



# WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

**TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:  
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**

February 16-18, 2022 (Virtual)



## In Memoriam: Release of a Book and Archives on Dr R.K. Pachauri

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### PLENARY SESSION: SUMMARY

Virtual Venue: Gir

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# In Memoriam

## About the Session

Rajendra Kumar Pachauri (20 August 20, 1940 – 13 February 13, 2020), universally known as Patchy, was the First Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in 1981 and led the institute for more than three decades and demitted office as Executive Vice Chairman of TERI in 2016. If Darbari Seth was the Founder of TERI, Dr. Pachauri was the builder of TERI. Under the leadership of Dr . Pachauri, TERI's portfolio of work expanded into new research areas and channels of outreach in the field of energy, economy and environment supported by independent funding agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors and government bodies. TERI was the first organization in the developing world to voice the issue of Climate Change. From being a small floating fledgling, TERI shifted to its own office in the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. As the Chairman of the IPCC, his leadership contributed to the issue of human-caused climate change becoming recognized as a matter of vital global concern. For this, in 2007, he received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

## Speakers

### Chair

- Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, Governing Council, TERI

### Reflections by Family Members, Colleagues and Friends

- Dr Saroj Pachauri, Senior Public Health Professional
- Dr Ash Pachauri, Co-Founder and Senior Mentor, POP Movement
- Dr Mac McQuown Partner, Co-Founder, and Director, Diversified Credit Investments, San Francisco
- Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, TERI

## Disclaimer

The text of the addresses is based on auto-generated transcript from YouTube. Minor edits were made on grammar and spelling. The exact wording of the discussion can be accessed from YouTube video:

[https://youtu.be/28\\_uZxPYsTI](https://youtu.be/28_uZxPYsTI).

## Making Words Count @WSDS 2022

“ Dr Pachauri in many ways represented that integration of talents of disciplines that we require for sustainable development. He became an economist and later an environmentalist and in many ways, these three things are what we need to bring together: Engineering, Economics and Ecology.

**Mr Nitin Desai,  
Chairman, Governing Council, The Energy and Resources Institute**

“ In this volume, it is Patchy's larger family, his worldwide family, his global family that has provided more than 200 of them in this one volume and when I started reading these tributes, I was so touched and emotional about it because the people, his friends and his colleagues were honest, so sincere and this was really heart-warming to read them

**Dr Saroj Pachauri  
Senior Public Health Professional**

“ He has always wanted that his words, his values, his vision and his wisdom to be an inspiration to every generation. He has believed in cross-generational dialogue, he has believed in the principles of love and respect but also believed very much in youth, inspired by knowledge.

**Dr Ash Pachauri  
Co-Founder and Senior Mentor, POP Movement**

“ He was a get-your-attention-looking human being to begin with and then when he opened his mouth and began to talk about whatever it was on his mind., he always had distinguishing things to say: crisp and to the point. He was not one to mince words and I really admire the clarity of thought and the clarity of exposition.

**Dr Mac McQuown,  
Partner, Co-Founder, and Director, Diversified Credit Investments, San Francisco**

“ All those who are fortunate to have worked with him has imbibed great qualities of honesty, working selflessly towards a cause, discipline, hard work, taking risks. In a way what qualities a person should have, Dr Pachauri had those qualities and many of us were fortunate enough to have worked with him and imbibed some part of it.

**Dr Vibha Dhawan  
Director General, TERI**

## Narrative

### Chair

#### **Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman, Governing Council, The Energy and Resources Institute**

Thank you very much. This is one of the most important sessions of our World Sustainable Development Summit because what we will be doing is remembering the founder of this Summit and the founder of the organization, the builder of the organization which runs this Summit. So I am really happy that Dr Saroj Pachauri and Ash Pachauri are also with us and I look forward to hearing them also and I am glad that Rakesh Kacker has also joined us because the alumni association of TERI has taken a great lead in preparing this document that we will be releasing today. I met Dr Pachauri long, long time ago. He was at that time still in Hyderabad and I was in the planning commission in the Government of India but I really got to know him better after he moved to Delhi and started as a Founder Director of the TERI. Our relationship really taken greatly after he got involved in the international dimension of climate action and he took over as the Chairman of IPCC and after I retired from the UN, he roped me into the work of TERI and I must say I have gained a lot by being associated with TERI since I left the UN.

Dr Pachauri in many ways represented that integration of talents of disciplines that we require for sustainable development. He started his life as an engineer, he was what we call a Jimmy boy because he was an engineer to start with. He became an economist and later an environmentalist and in many ways, these three things are what we need to bring together: Engineering, Economics and Ecology. It is the attempt to integrate these things into unified approaches to policy, to programs, to action at the ground level which is what is very necessary. It is very valuable for TERI that its founder director in many ways incorporated all the three disciplines in his own personality and we see this in the way in which TERI was built up the sheer range of things that TERI does now: ranging from hard scientific research to technological developments to policy advocacy to very complex modelling and projections and things of this sort and the scale at which it operates.

It is the largest organization of its kind in India today, and it is something which also has a major presence at the international level. So, I would say that basically Dr Pachauri has to be given a credit not just for building TERI but for making the world a little bit more conscious of climate. I particularly remember after he took over at IPCC. IPCC used to be run as a very scientific type organization with scientists talking with each other. One of the things Patchy did when he took over as the chair of IPCC was to recognize that reaching out to people outside the scientific community was absolutely essential if he wanted to have action on climate and this is what he did very successfully. In fact, if you see, when the work of IPCC really starts hitting the political agenda of the countries, it is really after Dr Pachauri took over. So it is truly valuable that today we are going to be celebrating his great achievements in many different ways and one of the ways will be this book of Dr Pachauri as a crusader against climate change. If you see this book, I am sure some of you have seen it and you see the range of people who have written in this book, the sheer number of people from how many different countries, from how many different disciplines and that is a reflection of how effective he was in bringing together people from many different disciplines into a much more unified approach to the whole challenges of sustainable development.

We will also be doing something to preserve the work that he himself has done in the archives and this is what today this session is for to remember Dr Pachauri and to put all of his work before the world and make it available for all of the people, the younger people will be working and trying to advance the causes that he worked for so wonderfully throughout his life. So with this, let me stop and once again I would say that I really welcome Dr Saroj Pachauri and Ash Pachauri to this session and with this, may I now suggest to the organizers that we launch the book and the website which is containing Dr Pachauri's works. Thank you very much.

### **Reflections by Family Members, Colleagues and Friends**

#### **Dr Saroj Pachauri, Senior Public Health Professional**

Mr Nitin Desai, Chairman of the Governing Council of TERI, Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI, Dr Mac McQuown Partner and friends. I feel truly honoured to be here today at this function, at this book launch which is a very proud moment for me and I just wanted to say that this is a second book that is being launched. The first book was also prepared by TERI and in that book the tributes were given by all the family in TERI - Patchy's TERI family which was very close to him. They had written the tributes and the testimonials and that was a magnificent volume. In fact, it is a beautiful volume and very successful and as a result of the success of this, the second volume which we are dealing with today. In this volume, it is Patchy's larger family, his worldwide family, his global family that has provided more than 200 of them in this one volume and when I started reading these tributes, I was so touched and emotional about it because the people, his friends and his colleagues were honest, so sincere and this was really heart-warming to read them and as I read them and I thought it would be perhaps a befitting time at this occasion to share some of

them with you. So what I propose to do is to actually read out a few excerpts from a few of these I have selected and just share these verbatim.

So the first one is by Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General, United Nations. His tribute was in the form of an essay for Dr Pachauri; he said: "During my ten years as a Secretary General of the United Nations, I was incredibly fortunate to meet and work with so many talented leaders all around the world, notable among them was late Dr R. K Pachauri who stands out and is still within one memory. Indeed he was one of the most passionate, vocal and persuasive proponents for raising awareness and advancing the global fight against climate change. I am of the view that he was one of the most important global leaders in the fight against climate change, this world has ever seen. I am lucky to have counted Dr Pachauri not only as a colleague, but also as a friend. As a private citizen, I shared a memorable dinner with Dr Pachauri on July 10, 2018 in Singapore. At the sitting with him, I promised him that I would participate in one of the upcoming conferences that he was planning to organize on climate issues. Unfortunately, I did not have the faintest idea that he would leave the earth that he held so dear so soon, and that it would be the last time I ever saw him."

The next one is from Professor Nebojsa Nakicenovic who was the Former Deputy Director of IIASA in Vienna, Austria. Professor Nakicenovic spoke of Patchy's work on Lighting a Billion Lives (LaBL). This aims to provide clean affordable renewable energy in rural areas. This initiative has attracted the private sector and has been deployed across India and many other developing countries. Professor Nakicenovic says, Patchy was a humble person. He says we organized the IPCC authors meet at IIASA and it was Patchy's duty to open the event. He said in his opening remarks, IIASA is one of the leading institutions of the world and he had hoped to be able to join IIASA but did not have the kind of academic achievements to qualify. He said that he was delighted that his daughter, Shonali, did qualify so he is proud that at least one of the family members had such high academic achievement. So this is what Professor Nakicenovic said.

The next one I am going to read is by the Former Premier of South Australia. He writes, I was shocked by the news of the death of a man who will one day be recognized more fully than he is now for his tireless efforts to prevent the climate disaster for humanity. Patchy was in a race against time in more ways than one. Most importantly he was increasingly engaged with young people through the PoP Movement (Protect Our Planet Movement). Patchy wanted to work with young people. He was a celebrated expert, they admired him and because he did not talk down to them, he listened to young people and was building a bridge between generations to avert future disasters.

Al Gore said that "After Patchy's death, his dedication is to advance science and raise global awareness of the climate change crisis, will endure". Yes, Al Gore was right. His work will endure, Patchy will also live on so the love of his family and his work and the work of his children through TERI and through the PoP Movement as well as the countless friends and colleagues he inspired.

The next one is from John Vidal who's the Environmental Editor of The Guardian, London. He writes "We met in a pub in London. I was expecting it to last 15 minutes but he gave myself and my colleague one hour. Patchy came from a romantic tradition of honourable leaders of both the arts and the sciences. I feel privileged to have met and known him and to appreciate the work he completed over his lifetime. I only wish I had played cricket with him!" As you know, cricket was a great passion for Patchy and every Saturday he was on the cricket ground if he was in Delhi playing cricket.

The next one is from Erik Solheim who's the Minister for Environment in Norway. He says "I first met Patchy when he came to Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prizes on behalf of the IPCC. As a new Minister in Environment in Norway, I was looking for people who I could wind with and inspire ordinary citizens." He says "Patchy was my man". The whole world is one family, Patchy appealed in his acceptance speech in our spectacular townhall. These beautiful words from the Upanishads touched us all. Patchy was Indian, but a world citizen. From 2000 to 2015, Patchy led IPCC. He not only led, he was IPCC. He filled every room he entered, he infused any group, he spoke to, he got leaders of business and politics to understand climate science, and he was a great translator of science making it intelligible for everyone."

And the last one, I am going to read is Terry Tamminen, Former Secretary of California Environment Protection Agency. He writes "when I started thinking about the many ways to pay a tribute to my late friend Patchy, I kept wishing I could say these things to him personally, so I decided to do just that— write to my friend and make a letter public so this was to share my memories and sentiments with all of you.

So he writes “Dear Patchy, Where does time go? It has been a very long year since you left us and so much has happened, many things that would warm your heart and way too many things that would cause you grief. To celebrate the good and the bad in perspective, I wish I could hear your voice again; share the laughter and an ‘adult beverage’ with you, cry together over the loss of humans and humanities in crushing pandemic, the one called ‘COVID’ and the other called ‘Climate Change’. Patchy, I do want you to know that your influence and accomplishments have built a very solid foundation worldwide, for the rest of us to continue your great work. We will win the battle to restore our planets. We will create a world where everyone is empowered. We will remember to laugh along the way and dip naan in spicy sauces around shared tables and I will always think of you as waiting for my call or email probably in a transit lounge of some far-flung airport ready to give me advice, encouragement, scolding, the story, or to volunteer for yet another thankless task for furtherance of your mission: helping people live better lives even though they will never know what you did for them. Thank you my friend, much love.

Well I just wanted to share a few of these with you because I think it also gives a sneak peek into the book and it's wonderful to read them. I would strongly encourage that everybody read this volume. Thank you very much.

### **Reflections by Family Members, Colleagues and Friends**

#### ***Dr Ash Pachauri, Co-Founder and Senior Mentor, POP Movement***

Thank you very much. I want to convey my gratitude to Dr Vibha Dhawan, Mr Rakesh Kacker and to Ravi ji and to everybody who has been part of putting together this beautiful, beautiful volume. I just want to say that there's been so much love and passion in thinking through the title, thinking through what the design of the book should be, just every detail and I think each of those conversations, each of those deliberations was such a great honour to dad and I cannot even begin to thank the many friends and beautiful global family that dad has, and continues to surround himself with. Even today who shared whispers from their hearts, who shared so many beautiful stories, we have only just received a glimpse of a few and the process of reaching out to each one of you, the love and enthusiasm with which you very quickly came back to say, you would love to share a few words and a tribute to dad, live in my heart every single day of my life. I do not think that thank you quite does. It does not begin to convey the half of what it really means to me and then putting pen to paper and compiling this beautiful volume which will live forever. I know we have all had the good fortune of experiencing that love, the passion, the funny side, the drive and the relentlessness that dad was all about in his work.

We have all had a chance to be a part of his life in all of these dimensions and then some more and all I want to say is that this is one more step to keeping that alive and let it be eternal and let us continue our journey, the path he has put us on to protect our planet, to spread that love, to keep that global family together. I think that is a great honour that we can share with that. I have to be honest, it has been almost a year or so since we have been putting this together or several months and every piece of communication with every author has meant the world to me because in some way or the other I have been re-connected to dad in a very precious way. I still have not mustered the courage to pick up the book and read it. I will but I just want to say that I feel with every part of me the love and the devotion to dad that everybody has shared here. Your words mean everything but I know the values that he shared with all of us will live on and I am just going to say, let us continue to stay close, hold hands and take his vision forward. I know together as a global family, we will do it and I know he believes in it. Let us honour him with that. Thank you.

### **Reflections by Family Members, Colleagues and Friends**

#### ***Dr Mac McQuown Partner, Co-Founder, and Director, Diversified Credit Investments, San Francisco***

*How and when did you meet my Dad, Patchy?*

To reflect back on how I first met your dad it was our mutual friend Ramanathan who provided the introduction and on the very first occasion that we met in person, Patchy came to our apartment in San Francisco and we had a long chat and then we proceeded to go to have dinner at a local restaurant. The three of us and who should be seated at an adjacent table but Governor Jerry Brown who both Patchy and Ram knew.

*Tell us little about your interactions with Dad. What did you talk about?*

We were talking about global warming and the cause of global warming, namely CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, and what can be done about it and here we are 7-8 years later, and the world is still pondering. In fact, not enough of the world, but still some of the world is still pondering: what are we going to do with 418 parts per million of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere when it only needs to be naturally about 300.

So the whole puzzle is something the young people are going to have to deal with more than the adults. Now it would be very nice if the adults would pick up the ball but I am confident that the kids have an opportunity to transcend their elders in setting the pace for that change. So anyway, Patchy and I had a lot of conversation about that subject over

the course of our meetings over 3-4 years. And then of course, so I still have a lot of dealings with Scripps Institutional of Oceanography and Ramanathan and we still talk about Patchy because at the IPCC, Patchy was trying to lead the world to realize what was going on and he did about as good a job as possible given the nature of the inbred political system in the world and its general lack of consciousness.

*What do you remember most about Patchy?*

He was a get-your-attention-looking human being to begin with and then when he opened his mouth and began to talk about whatever it was on his mind., he was always had distinguishing things to say: crisp and to the point. He was not one to mince words and I really admire the clarity of thought and the clarity of exposition. He was a model of that idea. In fact, not many people realize the profundity of his always abbreviated commentary. You have to reflect on what he was saying, he was an amazingly highly respected human being by the top academics in energy space. His middle name was 'Energy' and he exuded it. He was amazing it was such a privilege to know him.

*What do you believe is his greatest legacy and how we can honour him?*

He was one of the leaders of the movement away from fossil fuels and the movement toward greater decentralization which really means private markets rather than centralized decision making, the more diffuse the responsibility, the greater the chance of innovation and lots of innovation which is what we're going to need to get ourselves out from under this cloud but anyway I have such a fond memory of Patchy. He was one of a kind and he looked the part. I always loved that part about him. It is like he took his sincere pills every morning. It was amazing how he came across. I benefited a lot from my periodic interaction with Patchy over that period of time I greatly enjoyed it. He was really something. You have a great legacy Ash.

*You and Patchy share a common vision and faith in youth-led climate action. What is your message to the youth of the world?*

We were having about well basically about global warming and the cause of global warming namely CO2 in the atmosphere and what can be done about and here we are I don't even know how many years later this is it must be. I don't know 7-8 years later maybe some number like that and the world is still pondering or not enough of the world but some of the world is still pondering what are we going to do with 418 parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere when it only needs to have and not only needs to have it naturally has about 300.

### **Reflections by Family Members, Colleagues and Friends**

#### ***Rakesh Kacker, President, TERI Alumni Association***

Thank you Shailly and Dr Vibha Dhawan for giving us this platform to release this book. It is certainly a wonderful opportunity for the Association. I would also like to thank our Chairman, Shri Nitin Desai, for having encouraged us all along and of course with his presence today. Also, thanks to Dr Saroj Pachauri and Ash Pachauri who has been a great source of strength and support over the last one year, as we have tried to grapple with so many problems in putting this volume together. Thanks also to the great team Mr Yatin, Mr Jayantan, Mr Amit and then of course Mr Ravi and the team from the Alumni Association - Mr Prasad, Ms Radhika, Ms Sangeeta herself. The team from TERI Press- Ms Anupama, Mr Rajiv and Mr Aman in putting this book together and bringing out in time, despite the problems we had with COVID in December and January. It is wonderful that we have been able to bring out this second book and we hope to put this on the website of the TERI Alumni Association so that it can be freely downloaded by anyone who wants to read it. We would of course be sending copies to all the authors who have contributed to this volume and we do hope that this book will inspire people in the years to come to fight for all the ideals that Dr Pachauri instilled in us. Thank you very much once again for giving me this opportunity to speak today.

### **Reflections by Family Members, Colleagues and Friends**

#### ***Dr Ash Pachauri, Senior Mentor and Co-founder, POP Movement***

It would be a great pleasure. I would like to announce that the archives have been officially launched; there is a link that will be made available. I think it could be accessible via chat and will widely disseminate it. My heartiest congratulations to Shailly, certainly to the entire family at TERI, the team at the Library as well as the IT team that has worked very hard to realize this. What I want to say about the archives is, this is really a living and breathing repository of dad's lifetime of work so it is truly a treasure.

This is something that had been visualized, by Dr Dhawan, thank you for your leadership and Shailly for your vision and action to realize it because there is such a wealth and the years and years and years of hard work and toil and work that dad has put together through his lifetime which has now been organized and made available for everyone to benefit from and this is what his wish would be. He has always wanted that his words, his values, his vision and his wisdom to be an inspiration to every generation. He has believed in cross-generational dialogue, he has believed in the principles of love and respect but also believed very much in youth, inspired by knowledge and that was in fact the

tagline that he wrote up and we continue to use that for the PoP Movement and this is a living and breathing repository of exactly that.

So, it is a huge library and archive of his life's work and the greatest tribute that we can ever share with dad and for all the generations he shall continue to inspire with his knowledge and his life's work. So, thank you very much. This will be made available widely to everyone to benefit from and these are the many things that will always forever have dad showing us the way.

We do have a website as well [www.rkpachauri.org](http://www.rkpachauri.org) which encapsulates some of his work and milestones in his life. But we are very grateful to also have permission to post this to his website and I just want to say that this is a realization of actually something that many of dad's friends and colleagues have said to me in many conversations. So just want to say that this is a realization of something that I think is a great need the world has recognized. So, thank you so much for your leadership and for making this happen.

### **Reflections by Family Members, Colleagues and Friends**

#### ***Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI***

Thank you Mr Nitin Desai our chairman, Dr (Mrs) Saroj Pachauri, Dr Ash Pachauri, Mr Rakesh Kakkar, Sangeeta Bhadwar, Shailly and all the distinguished personalities who are attending Dr Pachauri's memorial and book release. TERI is Dr Pachauri's brainchild. It is his vision and forward thinking that TERI is always ahead of time and showing part to the world in terms of where to research on, what are the problems and so on. All those who are fortunate to have worked with him has imbibed great qualities of honesty, working selflessly towards a cause, discipline, hard work, taking risks. In a way, what qualities a person should have, Dr Pachauri had those qualities and many of us were fortunate enough to have worked with him and imbibed a part of it because it is so difficult to say that we have learned from Dr Pachauri but then it is only a part of it that we could imbibe. I always wonder how Dr Pachauri shaped lives of many of us. In fact, it goes that anyone who has met him even once for 10 minutes they also were impressed with his personality and had some takeaway. We were and still a large diverse family always looking at challenges and colleagues working best to their ability. Dr Pachauri was head of the family and we all felt secure not just for our jobs or career, but for everything. You can go and talk to him about your parents, your children, problems with the funding organization, it can be any subject and he will hear patiently and also tell you how, what to do and how to do. He had the great quality of not just knowing us but our families, our children and in a way he welcomed all of us to bring our children on Saturday and he will always eat chocolates or something and for most of the children of TERI family, he was 'Patchy uncle' and for kids it was difficult to believe that Patchy uncle also says that discipline is discipline. So they will always see the other side of Dr Pachauri and that is he is so friendly and he is 'Patchy uncle' and joking with them and so on.

He was a great motivator and that was a quality which not many of us have. I remember he is coming to me many times and then he will start with- "How is your father? How is your mother?" Because they were not well for many years and he will start with that and he will say I understand it's very difficult but Vibha this job is to be done. I know it will cost you a week away from the family but I think you can do it for TERI. So, in a way he will make you feel so important that you have to do it but at the same time he's so concerned about your family.

The other unique quality was that you can tell him anything like if some decision is being taken, we will fight "I will say many a times it was something like and fight for 10- 15 minutes not agreeing to how a particular thing is to be done and in the end he will say- "We agree to disagree" and I will tell him "you are the boss". But next day, he will again come and he will just sit opposite and say Vibha I thought about and it can be either one, but I still say it is to be done the way I suggested earlier. But once in a while, it also will be other way round and he will say I see merit in what you said and therefore he will change his stand. So that openness is unique to find in leaders and that's what I am trying to do. I do not know how successful I will be.

Now the idea of the second book, that largely came because there were so many people who started questioning- Why you have not invited us to write? And then we had to tell them that the first book was only for TERI or TERI Alumni Association members and therefore we could not do it. So it was a suggestion which came from others who wanted to give tribute to him. So that speaks volume about his personality that people wanted to write about him when he is gone and then when you read and as Dr (Mrs) Pachauri had read part of it, each article is written from the heart. It is not that you had to write something; it is written from what they felt about him. I can only say may his soul rest in peace and Dr Pachauri I know you are always with us and showering your blessings from the heaven. Thank you.