



WED 2018 Celebrations Begin with trialogue2047

India was the proud global host for World Environment Day (WED) 2018. The international theme for this year's WED celebration was 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. A five-day long celebration was organised by UN Environment and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), from 1st - 5th June 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Development Alternatives (DA) received the honour of being a key participant in the series of events focusing on environmental issues and working collectively to create a green tomorrow for the generations to come. This platform brought DA an opportunity to bring to light the environmental challenges India faces today and showcase DA's interventions to tackle these. This was done through a deliberation, exhibition and book launch in Delhi, and celebrations in Bundelkhand – in partnership with SWITCHAsia Programme, Green Economy Coalition and la Caixa Banking Foundation, and with sponsorship from European Union.

On 1st June 2018, DA kick started its contribution through its 21st trialogue2047 on 'Local Enterprises and their Potential for Greening the Economy'. trialogue2047 is a series of discussions that envision a century of India as a nation. It aims to be a forum that can engage with a well-informed audience to identify new directions India must choose, and the policies and measures it must adopt to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable tomorrow. This session highlighted how India's rapid economic growth has brought with it a detrimental effect on the country's environment and social frames, exposing urban centres to serious pollution related concerns and increasing inequalities arising from the jobless scenario. This situation, thus, warrants the need for adopting greener and fairer practices for development. Through conversations, the session deliberated on the transformation needed for our nation to build a sustainable future for all, ensuring an economy that builds resilience in natural resources and green livelihoods. The focus was to highlight and discuss the kinds of transitions we need from the current development paradigm, the role of micro and small enterprises in this transition, the structural changes required to move towards greening the economy, how to move beyond the current indicators of economic progress, and the well-being of people and the planet, and how this will benefit the micro and small enterprise ecosystem.

The three key speakers of the event were Mr. Surjit Bhalla (Chairman and MD, Oxus Investments), Dr. Arun Kumar (President, DA) and Ms. Puja Sawhney (SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility). Mr. Bhalla deliberated on the enabling environment and opportunities that are available for establishing micro and small enterprises, thereby creating new jobs to boost the economy of India; whereas as a practitioner, Dr. Arun Kumar spoke about the challenges and barriers faced by these enterprises during implementation. He also emphasised on the opportunities available for these enterprises to go green, thereby addressing the dire need for carbon emission reduction in our country. On the other hand, Ms. Sawhney brought the global perspectives of micro and small enterprises, their contribution to green the economy, and the lessons that India can learn from them. The session was a perfect forum for interactive discussion and exchange of knowledge among the audience. trialogue2047 ended with the release of the "Delhi Declaration on Local Green Enterprise" by the representatives of micro and small enterprises. The declaration contends that they recognise local green enterprises to be at the frontline of the transition to inclusive, green and resilient economies, and that this can further help achieve the goal of sustainable development for India.