

# SRU, Berkeley tie up for course in public health

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**Chennai:** For the first time in the country, a masters programme in occupational and environmental health (OEH), is being offered by Sri Ramachandra University (SRU), Chennai, in collaboration with University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health. The joint initiative will usher in the much needed environmental health training in India, said speakers at the event held at SRU on Tuesday.

"This is one of the most successful partnerships Berkeley has scored," said Stephen Shortell, dean, Berkeley School

of Public Health. "I am pleased that this involves a dozen faculty members from both the sides and hope this will lead to collaboration in other streams," he added.

Research in OEH is at a nascent stage in India. "Advanced training in this field is very limited in India and does not meet the growing demand for professionals in areas such as occupational safety, indoor air pollution control, and water quality assessment in a nation that houses more than 1.1 billion people," said Kalpana Balakrishnan, director, WHO Collaborating Center for Occupational Health, SRU.