

Roundtable meet on 'Partnerships for Sustainable Progress'

Management Development Institute, on 17/07/09, organized a roundtable meet on 'Partnerships for Sustainable Progress' under the recently announced Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at MDI. Sustainable development is the critical need of the hour and MDI as a responsible B-School has decided to create a common platform for industry and other stakeholders to develop new ways of progressing towards it. Thirty senior practitioners from leading Companies and Foundations and academicians from MDI participated in the discussion. The objective of the event was to brainstorm and reflect on what role could the CSD play to contribute towards the cause of Sustainable Development.

On this occasion, the director of the institute Prof. B. S. Sahay emphasized on the need for collaborative effort and voiced the institute's commitment to take the Centre to great heights. He suggested several initiatives and urged the participants (Corporate) to collaborate as they work for sustainable development. Prof. Ashok Kapoor, Dean of Continuing Education and Consultancy delivered the welcome speech and then facilitated the discussions. He called for a selfless approach and expressed his desire to see the Centre as a Centre of Excellence.

Several suggestions were put forward by the group. The group agreed with the method of evolution of the Centre and felt that the Centre's Vision, Mission and regulatory framework must be defined. The Centre could take up several initiatives such as mapping the core competencies of the Centre and of the several partners in sustainable development. Collaboration amongst multiple stakeholders and also amongst each stakeholder was considered important. It was felt that while each Company present had its own goals, they could still come together to support each other. Documentation of best practices and knowledge sharing to ensure that sustainable development gets into the DNA of the people at large should be aimed. For this, the group felt that there was need to take the support of IT, educational systems and media to spread the message. Sensitizing young minds and bringing about attitudinal change was considered critical. Measurement, rating, ethical practices and developing curriculums that promote understanding and practice could be targeted. Aligning the public policy programme with the Centre to promote Advocacy was also suggested. A leadership talk series at MDI was suggested as part of mandate for the Centre.

The discussions were enriched by thoughts leaders like Ms. Lakshmi Menon Bhatia Director - Global Partnerships Gap Inc, Mr Puran Pandey, CEO Times Foundation, Lt. Gen Rajender Singh CEO DLF Foundation, Mr. Kuldeep Ratnoo Editor D-sector News, Mr. Praveen Aggarwal General Manager Coca Cola India Inc., Mr. Sandeep Bhargava Head of Corporate Affairs Nokia Siemens, Ms. Anuradha Bhavnani Shell Foundation Advisor Shell Foundation, Brig. Rajiv Williams Head CSR JSL Limited, Mr. Vivek Joshi GAIL (India) Limited, Mr. Prabhjot Sodhi National Coordinator Centre for Environment Education, Ms. Jyotsna Bhatnagar Lead CSR Monsanto Imagine, Mr. Aziz Ur Rehman Adidas Group, Mr. Ranjan Chopra Director Team Computers and many more.

Team Computer had sponsored the event. The delegates appreciated the initiative of MDI and voiced its support to the Centre. Prof. Gita

Bajaj summarized the discussions and Prof. Neelu Bhullar proposed a vote of thanks in which she urged for a change in the mindset to promote sustainable development.

About MDI: Management Development Institute (MDI) Gurgaon is a premier management institute ranked amongst the top B-schools of the country. Established in 1973, it has emerged as a forerunner adapting itself to meet the needs of the industry. Some of the well known full time programs are the PGPM, PG-HR, PG-IM, NMP, PG Diploma in Energy management and PG Diploma in Public Policy. The Institute is accredited by AMBA, SAQA and AICTE. MDI is also the largest school of continuing education as it trains the largest number of managers annually. The institute has a flourishing doctoral programme and the research focus assumes high priority in its set of goals.

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