

ED, EPCH makes presentation on Vriksh at IGNCA Conference on 'The Crafts Sector – a green perspective' 25th July 2017; New Delhi



A glimpse of the speakers at the conference including Dr. Johann Hesse, Counsellor and Head of Cooperation, European Union, and Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH, the Key Speaker



Executive Director, EPCH, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, seen making a presentation on Vriksh at the Conference

Moving towards sustainability is also a social challenge that entails international and national law, urban planning and transport, local and individual lifestyles and ethical consumerism. Against this background, "The Crafts Sector - a green perspective" conference was hosted at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Delhi, on 25th July 2017, by the All India Artisans and Craftworkers Welfare Association (AIACA), with support from European Union. With a multi stakeholder participation, this conference was designed to discuss and debate relevant global and local issues related to development of a green economy, and positioning of the craft sector as a green industry. The objective was to explore the possibility of instituting a rigorous system of assessing, enabling and building capacities for the craft sector to consolidate its place in a green economy.

Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH, was the Key speaker. He shared EPCH's initiatives on Vriksh Indian Timber Legality Assessment as well as forums in dealing with environmental compliance and sustainable activities of exporters and their implications on our country. He explained to the gathering, the process of creation of standards for ascertaining legality of wood under the Vriksh Scheme and



A glimpse of the participants at the conference

also explained EPCH's negotiation with CITES, Geneva, to consider Vriksh Shipment Certificate, in lieu of CITES permit of wooden handicraft items made of *Dalbergia sissoo* and *Dalbergia latifolia*. EPCH has been nominated as a nodal agency to issue Vriksh Shipment Certificate, by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Mr. Kumar also stressed on the Council's focus on providing compliance solutions with respect to handicrafts items.

The participants included AIACA members, crafts enterprises, technology experts, donors such as European Union and Ford Foundation, banks such as EXIM Bank and IMG Reliance and designers of renowned brands. ■