

## Regional Workshop -1

### Mainstreaming Sustainable Social Housing in India (MaS-SHIP)

21<sup>st</sup> August, 2017

The first Regional Workshop under project MaS-SHIP was held on 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 2017 at Courtyard by Marriott, Mumbai. The project team, advisory board members, technical reviewers and representatives of selected social housing projects gathered together to gain insight on the methodology adopted for selecting and measuring the attributes for MaS-SHIP Sustainability Index (SI) and on the questionnaire survey developed for collecting data on the selected attributes.

Experts from varied backgrounds ranging from academia, construction industry, private developers, manufacturers, vendors and research institutes participated in the event.



*Image 1: Participants at Regional Workshop -1*

Sanjay Seth from TERI set the event scene by underlining the intent of the first regional workshop and the progress made on the project so far. Prof. Rajat Gupta from Oxford Brookes University explained the two major outputs coming from the project i.e. 1) Sustainability Index (SI) to evaluate building technologies based on attributes developed and a Decision Support Tool (DST) to enable adoption of sustainable building practices by housing providers. Updating the audience on the key milestones achieved by the project he shared the findings from the background study report titled 'Sustainable Social Housing in India: Definition, Challenges and Opportunities'. Prof. Gupta stated the current housing shortage in the country thereby establishing the relevance of social housing being the prime focus of MaS-SHIP project. He also emphasised on the multiple initiatives being taken by the government to meet the housing demand in India, and the need for incorporating sustainability as an indispensable aspect in this process. He pointed out; how the outputs from this project could help promote environmental, social and economic sustainability by enabling the decision makers

make more informed choices. The published report can be accessed from the project website: [www.mainstreamingsustainablehousing.org](http://www.mainstreamingsustainablehousing.org).

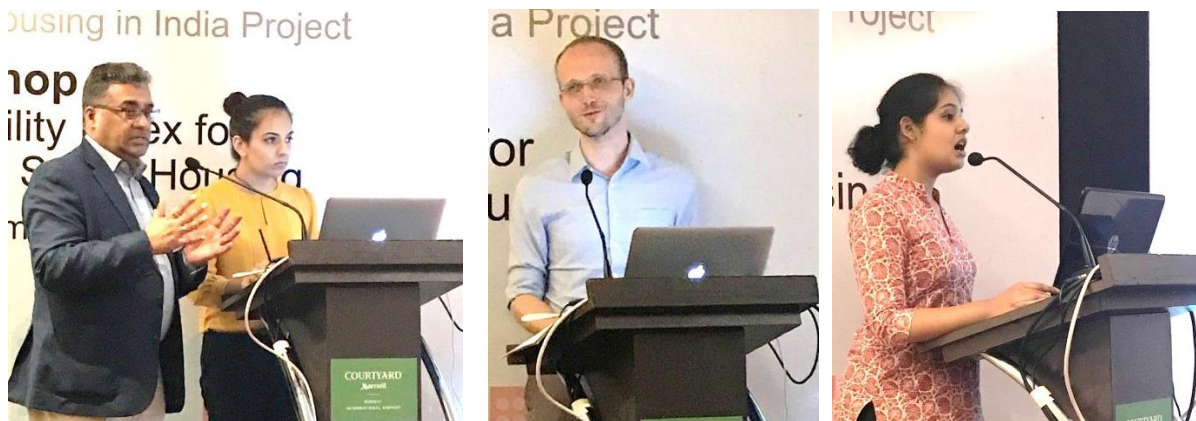


Image: (L to R) Mr Sanjay Seth, Ms Megha Behal; Mr Gregor Herda; Ms Pratibha R Caleb

Discussing on the attributes of Sustainability Index, Gregor Herda from UN-Habitat expressed the challenges in identifying and measuring the attributes due to the non-availability of data and absence of global framework to aid a decision making methodology.

The team members from TERI & DA presented the project activities highlighting methodology adopted and its expected outcomes. The 15 shortlisted attributes of the MaS-SHIP Sustainability Index were presented and feedback sought on the survey questionnaire developed for collecting data on the selected attributes.

Given the large numbers, social housing is likely to be at the focus of the real estate industry in the future. A change in the mind set of decision makers is therefore required, to ensure a holistic sustainable development. Along with the development of new sustainable technologies, it is the prerogative of the builders and developers to also provide job specific training and skill enhancement to the workers. Educating both, the developers and the clients is required to ensure better acceptance of alternate building materials and technologies.

The first Regional Workshop saw active participation by the participants. The pragmatic suggestions and insights from the experts have helped the project team to better the survey questionnaire and data collection methodology for the attributes.