

**3<sup>rd</sup> YUVA Meet 2011**  
**Road to Global Sustainability via Local Initiatives**  
**1-2 February 2011**



**Introduction:**

TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) in partnership with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India has been organizing YUVA Meet - ‘Youth Unite for Voluntary Action’ on Climate Change since past two years. The themes for the first two meets were ‘Science of Climate Change’ and ‘Understanding Climate Change through Social Glass’, respectively.

The theme for 3<sup>rd</sup> YUVA meet is **“Road to Global Sustainability via Local Initiatives”**.

The two day long event is held a day prior to TERI’s annual international summit, **Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS)** to ensure that the voice of the young can be heard at the major international forum. Over **150 students** from colleges across India and abroad are selected to participate in the meet. The meet enables the youth to play a pivotal role in spreading the knowledge on key environment concerns and collectively voice their views, exchange ideas, and form a common network thereby reaching out to many more like minded people.

The United Nations defines “youth” as persons aged between 15 and 24 years. In 1995, young people aged 15 to 24 years numbered more than 650

million in the Asia –Pacific region. According to 2001 census, 41% of the total population constitutes youth in India.

Youth have both special concerns and responsibilities in relation to our environment. A number of environmental risks and hazards disproportionately affect young people, who have to live for an extended period with the deteriorating environment bequeathed to them by earlier generations. Its time that the young people engage in new forms of action and activism to generate effective responses to ecological challenges<sup>1</sup>.

Young people are important stakeholders in any initiative to combat environmental degradation. They can be actively engaged at local, national and global levels in awareness-raising educational programmes, advocating for policy level changes and strengthening public participation for environmental protection. At a time when unsustainable use of natural resources and environmental degradation have emerged as the greatest challenges that the society faces at all levels, its time to understand and use the knowledge that has been existing.

### **YUVA Meet 2011:**

Against this background, the Environment Education and Youth Services Division at TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), New Delhi will bring together, once again, young people from various parts of the world for the **Third YUVA (Youth Unite for Voluntary Action) Meet 2011 on “Road to Global Sustainability via Local Initiatives”**.

**150 Participants** from **14 nations** would participate:

India, Srilanka, Maldives, Argentina, Canada, Kenya, Swaziland, Russia, Kyrgystan, Phillippines, Japan, Korea, Fiji Islands, Malaysia
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**Partners for YUVA 2011** are– British Council India, Department of Environment, Government of NCT Delhi, Dell Global Giving,

Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, UNU-IAS.

YUVA 2011 aims to provide the youth with a platform to discuss, deliberate and debate on the issues of global sustainability and highlight local initiatives that have and can play a major role towards achieving global sustainability. The meet will also provide the youth with a platform to interact with like minded people and form networks.

### **Major Highlights of the Meet:**

- Interaction with eminent environment speakers, thinkers and leaders
- Selected student participants will be invited to participate in DSDS, 2011
- NGO exhibition, poster display, movie screenings
- Interactive sessions ; role plays, simulation exercises for environmental awareness
- Solution for Change – a unique concept where the young participants will get chance to give solution to real life environmental problems.

### **Sessions:**

- Local initiatives for environmental protection and preservation in India -the sessions would include presentation of case studies by various stakeholders from government, NGOs , corporate and media
- Role of Youth as change makers – youth panel to discuss the role of youth in the various sectors and to come out with policy recommendations
- Experience sharing by stakeholders and Young achievers

## **Working language**

The working language of the Meet will be English.

## **Profile of Participants**

Participants will be:

- National and International Students who are enrolled in an undergraduate/Masters course
- Young Researchers, social entrepreneurs, students.
- Young people interested to contribute to a ‘new thinking’ with local initiatives aiming towards global sustainability.

## **Contact for further details:**

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