

YUVA Meet- 2010: Understanding Climate Change through Social Glass

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YUVA stands for Youth Unite for Voluntary Action. YUVA Meet-2010 was organized around the global theme of understanding climate change through social glass for both post graduates and under graduates who need a platform to voice their opinions. The selection was based on a write up pointing out the biggest social impact of climate change including a community that is at the front line of the impact. After two weeks of arduous efforts from both AUW faculty and students, three of us Binny K. Babu, Jyothi Nair, and Renjini A. Thomas, got the opportunity to be a part of the meet.

YUVA Meet was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. The two day event (February 2nd and 3rd) focused on how the issues such as equity, justice, lifestyle and culture are related to climate change. The meet included interactive sessions such as presentations, panel discussions, campaign designing and group activities. The objective of these sessions was to provide the youth an overview of emerging social challenges of climate change. As a part of a workshop we were introduced to sustainable education which is almost similar to the education system in AUW. We also had the opportunity to meet some of the renowned personalities including Mr. Charlie Walker, Director Programs, British Council, Dr. RK Pachauri, Director General, TERI and Mr. Ibrahim H. Rehman, Director, Social Transformation, TERI.

The major attraction of the event was a group of youngsters titled as International Climate Change Champions (ICC) who included representatives from 60 countries around the globe. Towards the end, the meet was enchanted by Indo-UK Green Raga Concert by the Celtic Ragas Band reiterating the impacts of climate change. We got to interact with enthusiastic young leaders in the interactive sessions and group activities. The 120 participants were from Bangladesh, Europe, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Philippines. The meet inspired us to bring change in people's irresponsible attitude towards nature and to preserve earth for our future generations by awakening the potential within us to be a change. We are obliged to AUW for supporting us to be a part of this event.