

CKS Organizes “Design Public” Conclave – Lays Foundation for Creating a National Framework for Governance Innovation

High-Level Officials from Government of India work together with Design and Innovation Experts at “Design Public” Conclave

-Participants included Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission & Member, National Innovation Council

-Participants explored cutting-edge tools for innovation and how they are coming to be implemented in India

-The Conclave resulted in announcements of commitment to innovative new projects from the BMGF, Planning Commission, CKS and others

New Delhi, March 18, 2011: While attending Design Public, a high-level conclave organized by the Center for Knowledge Societies for promoting innovation in government processes, senior officials from the **National Planning Commission**, the **National Innovation Council** and the **UID Authority of India** explored ways of using design thinking to accelerate the pace of innovation in government.

The conclave brought together influential thinkers in Indian government, including **Arun Maira of the National Planning Commission**, **R. Gopalakrishnan of the National Innovation Council** and **Ram Sewak Sharma of the UIDAI**, as well as members of leading corporate and development sector agencies.

They collaborated with leading design and innovation experts, including **Dr. Aditya Dev Sood** of the **Center for Knowledge Societies (CKS)** in open panel discussion and live innovation workshops.

Together, they identified and developed new ways in which cutting-edge design and innovation processes can be brought to bear on the most challenging problems facing India today, including rural healthcare, effective power distribution, and financial services, among others.

[According to Dr. Aditya Dev Sood, Founder and CEO, Center for Knowledge Societies “Government officials and departments at all levels should feel empowered to pursue innovation. The Innovation Cycle, an approach developed by CKS can help different departments across the country to develop new solutions that will actually be useful and of benefit to the people of India.”](#)

Dr. Aditya Dev Sood presented the first edition of the **CKS Directory of Innovations for Rural Healthcare** to **Mr. Arun Maira**, Member of the National Planning Commission and the National

Innovation Council. The large red volume included 39 innovation concepts developed by the researchers and designers working at the Center for Knowledge Societies, which can ensure better healthcare and save lives.

Speaking at the release of the volume, **Mr. Arun Maira, Planning Commission** said, “It is essential to incorporate a user-centered approach to all our attempts to make government more innovative. The best and most innovative approaches are always local. We need to find ways to incorporate user-centered designers and design thinking in our innovation processes and to accelerate the pace of innovation in India.”

According to **Dr. Aditya Dev Sood, Founder and CEO, Center for Knowledge Societies** “Government officials and departments at all levels should feel empowered to pursue innovation. The Innovation Cycle, an approach developed by CKS can help different departments across the country to develop new solutions that will actually be useful and of bOn account of the workshops held at Design Public, several other developments also ensued.

- Anant Shah of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced their interest in supporting a **Governance Innovation Lab focused on Healthcare**, possibly in the state of Bihar.
- **Ekta Ohri and Divya Datta** of the **Center for Knowledge Societies** unveiled a prototype of a **Vaccine Services Delivery Kit**, designed on the basis of exhaustive user studies and contextual research, which promises to make Assistant Nurse-Midwives (ANMs) more efficient and save lives in rural India.
- **Sunil Abraham** of the **Centre for Internet and Society** announced a follow-up Design Public event, which will be held in Bangalore in September this year.

The Design Public Conclave was brought about through a number of partners, including the **Center for Knowledge Societies**, the **Centre for Internet and Society**, **Mint Newspaper**, **MXV Consulting**, the **Centre for Law and Policy Research**, and **VA Group**.

For more information on Design Public, go to www.designpublic.in/blog.

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