

## Conference on Sustainability

### Role of Industry towards Environmental Sustainability

June 28, 2019 at Hotel Holiday Inn, Mayur Vihar, Delhi

**FORE School of Management**, New Delhi in association with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has organized a conference on Sustainability on June 28, 2019 at Hotel Holiday Inn, Mayur Vihar, Delhi in the presence of eminent speakers from industry and academia. More than 140 delegates from industry and academia participated in this summit. **FORE** was the academic partner for this event.

With diminishing water table levels, use of plastic and other non-biodegradable materials in the spotlight, what is the 'Industry's role towards Environmental Sustainability' was the timely question raised in the CII conference. **Dr. Jitendra Das, Director, FORE School of Management**, New Delhi moderated one of the session titled "Resource efficiency- Linear to a circular economy for Indian manufacturing- Challenges and Opportunities" which brought insights from renowned industry personalities too.



**Dr. Das** got the discussion going by asserting that to achieve sustainability goals in the industry the traditional model of reuse, recycle and reduce is not enough anymore. "There is

a pressing need for upcycling, downcycling and closed loop. Policymakers should incorporate the circular economy to ensure that the sought goals are achieved,” he said strongly, setting the tone for the conference. **Dr. Das** highlighted some of the acute challenges in sustainability - carbon footprints and ecosystem stating how eco-systems work while remaining interconnected and dependent on other ecosystems. “Any by-product of one ecosystem in nature is used by another ecosystem. Anything which is a waste for one ecosystem is a reasonably good input for another ecosystem. It is the example of circular economy. Recycle means bringing back to itself even small components as well. If it is not possible for a business entity to entirely eliminate carbon emission, they should start buying out carbon credits” he said.



Mr. Saroj Banerjee, Chief Environment, Tata Steel BSL Limited then took to the stage and highlighted the eco friendly technologies used in his company.

Mr. Dheeraj Verma, GM EHS and Sustainability, JCB India Limited emphasized on the need of a collection and recycling infrastructure. According to him, all types of plastic is recyclable, but the issue lies in collection of plastic waste. Mr. Sandeep Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Shuddhoday PMPL focused on the importance of water and how its pollution is putting civilizations in danger. He suggested acceleration of water treatment facilities and making sure that everyone shares the responsibility of saving water.

The panelists then took questions from the audience making it an engaging session. **Dr. Das** referred to the Malthusian Theory, which states, “if left unchecked, a population will outgrow its resources, leading to a host of problems.” On that powerful thought he concluded the conference by reminding the audience that achieving the goal of sustainable development is the responsibility of all. That reiterated the conference’s message for need of circular economy to maintain sustainable development for people as well as the industry.