

## **Announcement**

# **National Development Convention on Resources, Institutions and Development: Contestations and Possibilities in Globalizing India**

Organised by  
**Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad, India**  
[www.gidr.ac.in](http://www.gidr.ac.in)

**February 11-12, 2015**

### **Context and Issues**

Close to a quarter of a century now, even as the neoliberal economic regime, regardless of the political ideology that it represents, has redefined the contours of India's path to progress, questions on resources – natural, human and institutional - and rights over them have come to occupy an important constituency in the country's development discourse. The last decade has witnessed a remarkable rise in the engagement by the academia, policy makers and the civil society interrogating the conflicts and dilemmas around ownership, use and management of resources.

The growth experiences of Indian states over the years present several paradoxes. For instance, hunger and malnutrition coexisting with spectacular agricultural growth and FDI inflows; tribals being displaced to make way for mega mineral-based projects; rising protests by 'ordinary' citizens losing their basic sources of livelihood; or, modernity marching ahead alongside millions of citizens deprived of the most basic services like safe drinking water, sanitation, electricity and approach roads. In several cases, indiscriminate use or exploitation of natural resources has far exceeded their natural replenishment rates. Over-emphasis on urban-industrial infrastructure and trade-facilitating exclusive zones have had serious implications for natural resources and the environment in terms of land acquisitions/grabbing, permanent loss of forest lands, etc. There have, nevertheless, been examples where high standards of human development have been made possible with innovative interventions, and not always with a lot of money. Such initiatives include involving efficient resource use/management practices, effective institutional design and use of technology.

Though mainstream *economistic* debates have often tended to sideline such enquiries as inefficient aberrations or 'micro' experiences, they have brought into review and analysis a host of concerns regarding efficiency, innovation, equity and social justice. They have also prompted questions of externality, institutional failures and larger policy conundrums.

## Suggested Themes

The central objective of the Development Convention is to bring together diverse, regional comparative perspectives on the modes, terms and outcomes of the extant and emerging interdependencies between resources and institutions mediated by the process of globalisation. As mere accelerated GDP or SDP growth has been far from inclusive, a regional comparative perspective, wherever relevant, shall inform the discourse. Contributions that explore the following broad themes are welcome. This is not to exclude any other relevant theme.

- Response to growth at the sub-national level: Emerging patterns
- Dynamics of institutional processes in the spheres of economy, society and environment
- Institutional designs and innovation
- Participation of the marginalized communities in the use and governance of natural, economic and social resources
- Challenges facing development initiatives of the state and civil society

## Important Dates

**November 7, 2014:** Last date for submission of extended abstract (1200-1500 words)

**November 15, 2014:** Decision on abstracts

**January 20, 2015:** Last date for submission of full paper

Financial support to cover travel costs of one author per paper selected shall be provided as per GIDR norms. Accommodation and local hospitality will be taken care of by GIDR.

Detailed programme schedule of the Convention shall be uploaded onto the GIDR website in due course.

For all correspondence and queries, please write to Secretary, Organising Committee at: [gidrhc2015@gmail.com](mailto:gidrhc2015@gmail.com)