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GRIHA-NASA Trophy to groom students to develop sustainable habitats

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Report by India Education bureau, New Delhi: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Lotus Greens have joined hands once again renewed their commitment to the development of sustainable habitats by organizing the GRIHA-NASA Trophy at the 57th Annual NASA Convention 2014-15. This is a joint initiative by GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment), which is India's national rating system for sustainable habitats, and the US Green Building Council (USGBC). The GRIHA-NASA Trophy is awarded by The GRIHA Council under the aegis of TERI and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, in partnership with the National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA).

The three award winning entries were presented by the students at the prestigious GRIHA Summit held from March 12 to 14 in New Delhi. The GRIHA Summit is the largest conclave to deliberate issues pertaining to sustainable habitats. The winners were felicitated by Mr P Sahel, Vice Chairman, Lotus Greens at the Summit. The awards were given to: Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, which won the 1st prize, followed by Gateway College of Architecture, Sonapat, (1st runners up), and Aalim Muhammed Salegh Academy of Architecture, Chennai, (2nd runners up), while a special jury recommendation went to NIT, Calicut.

The participating students studied the climate of Noida with the objective of maximizing natural ventilation for individual dwelling units. The entries received were overwhelming and included interesting recommendations like extensive terrace gardens to maximize the total landscaped area of the project, with native plants to reduce landscape water demand.

Ms Mili Majumdar, Director, Sustainable Habitat Division, TERI, and Secretary cum Treasurer, The GRIHA Council, said: "We are proud to partner with Lotus Greens for supporting the GRIHA Trophy at NASA, which is an important initiative towards mainstreaming resource efficiency through future architects of our country. The students have shown a keen interest, especially for the live residential project that was identified as the problem statement. I look forward to the initiative gaining greater momentum."

Mr P Sahel, Vice Chairman, Lotus Greens, said, "The students of architecture will be the ambassadors and catalysts for guiding sustainable development in the future. The GRIHA-NASA Trophy is a great opportunity to help budding architects appreciate the power of eco-friendly practices. As part of Lotus Greens' commitment to promote sustainability across India, we have been sponsoring the GRIHA-NASA Trophy. We are elated to see the response; some exemplary work have been showcased by the students."

The shortlisted entries were judged by an eminent jury comprising renowned names from the fields of architecture and green building. They include architect Jaisim, Founder Jaisim-Fountainhead; Dr Raneer Vedamuthu, HOD, Architecture, Anna University; Mr Gopal Krishnan, Director and Head, USGBC- Asia Pacific and Middle East; Ms Mili Majumdar, Director, TERI, and Secretary cum Treasurer, The GRIHA Council; Mr Ashwani Singh, Senior General Manager, Strategy, Lotus Greens; Ms Priyanka Kochhar, Sr Programme Manager, The GRIHA Council and Ms Chitragada Bisht, Programme Officer, The GRIHA Council.

The Summit brought together over 700 professionals from the building and construction industry, policy-makers, thought leaders, academicians, researchers among others, to develop and drive the new initiatives as well as showcase the best practices.