

# **World Environmental Health Day 26th September 2015**

Theme for the 2015 World Environmental Health Day is

**“Children are our future let’s protect their Environment and Health”**

## **1. Mr. Sushobhan Dasgupta, President NATHEALTH, MD, India, Johnson & Johnson Medical India, VP, Diabetes Care Asia Pacific**

Children are one of the most vulnerable sections of any society and need close hand-holding at most times. They come into closer contact in a much more sub-conscious manner with their environment than adults. A wide range of solutions have been developed to combat environmental threats to children’s health. Most of these interventions fall in the areas of awareness raising, policy, education, technology development and behavioural change not only for children but also for their caregivers. Children are also easily influenced by risky lifestyles that will ultimately affect public health, safety and the environment. Following can be Child Health Strategy:

- **Strengthen** national health systems for better results in preventive healthcare for children
- **Tie** financing to performance in improving children’s health and saving their lives
- **Protect** the children below the poverty line from ill health and unaffordable costs and treatment

## **2. Mr Rahul Khosla, Senior Vice President NATHEALTH Managing Director, Max India Limited and Chairman, Max Healthcare**

While the Indian economy is set to achieve a robust 8% growth rate, the highest for any large world economy, about 30% of Indian children continue to be malnourished or underweight. Lack of investment in public health and child nutrition is a significant challenge to the nation’s holistic development, and if India is to realise the full potential of its demographic advantage, we will need sustained and focused initiatives in neo-natal and preventive healthcare for children, as well as pre and post-natal health of mothers. Let us on this day renew our commitment as an industry to work steadfastly with the government to effect positive change for India’s underprivileged children.

**3. Mr. Swami Swaminathan, Governing Council Member  
Executive Chairman, Manipal Health Enterprises**

Given that children are our future and all of us have an absolute obligation to build and leave an Healthy Environment for them - While we build Smart Cities, let us all focus & ensure that we build smart communities across India such that every Indian has access to Primary Healthcare, Primary Education, Good Drinking Water and to Effective Sanitation Facilities. This has to be non-negotiable and delivered as if there is no tomorrow .

**4. Mr. Prabal Chakraborty, Governing Council Member  
Vice President & Managing Director**

“Green India, Clean India, Healthy India, Happy India”

**5. Mr. Antony Jacob, Governing Council Member  
CEO, Apollo Munich Health Insurance Co. Ltd**

We are a crucial part of Mother Earth and we have taken more from her than we have or can ever give back. With rapid development taking place across sectors and around the globe, today global warming and climate change have become commonplace causing irreversible ecological damage. That’s why I strongly feel that we need to stop exploiting our environmental resources and putting our children’s future and health at risk. It is the responsibility of every human being to be considerate and provide a stable, healthy environment to future generations while fulfilling his/her ethical responsibility to leave a greener footprint by reducing dependency on renewable resources.

**6. Mr. Milind Shah, Governing Council Member  
Vice President, South Asia & Managing Director, India Medtronic**

Our environment has a huge impact on our health and overall wellness. Children, in particular, are highly susceptible to infections due to pollution and ecological contamination as well as to accidents because of poor environmental safety. On this World Environment Health Day, we should take a step back and reflect on what can we change in our daily activities to minimize the damage to our surroundings. As the adage goes --“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children". Let’s strive to make this planet a greener, healthier & safer place for our children!

**7. Mr. Rajit Mehta, MD & CEO, Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket**

'Just as much as the present generation evokes confidence and excitement, I feel concerned for their healthy growth. They are falling ill more often and in more severe ways. While we have been pursuing development ambitiously I wonder whether we have done it mindlessly without considering the adverse impact on our environment. The onus is now on us to take strong steps towards ensuring that we build a safer and healthier place for our future generations to grow.'

**8. Mr. Vivek Srivastava, CEO, Health Care at Home India**

" To promote longevity and Immunity amongst children parents need to make Nutrition Education a priority at home promoting sound eating habits from an early age"

**9. Dr Sanjeev K Chaudhry, Managing Director, SRL Limited**

"Environment Health and Human Health are inextricably linked to each other. A happy, healthy environment supports happy, healthy life for humans and rest of the creation. A conscious effort by all, particularly people and institutions that influence lives of other people, is required to be made for population at large to be conscious of the dire necessity of good food, personal and community cleanliness and hygiene and continuous monitoring of human health through progression of life. This is a responsibility in which all have to participate. NATHEALTH and its illustrious members are committed to serve as anchors to lead India to a healthier and happier future".