



4th International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICE- 2022)

DAY 2: Parallel Session

September 10, 2022 (Saturday); Time 14:00-15:30 hrs (GMT +5:30)

On

UNEP and Higher Education

Venue: SCOPE Convention Centre, Tansen Hall

Background and Introduction

Education is fundamental to achieving the SDGs, and universities have a critical role to play in preparing future generations to participate responsibly in building a sustainable and inclusive green economy, with healthy and productive ecosystems.

Youth (15-29 years of age) constitute a very important segment of the population in India, making up nearly 1/5th (366 million) of the total population. As per MHRD (Ministry of Human Resources and Development) statistics, there are 39,931 colleges, 10,725 stand-alone institutions and 993 universities in India. Approximately 37.4 million youth are enrolled in higher education programmes in the nation. To reap the demographic dividend of this population and to help it realize its full potential, it is essential to strengthen both formal and informal education on the environment and sustainability within HEIs in India.

UNEP has been engaged in implementing and supporting both formal and non-formal higher education initiatives through various partners including UNEP's Youth Education Alliance (YEA!), UN agencies including UNESCO, UNICEF and ILO, universities such as Tongji University and the University of Oxford, and more.

UNEP's higher education work focuses on influencing institutional change and working towards wider societal transformation, while always keeping youth at the heart of its work.

Some of UNEP's key higher education interventions and resources include:

1. The **Race to Zero** is a global campaign to mobilize leadership and support from all sectors for a healthy and resilient zero-carbon recovery. UNEP, Second Nature and EAUC are representing the higher education sector in this race through the Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges and so far, over 1,200 universities have joined the Race.
2. **Nature Positive Universities:** UNEP and the University of Oxford recently launched a global network of Nature Positive Universities, as part of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, to prompt the prioritization of nature and its restoration within the higher education sector; in their operations and supply chains, on



campuses and within the cities where they operate. Over 400 campuses from across the world have expressed an interest in joining this Alliance.

3. Shifting behaviours on campuses through the **Little Book of Green Nudges (LBGN)**, which is a quick guide to reducing a campus' environmental impact through behaviour change nudges. It summarises the evidence around what nudges work best while seeking to encourage more sustainable practices among students and staff across several behavioural categories. It has implemented a pilot testing of these nudges with over 130 campuses globally which includes many colleges from India.
4. UNEP has also developed a **Sustainable University Framework** to help define what constitutes a sustainable university and support the creation of pathways to recognizing and becoming one.
5. UNEP is in the process of facilitating an **India Green University Network**, which is envisioned to be a platform that would help higher education establishments in India to *Convene, Communicate, Collaborate, Catalyze and Commit* to integrating, and if possible, mainstream the environment, and sustainability across their institutions. UNEP held a dialogue with all the relevant stakeholders followed by a survey which shows the way forward for establishing such a platform for learning and sharing.

UNEP, in its session on higher education, will help showcase and highlight these initiatives, with a special focus on the ones that are already, or will soon be, active in India.

Expected Outcomes

1. Higher-ed stakeholders from India and other participating countries know higher-ed offers from UNEP
2. Connect and network with different sectors- Govt/ NGO/ Academia
3. Showcase Higher education work in India
4. Learn and share best practices
5. Receive expressions of interest in joining and building out a Nature Positive Universities hub in India.

Detailed Breakdown of the session

Total Time allocated for the session – 90 Minutes

Introductions- MC

UNEP and Higher education – Mr Sam Barratt Address – 5 Minutes

1. Working towards an India Green University Network (IGUN) and Launch IGUN Forum

- Time – 20 Minutes
- Action – 10 minutes PPT to highlight work done towards establishing IGUN and 10 minutes to announce the IGUN forum, its format and call out for campuses to volunteer – Hybrid
- **Speakers and Facilitators** – Prof Fawzia Tarannum (TERISAS) and Gayatri Raghwa (UNEP)

2. Race to Zero Initiative

- Time allocated – 15 minutes
- Action – 7 Minutes PPT and 7 Minutes of Dialogue between UNEP and TERRE (as they have committed to R2Z from India)



- Mode – Hybrid
- **Speaker** – Carina Mutschele (PPT)
- **Dialogue** – Carina Mutschele in conversation with Dr Durga Kamat (Project Executive, Not Zero-NetZero, SCCN)

Nature Positive Universities

- Time allocated – 15 minutes
- Action – Presentation and Q&A session (10+5 min)
- Mode Hybrid
- **Speaker and Facilitator of Q&A –Prof Emily Stott and Carina Mutschele**

3. Little Book of Green Nudges

- Time allocated – 10 minutes
- Video – 2 minutes
- Discussion- Do Nudges really work? Between pilot LBGN campuses and NGOs – 8 Minutes
- Dr Poonam Kumaria from Miranda House / Dr Kawal Gill from Guru Gobind Singh college of commerce in conversation with Dr Fawzia Tarranuum

4. Sustainable Universities – National Contexts and Global Practice

Time allocated – 20 minutes

- Discussion and PPT – 10 minutes discussion and 10 minutes PPT
- **Panel Discussion to cover national context** – Conversation between UGC/ AICTE/ Dr Raman from SBSC, Delhi / Prof Prithvi Yadav VC, Symbiosis University of Applied Sciences Indore moderated by UNEP (Gayatri Raghwa)
- **Sharing Global practice and context** –5 minutes Presentation by Ayesha Al Mazroui (Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi) Sustainable Campus Initiative in the UAE. 5 minutes Mr Sam Barratt presents Sustainable University Framework and sums up the discussion with the audience on how this can be contextualized to India and different regions
- Mode – Physical / Hybrid (TBD)