

# SMILE AND CARE

(YOUR NEWSLETTER FROM CGAS)

June 2021

Edition 2, Volume 6



Corporate Governance  
Advisory Services

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: 5 JUNE 2021

**DR VINIT KUMAR MISHRA**  
AVP  
Corporate Governance  
Advisory Services



The UN Environment Program (UNEP) annually organizes events for World Environment Day, encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect the environment. Celebrated on 5th June since 1974 in over 143 countries, it engages governments, businesses, and citizens to address pressing environmental issues. In 1987, it was decided to rotate the host country for the Environment Day activities celebration.

**The Theme** of World Environment Day 2021 is 'Ecosystem Restoration', denoting assisting in the recovery of ecosystems degraded by activities like pollution and deforestation. Ecosystem Restoration can also be promoted by conserving the Ecosystems that are still intact.

For too long, we have been exploiting and destroying our planet's ecosystems. Every three seconds, the world loses enough forest to cover a football pitch and over the last century we have destroyed half of our wetlands. About 50 % of our coral reefs have already been lost and can go up to 90 % by 2050, even if global warming is limited to an increase of 1.5°C. Ecosystem restoration means preventing, halting, and reversing this damage – to go from exploiting nature to healing it. This World Environment Day will kick off the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a global mission to revive

billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the sea. Only healthy ecosystems can enhance our livelihoods, counteract climate change and stop the collapse of biodiversity.

### The Community

Above all, World Environment Day offers a global platform for inspiring positive change. It pushes for individuals to think about the way they consume; for businesses to develop greener models; for farmers and manufacturers to produce more sustainably; for governments to invest in repairing the environment; for educators to inspire students to act; and for youth to build a greener future. Everybody living on this planet, in this moment in time can be a part of #GenerationRestoration

**The Host** this year is Pakistan.

For South Asia, Nitrogen pollution is one of the important themes promoted by UNEP. Nitrogen, a key component in fertilizers, helps fuel the growth of essential crops, but too much of it can pollute the air, decimate soils, and create lifeless "dead zones" in the ocean. To counter those threats, the UNEP is coordinating a global drive to manage Nitrogen more sustainably.

Global ecosystem restoration may be perceived to be far away: the forest, the peat bog, the ocean, the river, the mountain. Our connection to all this nature starts with us, in our cities, with the products we buy, the choices we make, the way we live our lives.

We are all connected to nature and can help to restore global ecosystems by playing our part. As environmental professionals we want to help everyone to be able to do just that. Now is the time, and we might just change the world!

*What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and one another - Mahatma Gandhi*

## RECENT UPDATES

CGAS completed EHS due diligence for forging component manufacturer & a waste transportation equipment manufacturer and in the process for two white goods industries. These are well reputed MNCs operating multiple manufacturing sites across India.

In line with our Continuous Professional Development (CPD), our team members, Mr. VS Mathur and Mr. Sanket Shah completed a two-week training on WATER AUDIT conducted by Center for Science and Environment.

## HOW GENDER IMPACTS EHS CONSIDERATIONS AT WORK

**Mrs. Sangeeta Robinson**  
Regional Lead – Business Development  
Open IT Inc.



on a site visit to a Power Plant in Orissa as leading a Sustainability Assessment of their operations. We were meeting one department head after another, and after multiple cups of tea, I wanted to visit the washroom. I was told that they would have to call the car to send me to the guest house as there were no ladies toilets in the Plant/ Office area! Now this is not really an unusual situation in many parts of the brick-and-mortar part of the Corporate World, even now.

A lot has been said and established about the value of gender diversity for businesses with respect to Sustainable Value creation as well as sustainability of the business itself. In fact, increasing gender diversity has become the focus of nearly every country in the world with the Indian Corporate Law going a step forward and mandating at least 2 women on the Boards of publicly listed entities. While the intent of the regulators is to be appreciated, the mandate will need to translate into a cultural transformation backed by appropriate action on ground.

The reason why this is a relevant topic for an EHS Newsletter is because it considers, two of the three aspects: namely Health and Safety! When Companies start to consciously hire more women in industries such as Cement, Construction, Mining, Heavy Engineering etc. (industries that have, till now been male bastions, by default); their leadership needs to focus on both physical infrastructure and cultural and behavioural aspects. Usually, as soon as one speaks of hiring women, the natural reaction is providing drop facilities when women work late hours. Believe me, that is the lesser of our problems!

Let me illustrate this by telling you about when I was

Another truly relevant and key aspect of building a diverse culture are the attitudes of the existing staff (men in this case); who have never or rarely worked with women. While this is not about an oil spillage or a building catching fire, it can be equally damaging when it comes to the morale of women working in a set up where they are in minority. What usually happens in such scenarios is that they either get treated like some strange species that has no business to be around or get undermined and not taken seriously; both being equally unnerving and detrimental. And this has nothing to do with Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH). This is about the long journey a woman employee in minority situation covers till she is accepted as a qualified, capable, and contributing member of the organization. This is of course relevant only if she lasts that long; many may move off to more 'women-centric sectors due to the many health (emotional) and safety pressures of not being made to feel as part of the team. Therefore, if there is to be more gender diversity across industries, the environment must be made more conducive and comfortable for all.

*Views expressed here are of the Author and do not reflect official opinion and/or endorsement by Corporate Governance Advisory Services. She can be reached for any clarifications at [sangeeta.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:sangeeta.robinson@gmail.com)*

### ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### TECHNICAL DUE DILIGENCE

We are looking for professionals who want to pursue their career in a growing field of Technical Due Diligence both in Operations and Environment, Health & Safety areas. They will be trained under our team of six professionals, each of whom have experience of more than 25 years in multiple countries

#### Smile News

PPE kit for COVID warriors from student  
Click on link below to read more  
['Cov-Tech', the compact and frugal innovation](#)

#### Care News

Bengaluru's Doctor on Wheels.  
Click on link below to read more  
[Dr Sunil Kumar Hebbi](#)

#### EHS News

World Environment Day 2021  
Click on link below to read more  
[Putting Ecosystem restoration on a pedestal.](#)



### MESSAGE

*This month we celebrate the World Environment Day. The theme for this year is "Ecosystem Restoration", a much-needed activity for the well-being of our one and only Earth. Let us all take a pledge to respect the profound interdependence between humanity & Biodiversity and do our bit to provide a cleaner Earth for our future generations.*



### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ADVISORY SERVICES

To Make "Smile and Care" a Key Enabler in the global arena of Corporate Governance

### CONTACT US

[www.corpgov-advisory.com](http://www.corpgov-advisory.com)  
[ajay@corpgov-advisory.com](mailto:ajay@corpgov-advisory.com)  
Mobile: +91-9810144822