Sustainability Reporting for Sustainable Development
Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai : 11 - 12 June 2014

- The Conference in Review -
Introduction

On June 11 and 12, 2014, the Sustainability Reporting for Sustainable Development conference was held in Mumbai, bringing together over 180 thought leaders from business, civil society, social service, the fields of academia and government. While the majority of the participants were from India, sustainability leaders from Bangladesh, Brazil, Bhutan, Australia, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands and Sweden were also present. GRI was represented by Dr. Aditi Haldar, Director Focal Point India, Glaucia Terreo, Director Focal Point Brazil, and Teresa Fogelberg, GRI Deputy Chief Executive.

The conference was made possible through generous support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and from BSI, ERM, KPMG, and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI). Members of GRI India’s Sustainability and Transparency Consortium also played an important role in the conference’s success.

The conference included a special ceremony of gratitude to the (more than 100) sustainability reporters currently reporting in South Asia. In addition, all participants were able to enjoy a visit to Seeds of Hope, an exhibition organized in partnership with Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), and created by SGI and Earth Charter International.

The conference took place during a particularly eventful period in the history of sustainability reporting and related matters. In several key economies, like India, business and national governments are developing new practices and policies to embrace their corporate responsibilities in combating poverty, inequality, and tackling huge sustainability and human rights challenges.

The day before the conference, the newly elected Indian government presented its agenda to the Indian parliament. In the global arena, the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are currently being negotiated in New York by a UN member state Open Working Group. Three days before the conference, a ‘zero draft’ of the SDGs was launched, which underlined the important role of the business sector as far as contribution and accountability are concerned. The document includes goals and targets, which businesses are expected to implement, monitor, measure and report on from 2015 onwards.

Sustainability reporting plays a key role in these deliberations. The topic of private sector accountability has appeared prominently on the agenda for over two decades now. The drivers have been a lack of public trust in published corporate information, and a more restrictive operative license for companies. Opportunities for establishing a green economy and new markets have also arisen. There is no accountability without transparency – so sustainability reporting has become a key accountability tool for many companies and their stakeholders.

The importance of sustainable development has often been reiterated, but monitoring its progress has always proven to be a challenge. Many countries have included ‘sustainable development’ in their policy regime.

Corporates are adding a new ‘sustainability’ dimension to their business strategy. The many inter-linkages between governments and businesses around the common goal of sustainability formed the crux of the two-day conference.

Influenced by global developments in voluntary sustainability reporting, and led by government initiatives, Indian and South Asian companies are now not only compelled to acknowledge the persistent demand for sustainability information by multi-stakeholder groups at a global level, but also to demonstrate systemic improvements within their reporting processes. Non-financial data disclosure is becoming an imperative for conducting business in a transparent and responsible fashion. Primary drivers for reporting as observed in most economies stem from regulatory bodies and stock exchanges, coupled with the maturing global landscape in which GRI’s Sustainability Reporting Framework has forged a path for organizations to become more sustainable.

GRI’s aim is to make sustainability reporting a mainstream and credible practice and states: “It is about measurements which enable organizations to change the way they manage their impacts, it is about promoting change.”
Disclosure is a fundamental part of sustainability reporting and enhances ongoing and incremental process.

G4 is about ‘focusing to promote significant change’ – reports should highlight significant change as a result of reporting.
The conference at a glance:
- Representatives from over 15 sectors
- 15 speakers
- 23 panelists
- 66% male participants
- 34% female participants

Attendees’ fields of specialization (percentage breakdown):
- Academia 4%
- Financial services 4%
- Business 38%
- Consultants 29%
- Government 3%
- Intergovernmental agencies 6%
- Labor organizations 2%
- NGOs 6%
- Others 7%

Inaugural session

The opening plenary session was addressed by six influential thought leaders from across the world.

‘Sustainability is a key decisive factor for our future state. The future we want to create, not the future that is given to us’ – Ms. Neha Kumar, Senior Technical Export, IICA-GIZ, Business Responsibility Initiative

Ms. Neha Kumar left the audience thinking about our common future and the contribution of GRI in driving transparency and accountability as tools for achieving sustainable development.

‘GRI strengthens accountability and pushes the sustainability agenda further. When Sweden initiated the state-owned companies’ reporting program, it did not succeed immediately. But over a period of time, we have witnessed an increased involvement and awareness amongst the Board and senior management of these companies’ – Ms. Fredrika Ornbrant, Consul General, Consulate General of Sweden

‘At Tata, we look at those areas of sustainable development where the companies can make a difference. For example, at TCS we focus on education and skill development programs, whereas Tata Chemicals has developed “Swach” to provide clean and affordable drinking water in rural areas’ – Mr. Ajoyendra Mukherjee, Executive Vice President & Head of Global Human Resources, TCS

Fredrika Ornbrant and Ajoyendra Mukherjee spoke about real-life examples in Sweden and India respectively. Their speeches highlighted the way businesses utilize GRI based-reporting as a medium to design solutions for sustainable products and processes.

‘The credit for torch-bearing the sustainability reporting agenda goes to GRI. It has successfully created a framework for sustainability reporting, expanded the discussion on sustainability, accommodated the needs of various stakeholders and redefined concepts as per globally acceptable best practices’ – Mr. Ashok Pavadia, Joint Secretary, DPE, Government of India

Mr. Ashok Pavadia touched upon the recent regulatory changes in India, while recognizing GRI’s contribution in enhancing awareness and accountability. He urged businesses to further expand the dimensions of sustainability by following a multi-disciplinary approach towards sustainability reporting.

‘It is time to treasure the irreplaceable value of things around us. Sustainability should accord highest importance to the dignity of life’ – Mr. Vinay Jain, Director, Bharat Soka Gakkai, and film actor
Summary of panel discussions

The conference included four key panel discussions on various aspects related to sustainability and reporting in the regional context. The chosen topics were discussed by distinguished panelists representing a diverse cross-section of society.

Panel discussion 1: Sustainable development goals and the impact of sustainability reporting

Sustainable development goals reaffirm a country’s focus towards socio-economic, inclusive growth. Whereas organizational sustainability goals help develop stakeholder relations. And it is not sufficient if both these entities independently pay attention to sustainability. Both the public and private sectors should also participate in developing a combined strategy that can establish corporate sustainability goals and link it with the region’s sustainable development agenda.

‘Measuring sustainability is important for both corporate and national accounting. While there is still room for improvement, Bhutan’s measurement of Gross National Happiness is a step in the right direction, and offers important lessons in the importance of human wellbeing to society. As sustainable reporting and sustainable development evolve, alternative metrics will be critical at both the micro and macro scale’ – Mr. Randall Krantz, Strategic Advisor to the CEO, Druk Holding & Investments

Without robust and regionally aligned sustainability goals, it is challenging to deliver a sustainability report. Sustainability reporting helps a country to look at development as an opportunity so that shared value can be achieved. In an Indian context, ethical goals can help drive positive results which will impact future development.

‘In order to understand the sustainability reporting process, individuals should begin by preparing sustainability for themselves. If people are not better, then how can we achieve this better future we are talking about?’ – Ms. Glaucia Terreo, Head of GRI Focal Point in Brazil

‘Public sectors which have governments as principal stakeholders are naturally aligned to fulfill national sustainability targets and commitments. Sustainability reporting is a crucial element that aids in measuring, managing, changing and communicating on this front. GAIL’s association with GRI Focal Point India has helped us in not only sharing and gaining from peers but has also helped in broad basing our sustainability initiatives within our organization’ – Mr. Santanu Roy, GAIL (India) Limited

From left to right: Mr. Santanu Roy, GAIL (India) Limited; Ms. Glaucia Terreo, GRI Focal Point Brazil; Mr. Girish Ramachandran, TCS; Mr. George C Varughese, Development Alternatives; Ms. Saumya Lashkari, Godrej Industries Limited; Mr. Randall Krantz, Druk Holding & Investments
Panel discussion 2: Sustainability reports – how useful are they to report readers and information users

The questions that are increasingly being asked by those companies that are putting considerable effort in producing sustainability reports are “Who is reading them?” and “What are they being used for?” Currently, readers and users can be broadly categorized into these groups:

- Potential investors who want to be better informed about how the company manages its risks
- Companies/individuals using the reports in their sector for benchmarking
- Potential employees who base employment decisions on responsible behavior patterns of the company
- Researchers including academics, business analysts etc
- Customers who want to know how responsible the company is whose products they are buying or would like to buy

The GRI Guidelines have undoubtedly helped standardize and enhance the comparability of non-financial information. In order to increase accountability and transparency, reporting should not only focus on areas of positivity but should also incorporate negative aspects. The outcomes and impacts of the previous reports should also be covered in the report. The purpose of reporting helps to identify material issues. The material issues should be identified through consultative processes. Sustainability reports are a mix of good things and not so good things.

“The GRI G4 Guidelines are pushing organizations to ensure that the reporting process and the report focus on issues that are material to their business and their key stakeholders. The focus on materiality will make the reports more relevant, more credible and more user-friendly; and enable companies to better inform society on sustainable issues” – Mr. Subir Gupta, Chief Executive-India, ERM

Like the brain, heart and spirit of a person, sustainability reports are the intelligence, emotions and soul of an organization. Creating a positive impression for disclosure will help the organization more than it will help the stakeholders, as this leads to a more motivated environment for self-improvement and management of business risks. Strengthening this by including aspects like auditor reviews, standard guidelines for assurance providers will enhance the importance of reporting.

“One of the most crucial steps in sustainability reporting is an objective identification of relevant stakeholders by the firm. Adequate time and effort should be invested in this exercise, so that the most relevant “material issues” are extracted for the purpose of reporting. Further, firms committed to “continuous improvement” in their sustainability practice should realize that development of the sustainability report is the first step in the process; and should use this report to engage meaningfully with the stakeholders for enhancing the firm’s sustainability performance in the long run” – Mr. Rijit Sengupta, Director, CUTs
Panel discussion 3: Supply chain transparency and how sustainability reporting helps enhance it

Supply chains have grown wider and become more global but still lack transparency. Globally, only 20% of companies have been able to report across their supply chain and it may take approximately up to eight years for companies to holistically report on their supply chain. Some of the issues faced include ensuring compliance, the traceability of suppliers, and building supplier capabilities and capacity. Reporting will help solve labor and human rights matters, thereby enhancing supply chain transparency which has been lacking.

‘The supply chain is as strong as its weakest link. And organizations are as strong as the weakest link they have in their supply chain. SMEs hold a major share in most supply chains, making it all the more important to include them in organizational sustainability initiatives’ – Ms. Beroz Gazdar, Senior Vice President, Group Sustainability, Mahindra & Mahindra

Considering that most supply chain entities are SMEs, they account for 40% of India’s exports and are the second largest employment provider. Over 33% of SME production is for large corporates, while the rest is for smaller industries. Major barriers for SMEs include lack of technology, credit facilities, infrastructure and awareness. Regional disparities are also observed in SME clusters, where progressive states like Maharashtra and Gujarat have 58 and 49 SME clusters respectively, while states like Bihar and Goa have 3 and 1 SME cluster respectively.

Despite over 51 labor laws related to human rights in the supply chain, transparency is still a challenge. There is an immediate need for sustainable finance and reporting across the supply chain. Aggregate reporting, as currently being done by GRI for India’s Foundry SME sector, is a welcome step in this process.

‘If we take care of our suppliers and assist them to operate in a sustainable way, they will be in a position to influence companies in their cluster’ – Mr. Mukesh Gulati, Executive Director, FMC
Panel discussion 4: – How does the 2% CSR spending drive significant change?

The new regulation has set the stage for widespread corporate responsibility activities, but the achievement of long-term impacts would depend on scalability of projects and shared value ideas. There is a possibility that this regulation could cause pockets of CSR potential affluence in highly industrialized areas. On the contrary, the 2% corporate spending on CSR can enable governments to look into non-industrialized geographies that are not addressed by the private sector. Adopting collaborative models, wherein, at a district level, companies engage with government and choose areas of intervention, will be good for the community on a long run. Alternatively, social venture funds can be created for work in certain geographies. Additionally, pooling resources would lead to the possibility of working on projects of greater scale and reach. Monitoring and associating impact with CSR activities would also be easier this way.

The discussion focused around four main aspects:

• The difference between CSR and philanthropy, the concept of shared value and creating business cases for CSR
• Is the 2% spend going to be a check-box tick initiative, or will it drive change in reality?
• 2% vs the 98% - will the former dominate the latter, or vice versa? Will the 2% lead to a cultural change in organizations?
• Focusing on creating value across the value chain, so that business becomes sustainable in the long term

‘When you have a law that mandates an expenditure, which comes out of your profits, on elements which are pre-defined, it gives very little space for a company to choose the space or intervention, and the method in which they want to discharge their corporate social responsibility’ – Mr. Kaushik Dutta, Independent Director, HCL

Taking the regulation as an opportunity, companies must place higher trust on corporate governance, accounting, measurement and monitoring. Also they should enhance the capacities of employees in the organization, beginning with the board of directors, top management and employees to have a constructive approach to implementing CSR programs. Sustainability reports can be used as an effective medium for communicating the impact of the company’s CSR activities.

‘The 2% corporate spend on CSR is just the tip of iceberg of community investment in India. The government has given a framework for companies to follow. Now, it is up to individual companies to bring in value through their project management skills’ – Ms. Gayatri Subramaniam, Convener & CPE, IICA

From left to right: Mr. Kaushik Dutta, HCL; Ms. Gayatri Subramaniam; IICA; Dr. Yogendra Saxena, Tata Power; Dr. Amit Kapoor, Institute for Competitive- ness, India; Mr. Ajay Sud, CIDS; Ms. Neena Singh, ERM; Dr. S. K. Gupta, The Institute of Cost Accountants of India; Dr. Aditi Haldar, GRI Focal Point India
**What the participants said**
The widespread adoption of sustainability reporting by various organizations was discussed. Participants’ discussions around these brought insights into how governments, businesses and investors could use sustainability reporting for sustainable development.

‘One of the primary goals of sustainability reporting is user-friendliness or user understandability. But for the common layman, it took them a long time to understand what a MDG was. So when we move into SDGs, what would be the biggest challenge on sustainability reporting for reporters like us? Because it would take a long time for the common people to understand what a SDG is. Similar to a MDG, it would take them at least 5-10 years to understand the concept.’ – **Mr. Sami Hafiz, Mutual Trust Bank limited, Bangladesh**

**Government** - The Companies Act, 2013 and Section 135 on mandatory CSR spend set the context for interesting discussions on the government’s role in driving sustainable development.

‘The 2% CSR spend regulation has attracted global attention towards India. GRI, with its long standing relationship of promoting sustainability reporting in India, will keep collaborating with various stakeholders to further the government’s initiatives’ – **Ms. Teresa Fogelberg, Deputy Chief Executive, GRI**

A sustainable reporting framework that is designed bearing in mind an inclusive approach will ensure that the key concerns of all stakeholders are catered for. Publication of an annual sustainability report could therefore be the best starting point for governments to begin practicing what they preach.

**Business** - Acting as a medium for transparent and honest communication with key stakeholders, a sustainability report published by businesses could mitigate the ramifications of climate change in order to drive sustainable development. Businesses are eternally burdened with the challenge of developing or finding new markets. Looking at the economic gap between various classes of the society, it is a great business opportunity to invest in the innovation of products for the bottom sector of society. It is strategic to see the bottom of the pyramid as a market. Recognizing socio-economic development as an opportunity will create shared value. This is probably how corporates can drive sustainable development.

‘The global shift from the traditional “policy” approach to a “strategies and results” approach for managing organizational sustainability performance is a welcome change. It would be worthwhile to follow this trend and see its evolution in India’ – **Dr. Aditi Haldar, Head of GRI Focal Point in India**

**Investor** - Institutional investors nowadays are keen on using non-financial information to evaluate prospective environmental and social issues. They have not only begun reviewing corporate sustainability reports, but are choosing the geography for funds disbursal based on the sustainable development priorities of local governments. Their risk-averse and sustainability-oriented lending priorities are driving businesses to follow responsible practices.
**Seeds of Hope exhibition**

A special attraction of the conference was a guided tour of an exhibition *Seeds of Hope: Visions of sustainability, steps toward change exhibition*. The exhibition was a joint initiative of Soka Gakkai International and Earth Charter International, and organized by Bharat Soka Gakai and GRI as part of the conference. It introduced a vision for sustainable living expressed in the Earth Charter, and gave eight examples of individuals and groups, from different countries, who have taken action for change. The exhibition comprised 24 panels, expressing our interconnectedness with nature, the feeling of powerlessness, and what each one of us can do to change the world around us. The immediate impact of the exhibition was visible on the panel left blank for visitors to write on. Inscriptions included “I will use public transport as much as possible”; “I will recycle a lot of my stuff.” From such individual efforts will emerge people who can take empathetic action on behalf of others and build on values that will support a truly healthy society. These are the seeds of future hope that are being planted today.

‘I feel this exhibition makes one think and reflect. Because it presents simple things, but things that one is normally not exposed to, or one is not told about. And when it comes to that, it initially makes you feel strange, turns to peace, and then the reflection starts. The reflection of “why do I find this strange?” because this is the world. We should feel comfortable in it and feel a part of it, which I think is the essence of the message here, that we must feel at home in the world.’ – Mr. Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India
The Mumbai Declaration on Sustainability Reporting for Sustainable Development

The participants of the conference formulated a ‘Mumbai Declaration on Sustainability Reporting for Sustainable Development’ to be presented and discussed at key forums. The declaration, comprising of appreciations, suggestions, comments and opinions will make its representation at key forums wherever the path from sustainability for sustainable development is discussed.

The Declaration

1. Sustainability reporting has become a robust movement on the Indian sub-continent and contributes to business transparency, accountability and sustainability performance. It is of vital importance that sustainability reporting addresses the immense challenges posed by poverty, inequality, environmental damage, social and human rights, and the fight against corruption, if and when these issues are material to companies and their stakeholders.

2. The GRI Guidelines, and specifically G4, their fourth iteration, are quite useful in the Indian sub-continent, as they are designed to measure and report on the impacts of reporting organizations in the above-mentioned fields, related to the complex interrelated dimensions of poverty, environmental degradation and sustainable development.

3. The quality of sustainability reporting should continue to improve and evolve. Reporting is not only about output, but also about results, and it is important that Indian reports contain a good balance of positive results, constraints, dilemmas and incidents. Future topics could include sector reporting, life cycle reporting, and ethically inspired reporting (inspired by the Happiness Index of Bhutan, for example).

4. It is fundamental that sustainability reporting continues to reflect a multi-stakeholder principle in its due process and content. Although stakeholder dialogue can be difficult, it is essential that communities and civil society (for example) are involved in defining topics which are material to them and their daily life and future. It is also important that they remain involved after a sustainability report has been issued, in order to discuss feedback and possible further action. To quote Jamshedji Tata (founder of the Tata Group): “In a free enterprise, the community is not just another stakeholder in business, but, in fact, the very purpose of its existence”.

5. Supply chain transparency is important, for suppliers themselves as well as for the businesses buying from suppliers. However, there are many challenges: the chain is only as strong as its weakest link. In India, one third of SME (small- and medium-sized enterprises) production is for large companies. Good practice examples were given at the conference about skills development, as well as funding conditions from credit agencies. But it takes two to tango: in India many large companies pay too little or, more often, too late to their suppliers, which makes it hard for the suppliers to comply with sustainability conditions. GRI has been called upon to provide simple guidance to SMEs and to stimulate ‘cluster reporting’, as now happens in India within the foundry sector.

6. The usefulness of sustainability reports for readers and users is steadily increasing. G4’s focus on more materiality has enhanced the relevance of a company’s reports. Organizations are moving away from reporting as a tool to serve marketing or brand development only. In India, investment in reporting has already started to give a better return. Investors are using reports to assess non-financial risks, while companies read them to gain peer information. Employees use the data for their career advancement, while young job hunters look for worthwhile jobs. Suppliers look through the reports for potential contracts, and enlightened customers search for responsibly made consumer items. Regulators also refer to reports. But there are also problems, as many reports still tend to focus too much on the positive, rather than giving a balanced overall view - including negative impacts – of an organization.
7. Governments and stock exchanges play a key role in advancing sustainability reporting through policy and regulation, often referencing these to international frameworks, such as GRI’s. In this regard, Guidance on Alignment of GRI with National Voluntary Guidelines and SEBI’s BRR, a document developed by Focal Point India, can be recommended for use by businesses and stakeholders alike. At the same time, the Indian government should practice what it preaches, and be accountable to the public on how it functions and operates. In other words, the government and its agencies should also produce their own sustainability reports.

8. While operating as a global organization, GRI is expected to continue and extend its outreach in emerging markets and developing countries. Although GRI’s presence in India might be perceived as a driving force just for the Indian population, it is wholly supported by GRI on a global level. In its turn, GRI, as the global de facto standard for the public interest is also fed and inspired by GRI India.

9. GRI has been commended for its sustainable development strategy which strives to:
   1) Enhance awareness and the capacity of sustainability reporting.
   2) Empower stakeholders.
   3) Map the ‘footprint’ of multi-national companies that operate in developing countries.
   4) Strengthen the sustainability performance of local business actors.

10. The Sustainable Development Goals, to be launched by the UN General Assembly in 2015, should be formulated in such a way that they are relevant to – and can be implemented by – businesses as well as governments. Many businesses realize that they already report on GRI and therefore ‘automatically’ to a large extent on the SDGs. It is recommended that GRI further develop guidelines for the business sector to report on the forthcoming SDGs, based on the already existing standard framework of G4.

11. A recent government bill stating that 2% of company’s net profit must be devoted to corporate social responsibility may be welcome, but that still leaves 98%. Indeed, the rest of the business also needs to be sustainable. The 2% ruling could lead to forced philanthropy, ‘tick box’ behavior, tokenism or even corruption, and masking of data to avoid having to comply. Time will show if this legislation will have a real impact on poor people’s lives and prevent actual environmental degradation.
List of companies acknowledged in a Ceremony of Gratitude for their journey towards sustainability and transparency through reporting, at the Sustainability Reporting for Sustainable Development conference.

<p>| ABB | Glaxosmithkline Pharmaceuticals Ltd. | NDPL (New Delhi Power Limited) |
| ABN Amro | GMR Infrastructure Limited | Nestle India Ltd. |
| ACC | Goa Glass Fiber | Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd., |
| Adani Enterprises Ltd. | Godrej &amp; Boyce Mfg.Co.Ltd | NHPC Limited |
| Adani Ports Ltd | Godrej Industries | NMDC Ltd |
| Adani Power Limited | Godrej Industries Ltd | NTPC Limited |
| Aegis | Grasim Industries Ltd., | Numaligarh Refinery Limited |
| Ambuja Cements Ltd. | GRI | Oil And Natural Gas Corporation Ltd |
| Apeejay Surrendra group | Gujarat NRE Coke | Oil India Limited |
| Apollo Tyres | Havells | Oracle Financial Services Software Ltd |
| Arcelor Mittal | HCLTechnologies Ltd | Paharpur Business Centre |
| Ashok Leyland | HDFC Bank Ltd. | Panasonic |
| Asian Paints (India) Ltd., | Hero Motocorp Limited | PepsiCo India |
| Axis Bank Ltd. | Hindalco Industries Ltd. | Petronet LNG Ltd. |
| Ayurved Ltd | Hindustan Construction Company | Polylex |
| Bajaj Auto Limited | Hindustan Copper Ltd. | Power Finance Corporation Ltd |
| Bank Asia | National Aluminium Co. Ltd | Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. |</p>
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<td>Exide Industries Ltd.,</td>
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<td>Ford Motor India</td>
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<td>Glaxosmithkline Consumer Healthcare Ltd.</td>
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“At Jubilant, sustainability is a core business fundamental, and is integrated across all business functions. Over the last 12 years, we have been disclosing our initiatives and performance through sustainability reports, which offer an international platform for stakeholder engagement. We became the GRI India’s first corporate Organizational Stakeholder in 2005; and are proud to join hands with GRI this year to become a founding member of the Sustainability and Transparency Consortium in the Chemical sector. We deeply appreciate GRI’s presence and guidance on every step of the ladder we took.”
– Ganesh Chandra Tripathy, Chief Sustainability Officer, Jubilant Life Sciences Ltd.

“JSW Steel values the GRI framework and its role in enabling business to integrate sustainability. Being an Organizational Stakeholder has not only helped reinforce this advantage but has also led to better decisions and improved communication about our commitment to our stakeholders.”
– Dr. Suman Majumdar, Chief Sustainability Officer, JSW Group
Network Partners

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KPMG  
cutting through complexity

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GRI India’s Consortium Members

GAIL (India) Limited  
JSW  
Jubilant Life Sciences  
SAIL  
Tata Consultancy Services
Sessions and speakers

**Inaugural** – Neha Kumar, IICA-GIZ; Fredrika Ombrant, Consulate General of Sweden; Ajoyendra Mukherjee, TCS; Ashok Pavadia, DPE; Vinay Jain, Bharat Soka Gakkai; Teresa Fogelberg, GRI

**Sustainable Development Goals and the impact of sustainability reporting** – Girish Ramachandran, TCS; Glaucia Terreo, GRI; George C Varughese, DA; Randall Krantz, Druk Holding & Investments; Santanu Roy, GAIL; Saumya Lashkar, Godrej Industries

**Sustainability reports – how useful are they to report readers and information users?** – Subir Gupta, ERM; Rijit Sengupta, CUTs; AN Raman, IFAC; Prasad Modak, ILFS; Ashok Haldia, PTC India Financial Services Limited

**Supply chain transparency and how sustainability reporting helps to enhance it** – Venkataram Arabolu, BSI Group India; Beroz Gazdar, Mahindra & Mahindra; Mukesh Gulati, FMC; Ghislaine Nadaud, ABN AMRO

**How can the 2% CSR spending drive significant change?** – Dr. Amit Kapoor, Institute for Competitiveness, India; Kaushik Dutta, HCL; Yogendra Saxena, Tata Power; Ajay Sud, CIDS; Neena Singh, ERM; SK Gupta, The Institute of Cost Accountants of India; Gayatri Subramaniam, IICA

**Conference report partners - KPMG** Raajeev B Batra; Santhosh Jayaram; Prathmesh Raichura; Rahul Arora; Desiree Lobo; Vrushank Shah and Bhargavi K

GRI thanks all the conference participants for their support and enthusiasm, and greatly appreciates the invaluable support of its conference sponsor, partners, and GRI India Consortium members, whose contributions facilitated the realization of this two-day event.
SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Venue: Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai
Address: Apollo Bunder Mumbai, Maharashtra 400001

11 - 12 June 2014

Thought leaders from business, civil society, government and social services will be gathering to discuss the relevance and implementation of sustainability reporting, particularly in the light of the proposed United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as:

- Sustainable Development Goals and the impact of sustainability reporting, how does sustainability reporting relate to the major development issues in our time, and what is the impact of reporting on development, both internally for an organization and externally for its stakeholders?
- Sustainability reports - how useful are they to report readers and information users?
- Supply chain transparency and how sustainability reporting helps to enhance it.
- How can the 2% CSR spending drive significant change?

On 11 June a workshop on "Sustainability Reporting according to GRI G4 - What & How" will be organized, followed by a multifaceted program on 12 June by Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) in collaboration with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), BSI Group India, ERM, ICSI & KPMG.

The program on 12 June will provide a platform to connect, share, discuss important questions and successful strategies about the systematic change required to make sustainability reporting play a key role in fulfilling sustainable development goals. You will be happy to know that for the first time in India GRI will acknowledge leading companies who have entered into the journey of sustainability reporting in a "Special Ceremony of Gratitude to the Sustainability Reporters of India".

A special attraction will be the guided tour of an Exhibition "The Seeds of Hope: Vision of Sustainability, Steps towards Change".
Day 1

11 June
Workshop: Sustainability Reporting according to GRI G4 – What and How
Venue: The Rendezvous

09:00-09:30  Registration, Tea/Coffee
09:30-09:45  Welcome Address by Dr. Aditi Haldar, Director, GRI Focal Point India
09:45-10:00  Global Sustainability Reporting Trends by Ms. Teresa Fogelberg, Deputy Chief Executive, GRI

GRI G4 framework and key elements

10:00-10:30  Main Features of GRI G4 Guidelines: Principles and Standard Disclosures by Mr. Santhosh Jayaram, Technical Director, KPMG
10:30-11:15  Materiality: What Matters and Where It Matters by Ms. Glaucia Terreo, Head, GRI Focal Point Brazil
11:15-11:30  Tea Break
11:30-12:00  Stakeholder Engagement by Ms. Glaucia Terreo, Head, GRI Focal Point Brazil and Dr. Susanne Ettl, Global Sustainability Knowledge Manager, ERM
12:00-12:30  Assurance by Mr. Vadakepattan Nandkumar, Head-Business Excellence & Climate Change, DNV Business Assurance India Pvt. Ltd.
12:30-13:00  GRI Sustainability Reporting and other Aligned Frameworks by Mr. Damandeep Singh, Director, CDP India
13:00-13:30  Lunch
13:30-14:30  Experiences of Leading Reporters
  Mr. Ganesh Tripathy, Chief Sustainability Officer, Jubilant Life Sciences Limited
  Mr. Ranjit Singh, GM CSR and Sustainability, Maruti Suzuki
  Dr. S Majumdar, Chief Sustainability Officer, JSW Group
  Dr. Aniruddha Agnihotri, Health, Safety and Environment, TCS
14:30-15:30  What makes a Good Report? Group Learning by Dr. Aditi Haldar, Director, GRI Focal Point India
15:30-16:00  Discussion and Closure

Day 2

12 June
Sustainability Reporting for Sustainable Development

09:00-10:00  Registration, Tea/Coffee

Inaugural Session - Crystal Central

10:00-10:10  Welcome Note by Ms. Neha Kumar, Senior Technical Expert, IICA-GIZ, Business Responsibility Initiative
10:10-10:20  Opening Remarks by Ms. Fredrika Ombrant, Consul General, Consulate General of Sweden
10:20-10:40  Address by Mr. Ajayendra Mukherjee, Executive Vice President & Head of Global Human Resources, TCS
10:40-10:50  Address by Mr. Ashok Pavadia, Jt. Secretary, DPE, Government of India
10:50-11:05  Introduction to the exhibition Seeds of Hope by Mr. Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson, Bharat Soka Gakai
11:05-11:15  Closing Remarks by Ms. Teresa Fogelberg, Deputy Chief Executive, GRI
11:15-11:30  Tea/Coffee Networking Break
11:30-13:00 Key Panel Discussions - Crystal North, Crystal South, Crystal Central, Gateway

- Sustainable Development Goals and the impact of sustainability reporting
  Gateway
  Chair: Mr. Girish Ramachandran, Corporate Vice President, TCS
  Panelists:
  Ms. Glacia Terreo, Head, GRI Focal Point Brazil
  Mr. George C Varughese, President, Development Alternatives
  Mr. Randall Krantz, Strategic Advisor to the CEO, Druk Holding & Investments
  Mr. Santanu Roy, GM (Corporate Planning), GAIL (India) Limited
  Ms. Saumya Lashkari, Head Good & Green, Godrej Industries Ltd.

- Sustainability reports - how useful are they to report readers and information users?
  Crystal North
  Chair: Mr. Subir Gupta, Chief Executive-India, ERM
  Panelists:
  Mr. Rijit Sengupta, Director, CLTs
  Mr. A.N. Raman, Chairman Advisory Group on Sustainability and Integrated Thinking, PAIB of IFAC
  Dr. Prasad Modak, Chief Sustainability Officer and Dean, ILFS Academy for Applied Development
  Dr. Ashok Heidia, Director, PTC India Financial Services Limited

- Supply chain transparency and how sustainability reporting helps to enhance it
  Crystal South
  Chair: Mr. Venkatakrishna Arabolu, Managing Director, BSI Group India
  Panelists:
  Ms. Beroz Gazdar, Senior Vice President - Group Sustainability, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.
  Mr. Mukesh Gulati, Executive Director, FMC
  Ms. Ghislaine Nadia, Advisor ESE Risk & Policy, ABN AMRO, Communications & Sustainability, the Netherlands

- How can the 2% CSR Spending drive significant change?
  Crystal Central
  Chair: Dr. Amit Kapoor, Honorary Chairman, Institute for Competitiveness, India
  Panelists:
  Mr. Kaushik Dutta, Independent Director, HCL
  Dr. Yogendra Saxena, Chief Sustainability Officer, Tata Power
  Mr. Ajay Sud, Managing Trustee, CIDS
  Ms. Neena Singh, Partner, ERM
  Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director, The Institute of Cost Accountants of India
  Ms. Gayatri Subramaniam, Convener & Chief Programme Executive, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)

13:00-13:30 Guided Tour of the Seeds of Hope Exhibition: Vision of Sustainability, Steps towards Change
  A joint initiative of SGI and Earth Charter organized by Bharat Soka Gakkai - Gateway

13:30-14:30 Lunch - Crystal South & Crystal North

14:30-15:45 Summary of Key Panel Discussions - Crystal Central
  Chair: Ms. Teresa Fogelberg, Deputy Chief Executive, GRI
  Panelists:
  Mr. Girish Ramachandran, Corporate Vice President, TCS
  Mr. Subir Gupta, Chief Executive-India, ERM
  Mr. Venkatakrishna Arabolu, Managing Director, BSI Group India
  Dr. Amit Kapoor, Honorary Chairman, Institute for Competitiveness, India

15:45-16:15 Tea/Coffee Break

16:15-17:00 Special Ceremony of Gratitude to the Sustainability Reporters of India - Crystal Central
  Facilitated by Mr. Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India and
  Dr. Aditi Haldar, Director, GRI Focal Point India
  Mr. Shyam Bang, Executive Director, Jubilant Life Sciences
  Mr. Rajesh Batra, Head Governance, Risks & Compliance and Head of Sustainability, KPMG
  Celebrating the journey of sustainability reporters in India

17:00-18:00 Celebrations and Networking Drinks - Princess
WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR SPEAKERS
About GRI

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is a leading international organization in the sustainability field. Its Secretariat is based in Amsterdam with several Focal Point offices located around the world, including in India.

GRI promotes the use of sustainability reporting as a way for organizations to become more sustainable and contribute to sustainable development. The most updated version of GRI's Guidelines for Sustainability Reporting, G4, was launched in May 2013 and has been developed through a global multi-stakeholder process involving representatives from business, labor, civil society, and financial markets, as well as auditors and experts in various fields. A close dialogue was also built up during its preparation with regulators and governmental agencies in several countries.

The Guidelines have been developed in alignment with internationally recognized reporting related documents, such as the UN Guidelines on Business and Human Rights, the UN Global Compact Principles, OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises and ILO declarations. These are referenced throughout the Guidelines.

For further information, you may kindly visit: www.globalreporting.org

From 'seeds of change' to Seeds of Hope

"Treat the Earth well. It is not a gift from your parents; it is a loan from your children."

"You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no results."

-Mahatma Gandhi.

The Seeds of Hope exhibition, organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai, the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroots organisations that seeks to promote the values of peace and respect for all people, stresses our interconnectedness with the rest of the community of life and the need to broaden our sphere of compassion and concern. It encourages viewers to overcome feelings of powerlessness and highlights the fact that a single individual can initiate positive change - the "Power of One".

It also introduces a positive vision for sustainable living as expressed in the Earth Charter with examples from eight people, from Africa and the Arctic to Eastern Europe, who have successfully taken action for change.

For further information, please contact: bsg@bharatsokagakkai.org

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