



Tata Steel's Project makes its way to the UN Climate Change Conference



The Green School Project, an initiative by Tata Steel in association with TERI to spread awareness about environment issues in school campuses, made its presence at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Poland.

A case study on 'The Green School Project' was presented at the India Pavilion in Katowice, Poland on December 13, 2018 during a session on 'Capacity Building for Climate Change' hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Pankaj Satija, Chief Regulatory Affairs, Tata Steel highlighted environment and climate related actions taken by the Company.

On the sidelines of COP24, a pavilion was set-up to create awareness about India's positive climate actions in various sectors of the economy. The theme of this year's India Pavilion was 'One World One Sun One Grid.' India Pavilion was a platform for exchange of innovative ideas for the world to come together and act.

Pankaj said: "We have been engaging with the tribal people in our mining areas for their traditional knowledge on climate change. Sustainability is at the core of

everything we do at Tata Steel. The Green School Project is one of such initiatives undertaken to enable a sustainable future. This project, done in partnership with TERI, has shown a positive impact amongst the school children in terms of making them environment conscious."

Apart from the Indian government officials, the session was also attended by delegates from countries like Austria, Namibia, Germany, Poland, Indonesia and Zimbabwe. The 24th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held at Katowice, Poland from 3rd December 2018 to 14th December 2018.

Under the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015, the countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed to an international agreement - Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) - whereby they would reduce their respective greenhouse emissions and thereby contribute individually to climate change mitigation.

In order to tackle the issue of climate change at the national level, an important step would be to create awareness amongst citizens and enhance their understanding about the ways of implementing sustainable practices, at the individual and community levels, which reduce emissions. Since children will be the responsible citizens of tomorrow, it is required to emphasize on building their knowledge and skill sets along with helping them develop an

attitude of conservation and efficient use of resources.

Thus, to add to India's contribution towards INDCs, Tata Steel and TERI envisioned the Green School Project, with a sharp focus on augmenting the capacities of students through activity-based teaching programmes, which not only involve and connect them with nature but also train them to promote the message of climate change mitigation in the wider society.

RR Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, said "This is an area which is at the heart of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. Children are attached to things in their immediate environment and it is important to keep them in mind while framing policies."

The Green School Project was launched in April 2017 with select schools with an overarching goal of creating amongst students, awareness on climate change and the ways in which a sustainable lifestyle can help mitigate the adverse impact of climate change. This is achieved by promoting environmental stewardship through both classroom and outdoor activities like teachers training workshops on digital pedagogy, development of green curricula, community impact projects, outdoor educational activities, development of Information Education and Communication (IEC) resources for joyful learning activities. This further helps to improve their critical, interdisciplinary, and holistic thinking.