



**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Cover India and Sustainability Standards – International Dialogues and Conference (2018)
- Activities of the month

**FROM THE CHAIRPERSON’S DESK**

CRB organized and celebrated its 5th Annual International Conference – ‘India & Sustainability Standards (ISS)-2018’ themed on ‘Collaboration a key to SDGs: Leveraging CSR and Voluntary Sustainability Standards’ from 14 – 16 November 2018 in New Delhi. With 52 Partners, 40 speakers and about 700 delegates, the conference has set a remarkable milestone in the journey towards more sustainable future for our next generations and businesses. 5 plenary sessions and 30 parallel sessions on different themes spread over three days touched upon some of the critical issues in the sphere of CSR and Sustainable Development and how collaboration (private-private, multilateral and private, public-public, CSO-CSO, public-private-CSO etc.) plays a key role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These multi-stakeholders discussions have resulted into blueprint for some of the initiatives to be taken by CRB and its partners in the coming years. Your collaboration in these initiatives has the potential to speed-up the process. Please feel free to get in touch with CRB Secretariat in New Delhi to explore opportunities to collaborate in its programmes. We look forward to co-creating a world more habitable and sustainable.

I also like to take the opportunity and am pleased to share that in November 2018, CRB’s Board decided to elevate Rijit Sengupta as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective 1st January 2019. Rijit brought enthusiasm and energy to CRB in 2016 that he continued to use in his role as the COO. We are excited about his new role in the organisation. Please join me in congratulating Rijit and continue to support him while he works towards taking CRB to the next phase of development, growth, and impacts.

- DR. BIMAL ARORA

**INDIA AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS – INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUES AND CONFERENCE (2018)**

Balancing economic progress with sustainable development is one of the key challenges in an emerging economy like India. This November CRB’s annual dialogue - India and Sustainability Standards: International Dialogue and Conference’ (ISS) deliberated upon the same in a congregation of around 800 delegates.

This year the conference, organized from 14th to 16th November at New Delhi, also achieved the milestone of completing five years. The theme of the dialogue was focussed on the Collaborative approach leveraging CSR & Voluntary Sustainability Standards to work towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Along with the lead partners– GIZ India, The Embassy of Netherlands in India, Iseal Alliance, Aston University UK and C&A foundation more than 40 organisations supported the ISS 2018 and senior corporate executives from more than two dozen of the Indian as well as the multinational corporates including TATA group, Mahindra Group, Aditya Birla Group, Ambuja cements, Sterlite, Jindal, Vedanta, ITC, HCL, Cargill, Marks & spencer, Superdry, Genpact, Piramal, PVR, Rabobank, IKEA, Vodafone and many more participated in this conference which shows CRB’s success to bring the businesses, academia and civil society together to work towards responsible business practices and sustainable development, and underlines the importance of collaboration.

A number of international and national professionals and experts on sustainable development, SDGs, voluntary sustainability standards and CSR deliberated on the issues under the overall theme of ISS 2018:

- Cooperation Among and Across Governments - Linking the Global Goals with the Local Challenges
- Creating Lasting Public and Private Sector Collaboration Models in Practice, Building Trust
- How to Make Multi-stakeholder Partnerships Work to Achieve SDGs?

ISS is not a one-off event, it is a beginning of a lot of work and thoughts, and culmination for many initiatives. It sets the agenda for moving forward and take a stock of the agenda set in the earlier years for inclusivity and sustainable development in India.

Over the years, CRB has had the good fortune of having more than 4000 participants, with above 200 partner organisations co-hosting discussions on various issues at this annual dialogue. Which has evolved as a much-awaited international sustainability conference based in India and creating connections with international processes and actors on Sustainability.

**DIFFERENT THEMATIC SESSIONS:**



**Inaugural Plenary:** Effective Methods of Collaboration in Pursuing SDGs: What Lessons for India?



**High level Panel:** Cooperation Among and Across Governments: Linking the Global Goals with the Local Challenges



**High level Panel:** Creating Lasting Public and Private Sector Collaboration Models in Practice, Building Trust





**High level Panel: How to Make Multi-stakeholder Partnerships Work to Achieve SDGs**



**Women in Value Chains**



**India Inc. & the water-energy-food nexus**



**National Consultation: District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) as enablers of Sustainable Development in Mining Communities**



**Collaboration for Sustainable Landscapes**



**Human Rights: A critical component in Responsible Business Practices**



**Measuring Impacts: Electronic Waste Management and the Sustainable Development Goals in India**



**Deforestation and Sustainable Supply Chains in India**



**Creating Shared Value: How Sustainability Standards can learn from interoperability on water stewardship in Agriculture Sector?**



**Futureproofing CSR in India - a forward looking approach**



**Leveraging Social Responsibility to Manage Strategic Risks**



**Create Value and Reap Benefits of Doing Good - A Workshop on Aligning CSR with SDGs, NDCs and help develop more Responsible Brands**



**Responsible Sourcing and Implication on Communities**



**Making effective and trustworthy sustainability claims: Guidelines for**



**Climate Smart Agriculture: Ramping up agroforestry in India**





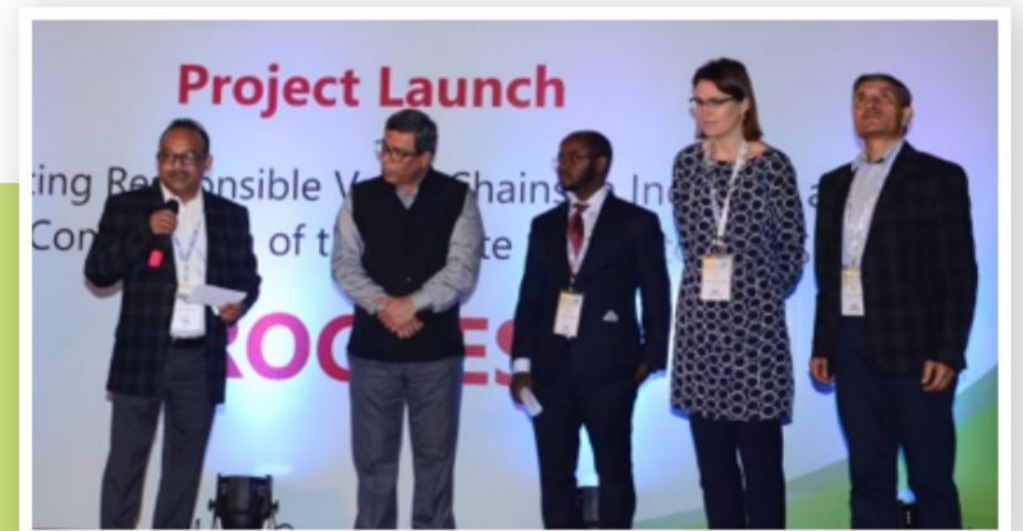
Sustainability Education in B-Schools – the Way Forward



Promoting responsible business practices in small tea plantations and the supply chain: Findings solutions through Multi-Actor Working Group

## PROGRESS PROJECT LAUNCH: PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE VALUE CHAINS IN INDIA FOR AN EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO THE SDGs

A formal launch of the PROGRESS Project (Promoting Responsible Value Chains in India for an Effective Contribution of the Private Sector to the SDGs) in India was held on 14th November. This project is being implemented by Aston University, UK with support from International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada) in partnership with the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB). The overall goal of the project is to undertake research based policy and practice engagement to influence, support and enable leading global businesses/brands to work with Indian businesses/suppliers and other key stakeholders to contribute towards achievement of SDGs, particularly focused on impacting women and youth. The project was launched in the presence of a gathering of national and international practitioners and experts, key stakeholders and project team members and Advisers. Ms. Saskia Loer Hansen, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), Aston University, UK, Prof. Pawan Budhwar, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor International (India), Aston University, UK, Dr. Bimal Arora, Honorary Chairperson, CRB & Assistant Professor, Aston Business School, Aston University, UK and Mr. Bouba Housseini, Program Officer, International Development Research Centre were present among others.



## ISS 2018 AWARDED AS ZERO CARBON CONFERENCE

CRB initiated a process to turn this Conference into a 'green event' by reducing use of plastic to the extent possible, all participants were also urged to ensure that wastage of food, water, paper and energy is minimal. South Pole – a leading global company in carbon credits, has helped us offset the carbon footprint of this event by making it 'carbon/climate neutral'.

A Certificate of Climate Protection has been awarded by South Pole to this conference being Carbon Neutral.

## UNCONFERENCE

One of the unique features in this conference was to unconference it. The informal interactions, networking opportunities, presenting and showcasing innovations were some of its key attractions:

**Celebspeak with Prahlad Kakar:** The celebrated advertising professional and ad guru Mr. Prahlad Kakar joined us at ISS 2018 on day 2. Prahlad expressed his views on - how a brand can be built based on its sustainability performance, impacts and importance of sustainable business practices for brand building and about his own efforts around inclusive development and marine life conservation.





## NETWORKING VILLAGE

A place to unwind and have casual discussions, make new friends, address small group of people, and know the best of the practitioners with facility to watch films on CSR/Sustainability.

An arrangement to present innovations, Ideas, Solutions, Challenges, issues, to a huge community of professionals and practitioners and get instant interest, remedies, accolades and clients.



## EXHIBITION

Participant organizations relive the innovation and community connections and showcased their products and services to a large gathering of sustainable & CSR professionals & enthusiastic government officials, corporates and other participants.





**ACTIVITIES**

**Masterclass: CSR in Emerging Economies – Integration with SDGs**

The Centre for Responsible Business (CRB); Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto; Aston Business School, Aston University, Birmingham; and Center of Excellence in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (CECRAS), O.P. Jindal Global University organized an exclusive Masterclass with globally recognised CSR and sustainability experts on 13th November 2018 in New Delhi. About 60 senior and middle level CSR professionals participated in the Masterclass. The masterclass faculty shared the latest global research and case studies on corporate responsibility as the public good in the contemporary context of market-driven growth and globalization, concomitant with economic, social and environmental challenges. The workshop focused on conceptual and practical tools for creating the linkages between CSR and SDGs in emerging economies in general and in India in particular. Participants learned what makes CSR-SDG combination an effective business strategy for organisations by focusing on creating public good. The legal provisions of CSR in India specified in Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 and their linkages with SDGs were in focus in the masterclass.

**Workshop: Business Groups and CSR for the Public Good in India**

On the eve of its foundation day and annual conference – “INDIA AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS: International Dialogues and Conference 2018”, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), organised a writing workshop on ‘Business Groups and Corporate Responsibility for the Public Good in India’ in association with the OP Jindal Global University; Schulich School of Business, Canada and, Aston Business School, UK. The purpose of the writeshop was to encourage and support scholarly research from India to build on and contribute to business and management research on Business Groups (BGs) and its interface with the notions of corporate (social) responsibility and sustainability. Apart from Research Presentations from scholars from India and abroad, the workshop had fruitful discussions on future research trends in the sphere of CSR and Sustainable Development in India with potential role of the Business Groups.

**District Mineral Foundation (DMF) State Consultation in Rajasthan**

A state level stakeholder consultation was carried out for sustainable mining communities in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The Consultation was facilitated by CUTS International. The Consultation witnessed over 37 participants including Government officials, District Administration representatives, Industry players, and NGOs. The objectives of the consultation involved highlighting the findings about the current state of DMFs in Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts, identifying and creating consensus about improvement to make DMFs effective, especially for welfare of mining affected communities/people, identifying, disseminating and striving for replicating good practices and initiating a discussion on the state of DMFs across other districts of Rajasthan. A panel discussion was conducted which with speakers from the Government of Rajasthan, Ministry of Mines, UNICEF and Federation of Rajasthan Trade and Industry. In addition to this, CRB had also shared its research findings from the project supported by Social Xleration. The floor discussions in the consultation had triggered questions pertaining to working of children in mines, safety and security of the workers, illegal mining, allocation of budget for the directly affected mining areas, health issues of the workers and community development.



**PIC OF THE MONTH – PICK A GOAL**