



Sustainability all the way

Global Green Summit is a platform that addresses concerns for green living and a balanced economy and discusses 'global' concepts that can further a sustainable world. Launched in the year 2010, the event has been effective and impactful in kicking off a discourse on environmentally sustainable policies among experts, activists and pioneers of the ecological cause.

Acknowledging the necessity and power of a sustainable future, in the face of a world grappling with challenges of limited resources, ACETECH, as a platform, acknowledges the precept that sustainability cannot be like some sort of a moral sacrifice or political dilemma or a philanthropic cause. Rather, that it has to be a design challenge.

Taking this premise a notch further, ACETECH launched Global Green Summit, a platform that addresses concerns for green living and a balanced economy and discusses 'global' concepts that can further a sustainable world. Launched in the year 2010, when it was called Global Green Forum, the event has been effective and impactful in kicking off a discourse on environmentally sustainable policies among experts, activists and pioneers of the ecological cause.

On October 31, 2015, at BEC in Goregaon, Mumbai, The Global Green Summit united architects, developers, green practitioners, urban planners, policy makers and influencers to promote and discuss the strategic agendas for a sustainable future. Welspun Renewables joined hands with GGS as the Presenting Partner GGS to bring about effective solutions. This year, Dr. Prem C Jain, Chairman IGBC and Mr. Vineet Mittal, Vice Chairman, Welspun Renewables, inaugurated the summit. While Dr. Jain said that he was mighty impressed with the tremendous growth achieved by ACETECH over the years and with the credibility it brings to the Green Building movement through its wide reach, Mr. Mittal added that GGS was unique in every way, especially in getting together the real estate industry under one roof for the cause of sustainable development. Mario Schmidt, Managing Director- Lingel Windows & Doors Technologies



Dr. P.C. Jain, Chairman- AECOM India, IGBC.



(L-R) Ar. Mukesh Mehta- Chairman , Mm Project Consultants, Prashant Sutaria-Founder, Centre Of Living And Planning For Tomorrow, Amritha Ballal, Founding Partner- Spacematters Design Studio, Mahender Vasandani- President, M Square | Urban Design, Sharad Mahajan- Executive Director , Maharashtra Social Housing And Action League (Mashal) Ngo.

Pvt. Ltd.–The exclusive Sustainable Windows Partner of the event, said that this year the benchmark set by GGS was surpassed an agenda was created that attracted greater participation from the entire industry, while giving a boost to the green movement in India.

Also notable at the event, was the 'Green Hero' award by Welspun Renewables, launched in collaboration with The Economic Times ACETECH. The award recognizes outstanding non-institutional initiatives for environment sustainability. The initiative received an overwhelming response from green heroes across the country. A careful and detailed study of various experts on the subject was undertaken and an elite Jury panel comprising four members from diverse backgrounds was chosen. Mr. Narayana Peesapaty won the Green Hero award for the uniqueness of his idea of edible, eco-friendly cutlery and the applicability and scalability of his innovation. His cutlery idea was such that it was meant to not only eliminate the use of

plastic in the segment but also indirectly help the problem of irrigation in the state.

The conference was divided into six sessions and the theme of the conference was 'Transitioning into the Green Economy'. Accordingly key concerns were deliberated based on topics such as Affordable Housing, Role Of Facilities Management Companies In Motivating A Sustainable Culture, Disruptive Grass-Root Innovations For A Sustainable Future, Make In India- The Green Built Environment, Making Renewable Energy Mainstream and Sustainable Smart Cities and expert panels led an interactive discourse in each session.

Eminent panelists included, V Suresh (Director, Hirco project companies), Ar. Sanjay Prakash (Principal Consultant, Shift Studio), Gaurav Shorey (PSI Energy), Ar. Jaume Carne (Barcelona), Ar. Ashok Lall (Ashok B. Lall Architects), Ar. Jay Shah (Director, Access Architects) , Ar. Mukesh Mehta (Chairman, MM Project Consultants), Amritha Ballal (Founding Partner, Space Matters Design Studio),



L - Mario Schmidt- MD, Lingel Windows & Doors Technologies Pvt Ltd. R - Vineet Mittal, Vice Chairman, Welspun Renewables

Rajat Malhotra (COO, Integrated Facilities Management, JLL), Aneesh Kadyan (Director – Operations, CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd.), Teddy D'souza (Operations Head, Knauf AMF), Kishor Nair (Head- Renewable Energy Business, Welspun Renewables), Mario Schmidt (MD- Lingel), Robert Hoellrigl (President – R&D, Design- Encraft) among others.

The first session revolved around the topic, 'Affordable Housing,' wherein Sharad Mahajan, Executive Director of a NGO called MASHAL, spoke about the importance of research and analysis, the role of architecture and planning institutions and the necessity of policy makers and designers to make informed decisions. As the event progressed, Mahender Vasandani, President, M Square|Urban Design, disseminated information and knowledge based on his experience, on the role of urban design in creating culture and climate specific housing and on a holistic city experience rather than economically ghettoized enclaves. Prashant Sutaria, Founder of Centre Of Living And Planning For Tomorrow, threw light on the role of architects, in a sector where most attention is paid to policy and planning, especially in the context of environmental sustainability. Ar. Mukesh Mehta shared his insights on participatory planning based on the experience with Dharavi and informed on the ways to balance inclusion with efficiency, transparency and accountability built into the process. Everyone on the Affordable Housing panel agreed that political will was the most important for any significant step to be taken.

The second session centered around the 'Role of facilities management companies in motivating a Sustainable Culture' and the panel discussed varied aspects, including the life cycle of a building being in the hands of a facility manager yet, he/she having little or no influence on the design, efficiency ratings in sustainable buildings, standards used

to benchmark a building's performance, etc. The panel also discussed about the conduct and awareness of occupants and tenants having a big influence on what the Facility Manager can or cannot achieve while operating a building sustainably. Also, the question, how does the Facility Manager propound a Sustainable culture, received eager responses. It was agreed among panelists that reporting about awards received by most sustainable buildings, will create more awareness among investors, occupants, tenants, developers, and Facility Management companies.

Nominees of Welspun Renewable's Green Hero initiative spoke about their innovative ideas in the third session on 'Disruptive grass-root innovation for a sustainable future'. R N Bhaskar, Consulting Editor, Business India was the moderator for the panel. Narayan Peesapaty, who won the Green Hero award, said that his innovation would help reduce plastic usage and soil pollution and in the long run would help farmers earn more by cultivating jowar.

The fourth session on 'Make-in-India – The Green Built Environment', moderated by V Suresh, Director, Hirco Projects Companies, highlighted the importance of vernacular architecture and how vernacular methods can solve modern day problems. Ar. Jay Shah from Access Architects gave a presentation on the topic, 'Jugaad'–Unique Solutions For Unique Problems. The panellists reached a consensus that India needs to develop a unique model before the world which would be a blend of traditional as well as modern.

The fifth session, 'Making Renewable Energy Mainstream- The India Context', was moderated by Gaurav Shorey, a team member of PSI Energy. Issues of grid compatibility, local operating condition and increasing energy demand were addressed. Shekhar Dutt, Director General, Solar Power Developers Association imparted knowledge

about policy prerogatives and renewable energy based vehicles as supplement to fuel-based ones in urban settings. Balbir Khara, CEO, Surmount Energy, shared his experiences in Africa on how to get solar to the last mile via various collective cost sharing models that are economically viable. Dr. Anjali Parasnis spoke about TERI's experience in the Ecocity project, DSM initiatives, and wet-land conservation as a DSM feature while Ar. Sandeep Goswami showed the business angle behind why everyone should consider opting for and investing in solar and other renewable energy technologies. Usha Rangarajan presented her case study on the Pimpri Chinchwad New Town Development Authority project wherein the building was put entirely on to solar at no additional cost and she highlighted the impact of working in an "Integrated Design Team".

In the sixth session on Sustainable Smart Cities, the panelists saw a need to ensure alignment of all stakeholders on the understanding of a smart city. The sustainability of a smart city was said to be a conceptually holistic being, a sustainable economic engine preserving the character of the city and one that is designed with systems that minimize the environmental impact of the city's existence. Again, in the smart cities discussion, resource management was said to be the determining factor of a sustainable smart city. The panellists had a discussion on questions such as, what is the impact of smart cities on energy consumption, what percentage of reduction would be a reasonable and achievable target and if it was possible for smart cities to be net zero in the future. The talk steered towards brainstorming on the systems that one can bring into the designing of a smart city and best operating practices one can put to use to conserve this very important resource. At the same time, Teddy D'souza—the Operations



Ar. Sandeep Goswami- COO , Fountain Head II, Gaurav Shorey, Team Member- PSI Energy, Balbir Khara- Founder, Surmount Energy, Dr. Anjali Parasnis - Associate Director , TERI, Usha Rangarajan - Principal Architect, Landmark Design Group.



Ar. Jay Shah- Director , Access Architects, Teddy D'souza- Operations Head, Knauf AMF, Ar. Sanjay Prakash- Principal Consultant , Shift Studio, V Suresh- Director, Hirco Projects Companies, Kartik Punjabi, Chairman & MD - Vijay Punjabi Consultants P Ltd, G.S. Dikondawar- General Manager, Innovation And Technology- The Supreme Industries Ltd.



Rajat Malhotra, Chief Operating Officer; Integrated Facilities Management, West Asia Current Responsibilities Jones Lang Lasalle, Ar. Jaume Carne- Mataró Municipality (Barcelona), Ar. Ashok Lall- Ashok B. Lall Architects, Swapnil Patil - Swapnil Patil + Partners, Rajesh Phadke – Chief Architect And Planner – Gift City, Mario Schmidt, Managing Director- Lingel Windows & Doors Technologies Pvt. Ltd.



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Head (India & South Asia) of Knauf AMF India Pvt Ltd, which is the Exclusive Sustainable Ceilings Partner of The Global Green Summit 2015 – felt that the right raw materials are the most essential for the outcome of the right product. “For us sustainability is a part of the manufacturing process. We don’t need to add or subtract anything from the product as the product itself is sustainable,” he added. According to J M Totla, Sr. Vice President (Plastic Piping Division), the government’s initiative of ‘Smart Cities’ is the right step towards building a progressive nation. “As India is progressing towards becoming a ‘Desirable Global Destination’, the need to improve the core infrastructure elements & quality of life of people at large becomes pertinent,” said Totla.

The sessions had the audience in rapt attention and closed to a thunderous applause, providing insights about the future of ecologically sustainable living spaces.

Everyone appreciated the efforts taken to make Global Green Summit, 2015, a successful and truly informative event. Ar. Sanjay Prakash, Principal Consultant from Shift Studio said that the forum was made all the more interesting with the participation of thought leaders and relevant industry players. “I will certainly visit next year too,” said Prakash. Ashok Lall further added that he was very impressed with the consistency of the event year after year and said that the GGS platform brings out the issues and concerns relating to the development of a green future. The way knowledge was disseminated through interaction and discussion, was of particular liking to Prashant Sutaria. “Keep doing this as it’s something which I all really enjoy,” he said. For Rajat Malhotra, the key concern of GGS made for a platform that provides voice to the campaign of sustainability. “This is a fantastic opportunity for business and networking

and it is a forum that gets new technologies and new players in the market under one roof.” Aneesh Kadyan on the other hand found it great that GGS gave expression to voices from the green industry and to ecological pioneers. “This is a great place for a large scale event based on ecology, environment and sustainability. Moreover, it is very well managed, professionally handled and some of the most profound speakers from the industry.” The event also witnessed the presence of Robert Hoellrigl, Head- R&D, ENCRAFT India Pvt. Ltd, which is the Exclusive Sustainable Fenestration Partner of event and is an Indian producer utilizing European technology and specializing in developing products for the Indian market. The company took a bold step, back in 2006, when the decision was made to use lead free material in its products and has introduced a product in the market that achieves excellent thermal properties ◀