

## **International Conference on Developing Countries and Sustainable Development: Reconnecting Past with Present**

IQAC, Shyam Lal College organized two day International Conference on “Developing Countries and Sustainable Development: Reconnecting Past with Present” on 5-6 March, 2018 as part of one week International Winter School on “Fostering Collaborative Innovations and Solutions for Sustainable Development” from 3-7 March, 2018 in collaboration with Turku University of Applied Sciences, South Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences and Pori School of Economics, Finland.

The Conference saw a huge participation from delegates, faculties, research scholars, professionals, media partners and students from different universities from India, abroad and policy makers had numerous sessions. There were three plenary sessions, one workshop, one Roundtable, nine parallel sessions, many working sessions for students and student presentation sessions as well. We received huge number of papers for the conference but could only accommodate 50 odd papers in the nine concurrent sessions. More than anything, it is the student engagement that has delighted us in this conference. We had many parallel working sessions for students from partnering Finnish universities and our own students. Fifty plus students engaged in many on the spot project assignments and presentations. This cultural and academic exchange between the students of all the four universities and institutions involved has been the best take away for all of us as this whole event was planned keeping in mind how best it can benefit our students. In the same spirit we also had best paper presentation awards for students.

The conference was inaugurated by Hon’ble Ambassador, Finland Ms. Nina Vaskunlahti who addressed the audience and encouraged the partnering institutions towards this collaboration. She emphasized on how this collaboration will benefit all the partnering institutions in exchanging ideas and learning from the education systems in both the countries for developing sustainability thinking. The keynote address was given by Prof. Santosh Panda, Vice-President, South Asian University, Delhi who elaborated on the idea and concept of sustainable development and sustainable development goals 2030. Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, Principal, Shyam Lal College, in his welcome address, raised relevant questions around India’s role and contribution to global issues and

also for emphasizing on the role that our past culture and tradition can play in finding solutions to sustainability. The valedictory address on 6th March, 2018 was delivered by Prof. V. K Malhotra, Member Secretary, ICSSR who highlighted and called for assessing the parameters of well-being and happiness as popular in the present times.

All the participating academia, policy makers, industry experts and research scholars gathered in the conference laid emphasis on how sustainable development involves more than traditional economic growth. It requires a change in mind-set to reconnect with our past to learn to effectively manage equitable consumption. The world is faced with challenges in all three dimensions of sustainable development i.e. economic, social and environmental. A better understanding of the linkages and coordinated actions among these trends and associated nuances involving these conditions is needed.