



## Synopsis Report on GIZ India Gender Day 2015

### Gender Meet: Gender at the heart of development: Let's 'Make it Happen'

New Delhi, India – 4<sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday, 2015

GIZ India observed its Gender Day on 4<sup>th</sup> March, by organizing a “Gender Meet” as part of GIZ’s ongoing Gender Week, being commemorated from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.

This year again, GIZ India offered all GIZ colleagues and also other German Political Foundations, German organizations etc, the chance to inform themselves on different aspects of gender equality. For the same, the GIZ Gender Officer from the Programme Support Team of the GIZ Office in close collaboration with the Human Resources Department jointly organised a half day ‘**Gender Meet**’ at our GIZ Office, New Delhi India. The meeting took place from 9:30 am – 11:45 pm followed by the [UNWOMEN’s HeForShe](#) – a solidarity movement, where men and boys of GIZ India were encouraged to make a pledge on how they as individuals



would ensure gender justice, gender equity and gender equality.



The Gender Meet aimed to reflect the founding principles of “Equal rights, equal duties, equal opportunities and equal power for women and men” as one of the basic principles of German Development Policy. There is no doubt that when women gain equal rights with men, development is transformed. For example, educated girls have better opportunities to earn higher wages and to participate in community life and in decision-making.

The Gender Meet aimed at addressing topics of interest which centered on critical areas of women's empowerment. This was mostly related

to understanding issues related to Women’s Economic Empowerment, Skill development, Women’s leadership and participation, and also topics which are of relevance for the advancement of gender justice such as addressing issues concerning safety, violence against women and engaging with Men and Boys. We believe that such topics are crucial to discuss, if we would like to see ‘gender equality at the heart of development.’ Hence, this year’s GIZ Gender Meet was a small step to spark discussion and action to ‘Make it happen’ by collaborating with the global champion for women and girls – [UNWOMEN](#)



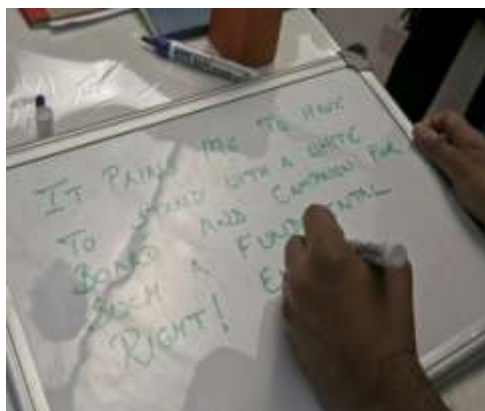


This year's event was well attended by many GIZ members, along with GIZ Political Foundations and witnessed robust interaction. Ms. Luigina Blaich, Director-Finance & Administration, GIZ, India in her welcome address, highlighted GIZ's resolve to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment, by way of affirmative action. Mr. Heiko Warnken, Head of Economic Cooperation and Development, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in India, in his address, reaffirmed Germany's and GIZ's commitment to ensuring gender parity and also encouraged the involvement of Men and Boys in the gender discourse on equality and equity. Senior experts from UN Women discussed critical areas of women's economic empowerment, safety and violence against women along in India's context. They also touched upon gender issues related to the current financial union budget for 2015 along with the declining sex-ratios and gender based sex selection This sparked lively discussions and healthy debate among the participants !

The event concluded with all GIZ participants adopting the #HeForShe pledge - a solidarity movement that encourages men and boys to make a pledge on how they, as individuals, will ensure gender justice, gender equity and gender equality



Not only did this activity ensure lively engagement, but it was also a space where the GIZ men and women both, came together to look at how they would like to project their thinking as a group!



Apart from being engaging, it was also loads of fun with loud whistles and claps for some of the best messages being displayed!

#### **Annexure:**

- ❖ Background Note for GIZ Gender Day, 2015
- ❖ Detailed programme / Agenda

#### **Reported as news items:**

- ❖ [GIZ India website](#)
- ❖ [GIZ Pinboard News](#)