

US Innovation Award bagged by Indian NGO

WASHINGTON: An Indian NGO was on Friday presented the US' first Innovation Award for the Empowerment of Women and Girls in recognition of its efforts in training and organising wastepickers and eliminating child labour from recycling.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presented the award to Indian NGO Chintan along with two others from Kenya and Tanzania.

Received by Bharati Chaturvedi, Chintan's founder, the US award was given to the NGO in support of its work to reduce ecological footprints and increase environmental justice amongst the informal sector through green jobs, advocacy and organising.

Clinton announced that each of these NGOs would receive

\$ 500,000 to assist them in their work. The Award is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation through the Secretary's International Fund for Women and Girls.

Chintan, Clinton said, is working on the ground to train and organise waste pickers and to eliminate child labor from their ranks.

This group is advocating for those who work in the informal sector, pushing for recognition, basic protections, and fundamental dignity, she said in her remarks. "Chintan's efforts have reached more than 20,000 waste pickers in India in the past five years. More than 2,000 children have been pulled out of the trash heaps and put on a path toward education and opportunity," Clinton said. PTI