

Group Exercise

Session: Sustainable Development

Conducted by: The Energy and Resources Institute

Date: 06 July, 2013

Time:

Mr. Ashutosh Senger and Dr. Ananda Vadivelu conducted a participatory group exercise for officers from Indian Audit and Accounts Department and Royal Audit Authority of Bhutan at the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (iCED), Jaipur.

The group exercise allowed the participants to look at a current issue on Indian policy and development focus from the multidimensional sustainable development lenses (economic, social, environment and governance). For the purpose of group exercise, participating officers were divided into four groups and each group was given a different government programme to be evaluated.



Group 1: Make in India



Responses by participants are as follows:

Economic	Social	Environment	Governance
Cost-benefit analysis	Land relocation and rehabilitation is a challenge	Depletion of natural resources	Government policies, rules and regulations and their compliance
Generation of employment	Business responsibility - are the project proponent responsible	Loss of habitat	Implementing authority and the procedure for supervision and monitoring should be well placed
Economic growth of the country	Compensation to affected parties	Pollution in terms of air, water and noise	Penalty mechanisms against defaulters
Balance of payment		Waste management	
Development of infrastructure		Reuse of waste generated	

Points to ponder on further

1. How India plans to impart skills to its citizens that would complement the skills required to make 'Make in India' a reality.
2. Can we ensure every industry undertakes tools such as EIA in its business strategy during planning stage to reduce impact on environment?
3. Make in India needs land, how will this land be acquired, will consent be gathered from a minimum threshold
4. Infrastructure development would need resources like sand, or alternative technologies like AAC blocks will be utilized

Group 2: Energy Security



- The group considered the topic on 'Energy security' in a macro view and deliberated on the 'Clean Energy Fund'.
- As per the group, considering the solar power potential of India, solar energy is most preferred choice for India, followed by wind energy, because wind energy potential has geographical limitation.
- The group feels that economies of scale has to be realised in manufacturing of solar and wind energy devices for increasing the access and affordability of solar and wind energy. The group felt that in order to increase the access of solar energy, the government should consider provisions of subsidies for domestic and industrial buyers.

Responses by participants are as follows:

Economic	Social	Environment	Governance
Cost-benefit analysis	Has the authority created funds for displaced community		Policies existing on energy security in the country and their adequacy
	Rehabilitation measures needs to be checked		Comparative environment analysis of all forms of energy projects
			Favoured source of energy based on scientific evidence

Points to ponder on further

1. Ensure tools such as EIA and SIA are included by organisation while planning energy plants
2. Competitive auction of natural resources for price discovery
3. Should India have a mixed energy portfolio or depend more on a particular energy source considering our political scenario, international relations and economy.

Group 3: Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



Responses by participants are as follows:

Economic	Social	Environment	Governance
Economic benefit to the country in long term as because of clean environment and sanitation facilities, there would be less diseases to work force which means less medical expenses on the country	Good health especially to poor and vulnerable group of society	Clean environment – air and water	Policies in line with clean environment
		Improvement in land degradation	Checking guideline aimed at environment protection
		3Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle	Public-private partnership can prove of great help
		Opportunity of water to energy	

Points to ponder on further

1. Linkage of cleanliness and fundamental right and fundamental duties
2. Waste generated from industrial activities under “Make in India”
3. Wetlands which are natural cleaners replaced by concrete- an example of Noida or Delhi (smart cities)
4. E-waste management with implementation of the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules and policy mainstreaming
5. Giving protection and social security to manual scavengers and partnership between formal and informal institutions

Group 4: Smart Cities



Responses by participants are as follows:

Economic	Social	Environment	Governance
Green Building norms	Rehabilitation and job availability should be considered while planning relocation strategies	Green belts to be created in cities	Adequate funding for environment and social arms of smart cities to be ensured
Water harvesting structure	Adequate infrastructure and amenities should be ensured for relocated families	Compensatory afforestation programmes to be undertaken	Ensuring timeline for project implementation is in place
	Group Housing schemes	During planning it should be ensured that no area such as biodiversity hotspot, wildlife sanctuary etc. is in near vicinity	While planning there should be provision for expansion of the city and nearby cities should also be developed
	Compensation to affected parties	Waste management activities should be in place	Ensure disaster management plan is well developed
	Public transport system to be strengthened		MCD should be included in planning and implementation stage with proper role and responsibilities communicated to them

Points to ponder further on

1. Environmentally a smart city should not overshoot its planetary boundaries. How to deal with cities like Delhi who get their water from kilometres away. Whose whole system of water table recharge has been built over? Whose waste is beyond the city's ecological burden and air quality is very poor.
2. Is it possible to have a smart city which can provide both needs and wants?
3. How to increase access, knowledge and information about digital tools as the government focus is to have e-governance in smart cities?