



Press Release



Level of Waste Management should be part of Human Development Index (HDI)

22nd Sept 2014, New York, “Poverty, Climate Change and Municipal Solid Waste management are interlinked challenges of our times. The present crisis-be it financial, faith or food-are the visible manifestation of our inability of to address these challenges head-on,” said Rajendra Shende, Chairman of TERRE Policy Centre and former Director of UNEP while releasing the Policy Paper on *Challenges in Transforming Waste into Potential Resource for the Sustainable Society*, here in New York City, on the eve of the United Nations Climate Summit. The Policy Paper is jointly developed by TERRE Policy Centre and Sampurn(e)arth, a social enterprise supported by Tata Institute of Social Science in India and DBS Bank of Singapore.

World, by 2025, will produce more than 2 billion tonnes of waste annually and will add to the emissions of Green House Gases (GHGs) like Methane from the decomposition of the waste, Hydrofluorocarbons-HFCs released from discarded and dumped refrigerators, room air-conditioners and car air-conditioners and black-carbon generated from open combustion of the waste, a practice followed by many countries as last resort. Action for Effective Municipal Solid Waste Management to reduce these emissions would provide much needed early relief from the adverse impact of the climate change, as these gases are Short-lived Climate Pollutants with atmospheric life time of about a decade or two, unlike Carbon dioxide which remains in the atmosphere for nearly a century.

“Millions of poor people,-waste pickers and scavengers,-mainly women and children make their livelihood working on the dumps of Municipal Solid Waste in the developing and emerging countries. While addressing the waste management through best technological practices, we need to protect their rights, dignity and enhance their livelihood”, said Debartha Banerjee, Director Sampurn(e)arth Environment Solutions . “Human Development Index (HDI) and rating of the City Programme should not only include how effectively waste is treated but also how the dignity of humans dealing with the waste is rehabilitated and restored ”, he added.

The Policy Paper that recommends the integrated approach, including promoting social entrepreneurship, is the first of its kind for the evidence-based policies and hands on experience.

Contact:

Dr. Vinita Apte, TERRE : aptev@gmail.com

Lillian Beuttah, Sampurn(e)arth: limobachi@gmail.com