

6th Research Advisory Board Meeting at Development Alternatives Headquarters



Board members present during the Research Advisory Board meeting

As a Research Organisation, Development Alternatives (DA) organised its 6th Annual Research Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on 17th March 2023 at the Conference Hall of DA Headquarters in New Delhi. The meeting was held with the aim of developing the research portfolio and future strategy of the DA group.

Seven board members, Dr. (Prof.) Rajan Rawal from CEPT University, Ahmedabad, Dr. Hoysala N. Chanakya from IISc Bangalore, Dr. (Prof.) Akhilendra Bhushan Gupta from MNIT Jaipur, Prof. C. Shambu Prasad from IRMA, Anand, Dr. Vinita Sharma from DST Delhi, Dr. Rajeswari S Raina from SN University, Delhi, and Mr. S K Wali of JK Laxmi cement were present at the meeting.

The aim of this meeting was to provide guidance and strategic input on the future focus area of the DA group as far as networks, partnerships, research resources, knowledge and direction to innovative ideas are concerned.

The meeting commenced with an introductory talk by Dr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives Group. He showed a unique innovative video of a motorised bicycle which can run with the power of a battery which reduces exhaustion due to paddling unlike conventional bicycles. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Soumen Maity, DA's Chief Technical Officer, on DA's work done in the past 2 years.

Several inputs from the Board were given during the meeting. They gave their ideas on different focus areas like getting NABL certification for lab testing, collaborating with academic institutes, enhancing visibilities through research publications, working on green building policies, sustainability transition, zero landfill in smart cities and using waste material as a resource in the field of plastic, water & building material. Mr. S K Wali from JK Laxmi cement gave insight on Bio-mass based



Presentation by Dr. Soumen Maity on DA's work

technology and suggested that DA develop an impact by creating long-term businesses. Dr. Vinita from DST suggested focusing on aspirational districts and other areas of entrepreneurship like water, nutrition, and health.

As far as DA's major and primary areas of work are concerned, it includes Livelihood Security and Inclusive Entrepreneurship, Resource Efficiency, Circular Economy, Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration. The suggestions from RAB committee also included Women's group training, Jobs by developing enterprises, Bio-mass utilisation, Energy quantification in field of resource efficiency, food waste and treated water in the field of construction, grey water and drinking water issue in rural areas.



The Research Advisory Board meeting group photo