Sustainable development as a concept, practice and an alternative for the existing economic order was proposed by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), known as Brundtland Committee in 1987. According to the committee, 'sustainable development is the kind of development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (WCED 1987).

Further to analyse the definition, two aspects of Sustainable Development are required to focus: - 1. What needs to be sustained, namely, nature, life support system, and community (Parris & Kates 2003) and 2. What is to be developed, namely, individuals, the economy and society (Leiserowitz, Kates and Parris 2006). This debate has initially originated from the fear of environmental disorder that moved beyond boundaries when all the countries ratified Agenda 21 that binds sustainable development as policy priority in all economic, social and political space of the globe (Beckerman 1994).

Though the Agenda 21 binds equally on all nations across the globe, United Nations claimed that it may not be possible to come up with a single blueprint of sustainability for the entire globe, as economic and social systems and ecological conditions differ significantly among countries. Hence, it would be ideal to work out for each nation on its own concrete policy implications. Yet irrespective of these differences, sustainable development as a global framework should be considered as an ultimate objective (United Nations General Assembly 1987).

Sustainable development debate initially started with environment protection, however, it has shifted to the interrelation between production process, environment and exploitation of resources for the production. As a result, it is proposed that the challenge of sustainable development is to maintain balance between environmental imperatives and economic growth (Seelos and Mair 2005). Apart from environmental and economic dimensions of Sustainable Development, social dimension of it includes initiatives to 'promote diversity, protection of human rights, reduce poverty, enhance workplace equity and social justice' (Rusinko 2010).
In this context, several studies found that entrepreneurs’ action with sustainability innovation have played major role to preserve the ecosystem (Cohen and Winn, 2007; Schaltegger and Wanger 2010). Among the entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs\(^1\) are in the forefront to create a sustainable society. They have taken up innovative practices especially in developing nations, such as, enhancing education, productivity, socioeconomic status of the marginalised people, physical health, waste management, energy retention and self-reliance of individuals and societies etc. for the same.

The overall operations and target of a social enterprise is to address social or/and environmental problems with achieving overall financial sustainability of the organisation/initiative. Such initiatives would function within the guided philosophy of the sustainable development. That is how field of social entrepreneurship is receiving increased attention across the globe in recent past as a prominent approach to achieve sustainable development (Drayton 2002b, Bornstein 2004, Spear 2006, Steyaert and Hjorth 2006, Nicholls, 2006).

To play the role in sustainable development context, social entrepreneurs require an ecosystem that is inclusive of policy environment, markets, incubators, mentors, impact investors and other stakeholders involved. In addition, social entrepreneurs need recognition and visibility, not only to showcase their experiments, but also to propagate to the world that complex problems could be ruled out with customized innovative solutions. In this regard, there are two prominent issues emerge to be addressed i) how to attract best people in to the field, and ii) how to sustain their enthusiasm in the field, once they enter. Proper ecosystem building holds the key to the two issues mentioned. Learnings from postmodern view of the social constructionism, social entrepreneurs as individuals would not be able to demonstrate anything unless they get sufficient support from the Ecosystem (Hatch 1997). Even Ashoka (u.d) stated, 'more fuel (investment) is needed' for social entrepreneurship in order to drive sustainable development in a more systematic way.

Against this backdrop, the proposed National Conference on 'Sustainable Development and Social Entrepreneurship’ aims to address the following sub themes. Each sub theme is given with a few research questions which may be useful for the researchers to understand the scope of the conference.

1. **Concepts of Sustainable Development**
   a) What are the theoretical frameworks for sustainable development?
   b) Are the existing theoretical frameworks on sustainable development really sustainable?

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\(^1\) Social entrepreneurs are considered to be reformers and revolutionaries with a social mission. They make fundamental changes in the way things are seen and done in the social space (Dees 1998). Social entrepreneurs bring social change by bring innovative solutions for the societal problems that they come across.
2. **Institutional Approach to Sustainable Development**
   a) Is corporate social responsibility relevant in sustainable development?
   b) Is civil society doing enough to promote sustainable development?
   c) Is education sector contributing to sustainable development? Why? Why not?

3. **Social Entrepreneurship as an Approach to Sustainable Development**
   a) How does social entrepreneurship contribute to sustainable development?
   b) Are the existing models of social entrepreneurship good enough to promote sustainable development?
   c) What kind of innovations is needed for sustainable development?

4. **Policy and Governance on Sustainable Development**
   a) What is the role of good governance in promoting sustainable development?
   b) What are the policy gaps that hinder sustainable development?

5. **Technology as a Tool for Sustainable Development**
   a) What are existing technologies in sustainable development?
   b) Do we have the right ecosystem for technology solutions for sustainable development?
   c) What is the role of technology in sustainable development?

6. **Sustainable Livelihoods**
   a) What are the dimensions of sustainable livelihoods?
   b) Are Public Works Programmes really offering sustainable livelihood solutions?
   c) What is the role of social entrepreneurship in providing sustainable livelihoods?

7. **Environmental Sustainability**
   a) What is the role of entrepreneurs to solve the sustainable development problems?
   b) What is the role of innovation in providing sustainable environmental solutions?
   c) What are the models to mitigate climate change issues?

We invite papers, both theoretical and empirical, that focuses on the research questions outlined above. We are particularly interested in understanding the processes of social entrepreneurship and its role in building sustainable societies. Authors must submit an extended abstract (Background, objectives and research methodology) in about 2000 words to Dr. Rama Krishna Reddy Kummitha on his email id krishna.reddy@tiss.edu not later than August 15, 2013. Ph.D scholars and junior researchers are especially encouraged to submit their proposals. Work in progress research of the Ph.D scholars will also be considered provided that their
work falls under the themes outlined above. Relevance of papers, quality of objectives/ research questions and robust methodology would be the critical parameters for including the papers in the Conference. The abstract must also contain authors’ names, institutional affiliations, email and postal address. Authors will be notified of acceptance or otherwise by August 25, 2013.

The last date for submission of selected full papers will be November 15, 2013.

**Registration and Accommodation**
Authors of the selected paper presenters will have to pay a nominal registration fee of Rs. 1000 to attend the Workshop which will include conference kit, lunch and a gala dinner. Limited non-ac accommodation will be available in TISS Guest House on twin-sharing basis @ Rs. 500 per participant per day on first come first serve basis. Participants will be required to book the accommodation by making an advance payment on or before 31 October, 2013.

**Scholarships**
Need based scholarships are available for the paper presenters. The scholarship covers registration fee, accommodation and food. Ph.D scholars will be given preference.

**Key Deadlines**
- Last date to send Extended Abstract: 25 August 2013
- Notification of Acceptance: 30 August 2013
- Registration Starts: 15 September 2013
- Registration Ends: 15 November 2013
- Submission of Full Papers: 15 November 2013
- Final Programme Announcement: 30 November 2013
- Conference Dates: 8-10 January 2014

Please address all communications to the following address:
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**Reference**