate change in present era.

Day- Two

Session on role of donor agencies in financing State Action Plans



The exclusive session on role of bilateral and multilateral donor agencies in financing State Action Plans also organized on the second day i.e. 7th Sept., 2014 where SAPCC experience and challenges of states like MP, Rajasthan, CG, AP and Manipur, Gujrat, Maharastra, and Odisha were shared from Arbinda Mishra from TERI, Peter Saile from GIZ and Amit Anand from UNDP. During the same day a Donors Roundtable on Financing was also organized in which representatives of DFID, IZ, SDC, NDP,CDKN, JICA participated.

After the discussion a draft of the Bhopal Declaration prepared by the committee was put forwarded. There were some important suggestions discussed by the participants on the draft. It was decided that after incorporating the suggestions, it will share with the experts before finalize the draft.

After the concluding the two days conference Shri Kailash Vijayavargiya, Minister for Environment and Urban Development had an interaction with the participants and thanked them for actively participated in the conference. Participants also shared their experience of the conference. Justice Panachand Jain and Shri Rajeev Sahai also thanked to the minister to initiate for such a wonderful conference where participants from various states and sectors could gathered and add their inputs and suggestions for the future strategy and pathways on the sustainable development and climate change. The minister also thanked to Mr. Sharad Joshi, secretary of CECOEDECON to make it happen through providing technical and coordination support on sustainable development and climate change.

