

## “Workshop on ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme”

Date: June 29 - July 05, 2017

Venue: Thailand

Dr. Pratima Singh, Research Scientist from CSTEP attended the 5th ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme “**Building transformational leadership towards the Sustainable Development Goals**” which was held on 29 June – 5 July, 2017, at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

In commemoration of the centennial anniversary of its founding, Chulalongkorn University together with the Faculty of Science hosted the 2017 ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme. The Programme was jointly organized with ProSPER.Net, SEA START RC – the Southeast Asia Regional Centre of START – the Global Change SysTEM for Analysis, Research and Training, and the Centre of Excellence on Hazardous Substance Management (HSM). SEA START RC is a regional centre focusing on advancing knowledge generation and dissemination that informs policy and decision-making in and across climate-sensitive sectors of the developing world. The Centre of Excellence on Hazardous Substance Management (HSM), operates as a consortium of renowned universities in Thailand and from overseas under the supervision of the Science and Technology Postgraduate Education and Research Development Office (PERDO), Office of the Higher Education Commission. Activities of HSM, through synergistic collaborations with industries, government offices, overseas universities and international organizations, encompass research, human resource development programs and academic consultation.

Based on the organizers’ commitment to strengthen research and capacity building for sustainable development, the 2017 ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme was designed to manage knowledge and application for potential implementation collectively through experiences with local communities, government and private sectors. The Programme provided opportunities for participants with various backgrounds, e.g. science, public policy, economics and business, to develop interdisciplinary skills that lead to sustainable development initiatives in local, regional or global contexts. The Programme also provided participants with the necessary interdisciplinary skills to lead sustainable development initiatives appropriate to local, regional or global contexts. Participants went through a unique experience during the programme with a special focus on collaborative efforts, leveraging networks and involving multiple stakeholders. The Leadership Programme was conducted based on five case studies relating to the 5Ps (*People, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership and Planet*) in Bangkok and nearby locations in Thailand. These cases include on-going challenges in the local communities which provide a platform for participants to understand the dynamics of local leadership within each area and to identify possible paths towards sustainable development. Participants engaged themselves in the discussions with multi-stakeholders, to assess the issues and to devise a vision towards sustainable development in a group-based scenario. A series of plenary sessions and field trips in Bangkok and nearby provinces was organized to enable the participants to identify the current lack of opportunity in the involved sectors that influence policy-making and to formulate scopes for advancing sustainable development. For each case study, the assigned group presented their findings and their visions.

The leadership program was organized based on the following objectives:

- To improve the thinking process of transformational leadership through creative thinking, and searching for alternative scenarios.
- To gain communication skills and enhance the capacity for decision-making through active learning and inspiring group-working environment.

- To obtain abilities for project planning, management and assessment through problem-based learning challenges in the community.
- To summarize the concepts and examples of sustainable development and initiatives in the community.

This program helped me in thorough understanding of the 17 SDG's and how each SDG's fall in the 5P category (*People, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership and Planet*). This program gave me insights as in how one need to look at a problem and develop understanding about the problem to derive a probable solution in context with the region (local/regional/global). This program has also increased my horizon about sustainable modes to achieve solutions at a local/community level.

