

Leuven, Belgium

Indian Delegation's visit to Leuven to attend And& Connect Festival



SUBMITTED BY

PRESENTED TO

Indian Delegation





summary

As part of the cooperation between Gwalior, India and Leuven, Belgium, Leuven MindGate and the Flanders Business School co-funded with IURC the participation of 3 Gwalior start-up representatives and a representative from G.Incubate, Mr Paritosh Goel in the And& Connect event in Leuven from 2-5 May 2023 to promote innovation, connectiveness and inspiration. The And& Connect festival brought together professionals and experts from diverse fields to explore emerging technologies, sustainable development, healthcare innovations, artificial intelligence and data privacy. The participants attended panel discussions, hands-on workshops and interactive sessions, which fostered collaborative learning environments and facilitated the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

Each of the start-up representatives also had the opportunity to pitch their ideas during the relevant sessions, which attracted interest from potential investors and partners. VN Organics represented by Ms Nisha Niranjani presented about Revolutionising Sustainable Farming & Mushroom based Nutrition.

Enviraj Consulting represented by Mr Rajdeep Pandey introduced A Real-time LoRa based Environmental Monitoring System for Lakes and Reservoirs and Mission Organic represented by Mr Abhisar Verma promoted an agro-ecosystem health system and practices that are economically viable, energy efficient and climate friendly. Mr. Goel introduced Gwalior's start-up ecosystem and discussed start-up opportunities with a number of stakeholders.

The delegates also had additional meetings with KU Leuven, a university known for its innovation, where start-ups discussed their farm-to-fork ideas and gained insights on the EU start-up industry. They also visited a Biodynamic Farm and saw firsthand the sustainable yet technologically advanced farming practices employed and the importance of encouraging local farmers towards fostering sustainable food production practices. Many other collaborative meetings and informative sessions were conducted with organisations such as Hydroko and VITO, which provided potential avenues for future projects, partnerships, and growth for the start-ups.



Indian Delegation:

PARITOSH GOEL

Chief Executive Officer and Director at G.Incube
(Gwalior Smart City Incubation Center)

RAJDEEP PANDEY

Founder & Environmental Consultant
Enviraj Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

NISHA NIRANJAN

CEO & Founder
VN Organic Pvt. Ltd.

ABHISAR VERMA

Founder and Managing Director
Mission Organic India

ORGANISATIONS:



Inaugration Ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of the event was a grand and momentous occasion, drawing together a distinguished gathering of guests, industry policymakers, and renowned leaders in various fields. The event kicked off with an air of anticipation and excitement as attendees gathered to celebrate the commencement of this significant event.



The ceremony was graced by the presence of influential figures from diverse backgrounds, adding an air of prestige to the festivities. Distinguished guests, including notable personalities from the cultural, political, and business realms, contributed to the vibrant atmosphere of the event.



Events, Talks and Sessions:



The proceedings commenced with a keynote address by Mayor, City of Leuven that not only marked the official beginning of the festival but also set the tone for the entire event. The speaker, possibly a prominent figure in the industry or a respected leader, delivered a compelling and thought-provoking speech. This keynote address played a crucial role in framing the festival's overarching theme and objectives, captivating the audience's attention and generating enthusiasm for the upcoming days of the event.

Throughout the ceremony, industry policymakers were actively engaged, offering valuable insights and perspectives on relevant topics. Their presence underscored the festival's significance as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss and address critical issues facing the industry. Renowned speakers also took the stage, sharing their expertise and experiences with the audience. These speakers likely added depth and diversity to the festival program, offering unique perspectives and inspiring the attendees with their knowledge and accomplishments.



Events, Talks and Sessions:



Following the inaugural event, the subsequent three days were packed with engaging activities and informative sessions. The festival offered a diverse range of events that catered to different interests and industries. Some of the highlights of the program included:



a. Talks by Industry Experts:

Prominent experts from various fields delivered insightful talks and presentations. These sessions covered topics such as emerging technologies, sustainable development, healthcare innovations, artificial intelligence, and data privacy. The speakers shared their expertise and offered valuable perspectives on the future of these industries.

b. Panel Discussions:

The festival also organized panel discussions that brought together experts and thought leaders to engage in meaningful debates and exchanges of ideas. These discussions addressed critical issues such as the ethical implications of technology, the role of governments in shaping the future, and the importance of diversity and inclusion in innovation.



c. Workshops and Interactive Sessions:

Participants had the opportunity to attend hands-on workshops and interactive sessions where they could learn new skills, explore emerging technologies, and engage in practical activities. These sessions encouraged active participation and fostered collaborative learning environments.



d. Networking Opportunities:

The And& Connect Festival provided ample networking opportunities for attendees to connect with professionals, entrepreneurs, and like-minded individuals. These interactions facilitated the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and potential collaborations.



Attending the And& Connect festival was a truly enriching experience. The festival provided a platform to meet and learn from some of the brightest minds in the world and gain insights into the latest trends and innovations.

CONCLUSION:

The And& Connect Festival in Leuven was a remarkable event that brought together professionals and experts from diverse fields to explore the future of technology, health, and creativity. The festival's program of events, talks, and sessions provided valuable insights and fostered interdisciplinary collaboration.



Enviraj Consulting participated in the IURC exchange program and attended the AndConnect Festival held in Leuven from 2nd to 4th May 2023. Rajdeep Pandey, Director of Enviraj Consulting, represented the company at the festival and engaged in several key meetings and sessions. Here are the highlights of the events:

1. Meeting with Hydroko:

Discussed the possibility of developing a pilot project with Hydroko's smart water meters in Gwalior Smart City. The project aims to monitor groundwater abstraction and detect leakages in the city's water distribution network.



2. Meeting with VITO:

Engaged in discussions with VITO, an organization working on various projects in India, including the Clean Ganga Mission. VITO expressed interest in developing

a citywide climate resilience plan for Gwalior Smart City. They offered to cover 60% of the project cost, which involves ground-level surveys, assessments, pilot development, and demonstrations. The citywide resilience plan will improve the city's preparedness in the face of environmental crises.



3. Pitching at AndConnect Festival:

Presented the pitch titled "A Real-time LoRa-Based Environmental Monitoring System for Lakes and Reservoirs." The project aims to monitor and predict algal blooms in lakes and reservoirs.

In addition to these key meetings, several other sessions and meetings took place during the program, providing fruitful and informative insights. These events and meetings helped broaden Enviraj Consulting's network and provided potential avenues for future projects and growth



VN Organics, represented by Nisha Niranjana CEO of the company, recently participated in the IURC Exchange Program and attended the AndConnect Festival held in Leuven from 2nd to 4th May 2023. Here are the highlights of the event.



1.farm to Fork presentation:

VN Organics has introduced an innovative concept in Leuven's farm-to-fork program by focusing on mushroom-based food and mushroom farming. This visionary approach not only diversifies the local food system but also promotes sustainability and healthy eating. By cultivating mushrooms, VN Organics optimizes land utilization while minimizing environmental impact. Through partnerships with local farmers, they contribute to shortening the supply chain, ensuring fresher and locally sourced ingredients.

2.Pitching at AndConnect Festival:

As part of the AndConnect Festival, VN Organics had the opportunity to present a pitch titled "Revolutionizing Sustainable Farming & mushroom based nutrition." The pitch highlighted VN Organics' core principles of sustainable farming practices, organic crop protection, and eco-friendly solutions. The presentation captivated the audience and attracted the attention of potential investors and partners. The pitch showcased VN Organics as a leader in sustainable agriculture and generated interest in further collaborations and investment opportunities.

3.Farm visit:

The farm visit provided a holistic view of modern agriculture, illustrating the delicate equilibrium between crop cultivation, livestock management, and environmental sustainability. It allowed us to witness the tireless effort, unwavering commitment, and remarkable technological advancements required to uphold a thriving agricultural enterprise. The visit underscored the importance of backing local farmers and emphasized agriculture's pivotal role in fostering sustainable food production practices.



Mission Organic got an opportunity to take part in an exchange program organised by IRUC held in Leuven (Belgium) from 2nd to 4th May 2023. Mr. Abhisar Verma (MD) represented the company of various platforms. Here are some highlights of the program:



Meeting with Rikolto - Mr. Abhisar Verma got an opportunity to meet Mr. Gert Engelen who is a representative of Rikolto Vredeseilanden. During the meeting Abhisar and Gert discussed the best practices which could be adopted to help farmers tap into the international market and how the farmers can increase their profits by choosing a sustainable farming model. They also exchanged information regarding rice and cacao cultivation in Indonesia, Africa and India.

Biodynamic Farm Visit - Mission Organic along with VN Organics visited one Biodynamic farm where they met one of the finest organic farmer in Belgium. They got a chance to discuss about the ground reality of the farmers in Europe and how sustainable farming practices are necessary in the agricultural industry. The farmer showed our delegates how he not only cultivates the crops but has established a selling platform to provide the public with fresh and healthy crop that comes straight from the field.



Mr. Verma got in touch with like-minded people, who showed keen interest in our start-up. The IURC Exchange program has proven highly advantageous for Mission Organic. He is grateful to IURC, Leuven Mingate, India House Leuven, Flenders B School; and all the stakeholders involved in organising this exchange program and providing such an extraordinary opportunity.