7TH ANNUAL

INDIA AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUES & CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 28–30, 2020

THEME

SUSTAINABILITY A KEY TO BUSINESS RESILIENCE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

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COVID19 hit us in India at a time when the economy was already sagging. India's economic growth was on a steadily decline trajectory (from 5.2% in quarter ending June 2019 to 3.1% in quarter ending March 2020), before we came under the grip of the virus and the ensuing lockdown. As the number of confirmed COVID19 positive cases rose, the government came down with a very strict lockdown from 23rd March 2020. With industrial production and services largely having halted and little assurance and support from most of their employers, small and wage workers were left without their income. Desperate to meet their basic needs, millions of fellow Indians started their difficult and horrid return journey back to their homestead from cities across the country. Some weren't able to make it and perished on the way. Most of the others who returned back to their villages needed relief - food and healthcare, and income. Our government, businesses and society at large was caught on the wrong foot. We were just not prepared to deal with an emergency of this stature.

Investigating possible reasons behind the spread of COVID19 has spurred interest in the subject of 'planetary health' (importance of preserving environmental resources in the interest of human and community health). Increasingly, pathogens (zoonotic viruses and their ilk) are jumping from the animal to the human system. This has been seen in the case of SARS, Lyme disease, MERS, EBOLA and Nipah. Degradation of the natural systems due to indiscriminate anthropogenic activities has widely been held responsible. Scientists have cautioned, this is not the last pandemic we are witnessing. Unfettered trade, commercial and infrastructural activities continue to stretch our resources - material, environmental, human and financial.

Since the last couple of months, the wheels of industry have slowly started to roll as the lockdown has been progressively relaxed. The long and arduous process of rebuilding has begun. Contrary to what detractors had predicted, an area of common interest has been achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery (aligned with the principles of building back better). Ensuring that the pathway to recovery is less resource intensive and caters to the need and interest of the most vulnerable will be a key to achieving resilience at a wider society level.

The government announced a fiscal package (Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan - Self-Reliant India) to tackle the impact of virus on the economy. This financial stimulus is a mix of fiscal support, monetary support, ease of doing business processes, as well as some fundamental reforms. The Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund) was established in March 2020 to support containment and relief efforts. This fund has received contributions from the private sector including CSR budget and philanthropic contributions. The sheer magnitude of the situation and the degree of social and economic impacts requires many actors to join hands and support the recovery efforts.

This discourse will dominate the background in the run up to CRB's 7th annual flagship conference in end-October this year. The theme - 'Sustainability a key to business resilience in an uncertain world' has thus been carefully chosen to reflect this reality and the challenge. All stakeholders will need to come together to build back better with a renewed commitment to pursuing sustainable development. At CRB, we believe every stakeholder has a vital role to play in this rebuilding process and only through our collective efforts will we be able to achieve a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery. We would like to call businesses, industry associations, government agencies, NGOs, academia, standards organisations, experts and citizens interested in pursuing this agenda to join us this year, so that we can raise our collective voice and co-create such pathways for our country and for all of us. In line with the current priorities, some of the issues that would take centre-stage at this year's event are:

- Green, Inclusive and Equitable Recovery
- Global Solidarity and International Cooperation
- Making Trade resilient and sustainable
- Governance of Value Chains (local – regional – global)
- India's ability and capacity to demonstrate leadership in 'building back better'
- Inter-linkages between Business Resilience and Community Resilience
- Preparedness to identify vulnerability and address discrimination
- Mainstreaming sustainability into financing and investment decision-making
- New and emerging (sustainable and circular) business models
INAUGURAL DAY

OCTOBER 28, 2020
INAUGURAL DAY SESSIONS

Inaugural Thematic Session
Sustainability a key to Business Resilience in an Uncertain World
1000 hrs to 1200 hrs, 28 October 2020

- Green, Inclusive and Equitable Recovery
- Global Solidarity and International Cooperation
- Making Trade resilient and sustainable
- Governance of Value Chains (local – regional – global)
- India’s ability and capacity to demonstrate leadership (policy, business and societal levels) on ‘build back better’ agenda
- Inter-linkages between Business Resilience & Community/Social Resilience
- Community resilience focusing on vulnerability and addressing discrimination

Confirmed Speakers*

SHRI. SURESH PRABHU
India’s Sherpa at the G20
Former Minister of Commerce & Industry & Civil Aviation

DR. RAJIV KUMAR
Vice Chairman
NITI Aayog
Government of India

HEIDI HAUTALA
Chair, European Parliament
Working Group on Responsible Business Conduct

DR. ASHOK KHOSLA
Chairman
Development Alternatives
Technology and Action for Rural Advancement (TARA)

DR. YASMIN ALI HAQUE
Representative
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

DR. BIMAL ARORA
Faculty Member
Ashok Business School, UK
Honorary Chairperson
CIB

High Level Panel One
Designing an Enabling Ecosystem to Build Back Better – Government to Governance
1215 hrs to 1345 hrs, 28 October 2020

- Role of government and regulation (State and Centre)
- Technology to reduce inequality and offer solutions
- Technology for better access to data and informed policy making
- Financing sustainable outcomes

Confirmed Panelists*

ATUL BAGAI
Head of Country Office
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

DR. SANJEEV CHOPRA
Director
Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration

NADIA RASHEED
Deputy Resident Representative in India
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

High Level Panel Two
Pathways to our Common Future – Businesses in PostCOVID19 era
1445 hrs to 1615 hrs, 28 October 2020

- New & Emerging Business Models
- Lessons from COVID19 to combat the Climate Crisis
- Identifying opportunities (Consumer Preference and Behaviour)
- Role of Frugal Innovations
- Priorities at the local level (Collaborations)

Confirmed Panelists*

PROF. TENSIE WHELAN
Director, NYU Stern
Center for Sustainable Business

KARIN KREIDER
Executive Director
ISEAL Alliance

HERMAN MULDER
Co-founder & Chair
SDG Netherlands

DR. ASHIMA GOYAL
Professor of Economics
Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research

ARVIND MAYARAM
Former Finance Secretary
Government of India

SHRI RAJEEV KHER
Former Commerce Secretary
Government of India

HIMANSHU BAKSHI
Managing Director
Danone India

ARUN MAIRA
Chairman
HelpAge International
SESSIONS & PARTNERS

OCTOBER 29 - 30, 2020
BREAK-OUT SESSIONS & CONFERENCE PARTNERS

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

- India Inc. Leads by Example - Responsibility in Revival
- Business Resilience in times of Crisis: A multi – sector Perspective on Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue India
- Towards a Responsible Forest Economy
- Partnership for Nutrition
- Family Friendly Policies in A&T Sector
- Tools & Approaches for Business to Build Resilience
- Building Back Better: Improving the Situation of Informal Women Workers in Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery Phase
- Building Sustainable Supply Chains Across Forest-Linked Commodities
- Women, Work & Peace
- Promoting Green and Inclusive Growth to Build Back Better post COVID
- Is Living Wage “Relevant” and “Urgent” in the wake of COVID-19?
- Responsible Recruitment: A Post COVID-19 Agenda Across Supply Chains
- Enabling Policy Implementation for Promoting Responsible Business in India
- Recognising Invisible Workers in Global Supply Chains
- Role of Data and Digitization in Better Preparing for Uncertainty
- Reducing Food Loss in India – Challenges and Opportunities
- Sustainability Information to Empower Consumers
- Post-COVID Sustainability Roadmap for MSMEs
- VSS Contribution towards SDGs in India
- Driving Sustainability Education & Research for a Resilient Future
- Circular Design in Apparel: Enabling Circular Economy for Business Resilience
- Sustainable and Inclusive Sandstone Stewardship
- Towards a Sustainable and Circular IT & Electronics Industry
- Public Consultation: Youth for Sustainability (YFS) India Alliance

LEAD PARTNER

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GOVERNMENT LOGO SUPPORT

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Government of India

MEDIA PARTNER

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KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

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for every child

*As of October 20, 2020

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