

**APSWDP
INTERNATIONAL ECO-VISIONARY DIALOGUE ON
ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE
(IEDASUF): ROADMAP TO COP29**

*A Dialogue that aims to have Reflections on Sustainable Urbanism, Youth Actionism,
Global Communities, and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)*

**UN DECADE OF ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (2020-2030)**

Report

9th October 2024

DECADE OF ACTION



APSWDP Supports Sustainable Development Goals

**Association of Professional Social Workers and Development
Practitioners (APSWDP)**

Association in Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations
Affiliated with the Department of Global Communications (DGC) of the United Nations

Accredited with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)
Associated with UNESCO MIL Alliance, Registered with NITI AAYOG (Former Planning Commission), Government of India



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**ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND DEVELOPMENT
PRACTITIONERS (APSWDP)**

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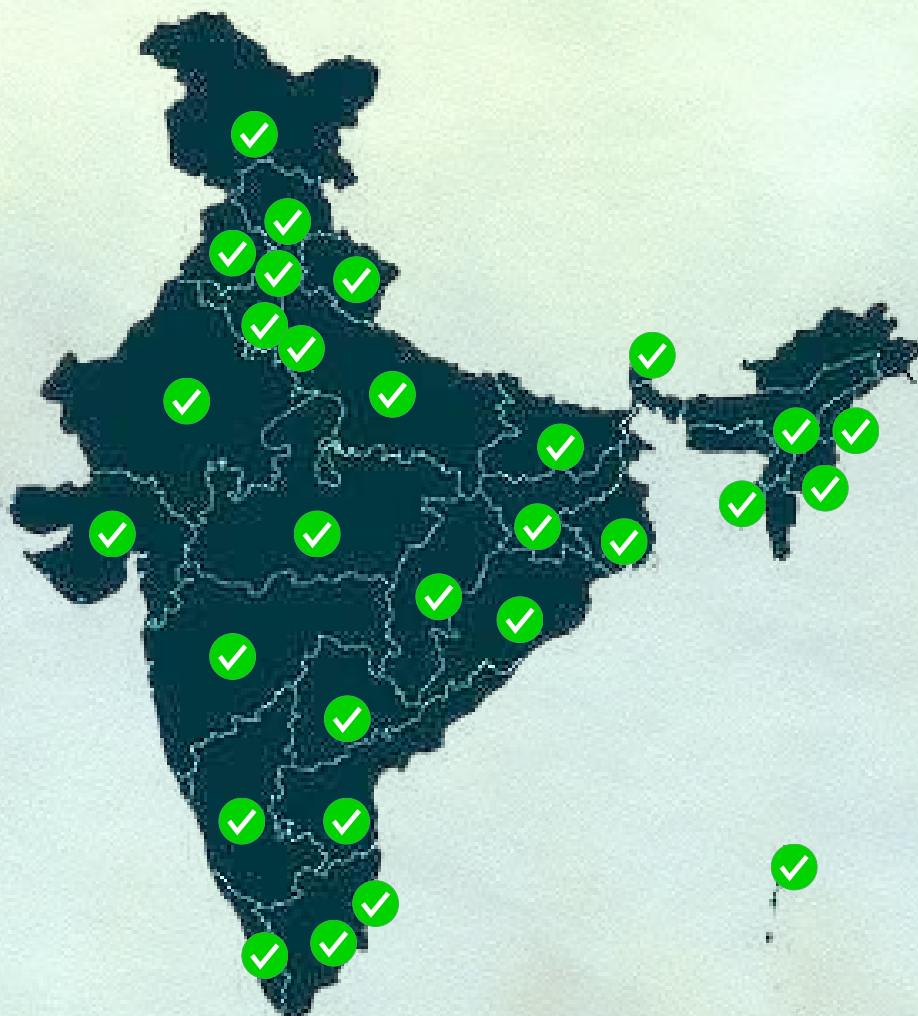
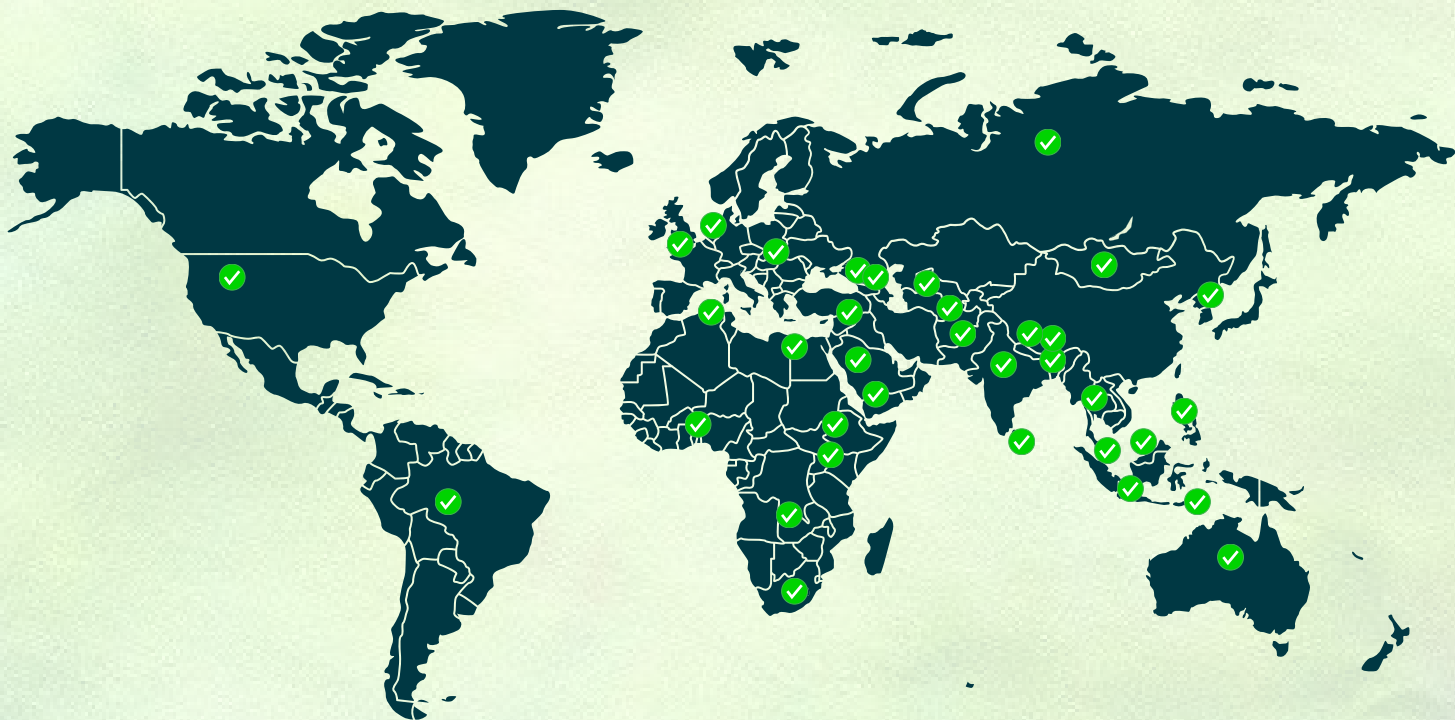
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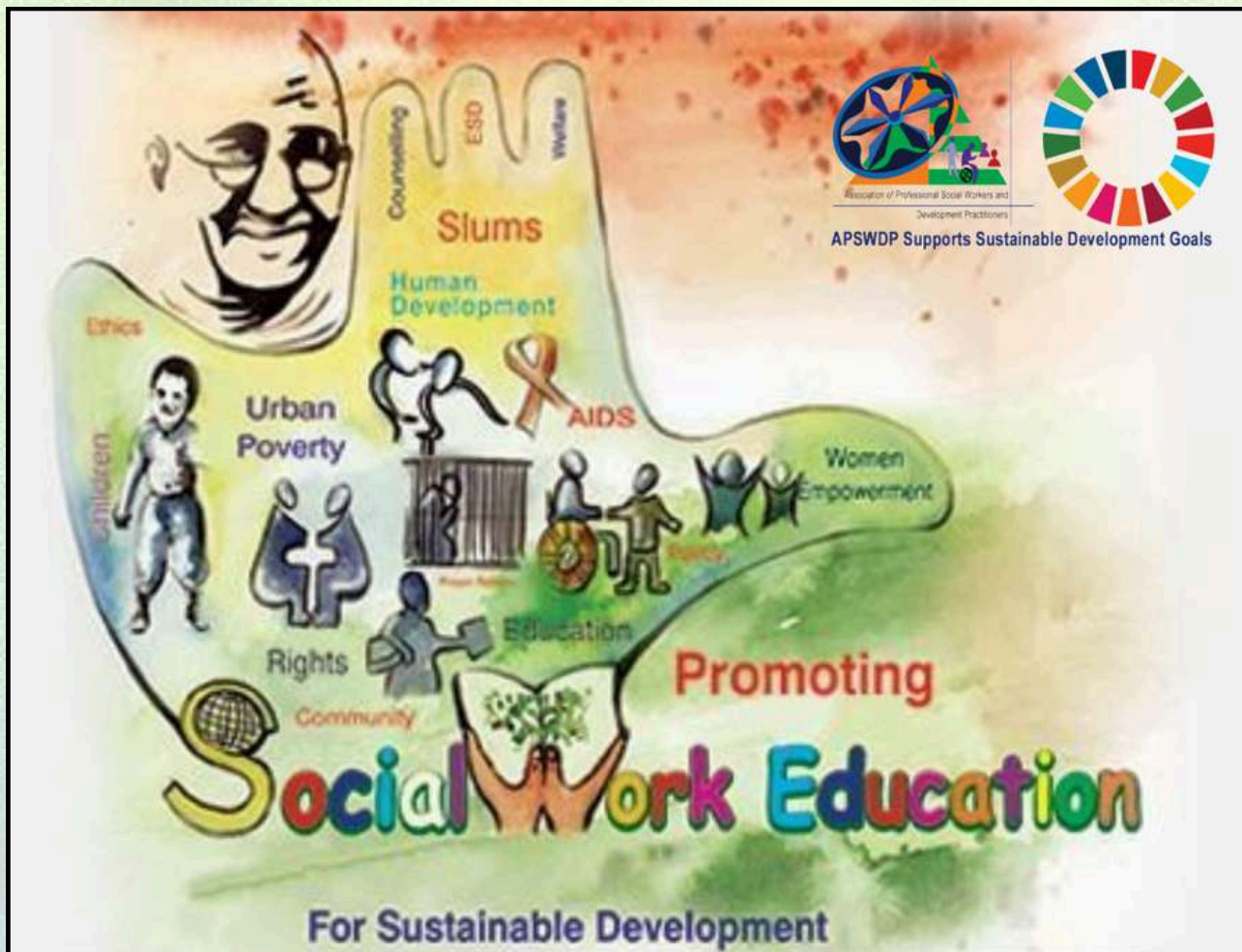


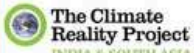
Organizing Partners



513 active participants from 34 countries attended IEDASUF







APSWDP INTERNATIONAL ECO-VISIONARY DIALOGUE ON ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE (IEDASUF): ROADMAP TO COP29 COINCIDING WORLD HABITAT DAY 2024

9TH OCTOBER 2024 (WEDNESDAY) | 11.00 AM - 02.00 PM (IST)



DECADE OF >>> ACTION

UN DECADE OF ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2020-2030)

A Dialogue that aims to have Reflections on Sustainable Urbanism, Youth Actionism, Global Communities, and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

K.K. Yadav, IAS,
Secretary, Higher Education
and Vice Chancellor, Punjabi
University, Govt. of Punjab,
INDIA



CHIEF GUEST

Guest of Honor
Liliana Bucur Cress
President,
WAFUNIF, USA



GUEST OF HONOR

Dr. Vivek Trivedi
Founder and Principal
Adviser, APSWDP,
INDIA



PRINCIPAL CONVENOR

Dr. Anshu Kumar
Director International
Relations, APSWDP,
INDIA



CONVENOR

Organized By

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), India

In Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN ECOSOC), Accreditation under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UNDGC), Observer Status under the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In Collaboration with

The Climate Reality Project-India and South Asia; Asia Climate Change Education Center (ACCEC), Jeju, South Korea; UNESCO MIL Alliance; Department of Management Science, IIT, Kanpur, India; Centre for Public Health Panjab University, Chandigarh; Azerbaijan Democratic Student & Youth Organization, Azerbaijan; Youvah, India; World Youth Federation, India; Carbon Markets Association of India (CMAI), India; Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD); Students for Development (SFD), India; Strategic Institute for Public Health Education & Research (SIPHER); and The Indian Youth Diplomacy Forum (IYDF), India



#SustainableDevelopment

#GlobalAgenda2030

#HabitatDay

#COP29

Building sustainable cities - and a sustainable future - will need open dialogue among all branches of national, regional and local government. And it will need the engagement of all stakeholders - including the private sector and civil society, and especially the poor and marginalized.

Ban Ki-moon

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BACKGROUND



UN DECADE OF ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2020-2030)

The UN Decade of Action for Sustainable Development (2020-2030) is a global initiative launched to accelerate progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations in 2015. This decade-long framework represents a critical period for intensifying efforts to address the most pressing global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and peace and justice. The Decade of Action emphasizes the need for urgent and transformative actions to meet the SDGs by the end of 2030. It calls for mobilizing resources, strengthening partnerships, and fostering innovative solutions to create a more sustainable and equitable world. The initiative recognizes that achieving these goals requires a collaborative approach involving governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals, with a strong focus on inclusivity and equity.

Key aspects of the Decade of Action include:

- **Accelerating SDG Implementation:** Governments and organizations are encouraged to enhance their efforts and investments in SDG-related projects and policies.
- **Innovating and Scaling Solutions:** Emphasis is placed on harnessing new technologies, innovative practices, and scalable solutions to address global challenges.
- **Enhancing Accountability and Transparency:** Ensuring that progress towards the SDGs is monitored, reported, and acted upon with transparency and accountability.
- **Engaging All Sectors of Society:** The Decade of Action aims to mobilize action from all sectors, including youth, to contribute to achieving the SDGs.

BACKGROUND OF WORLD HABITAT DAY

World Habitat Day, celebrated on the first Monday of October each year, highlights the urgent need to address housing inequalities and urban challenges, drawing attention to the fundamental human right to adequate shelter. It is an annual reminder of the collective responsibility we all share in shaping the future of our cities, ensuring they are sustainable, inclusive, and resilient (UN-Habitat, 2020). Each year, World Habitat Day is themed around a specific aspect of housing and urban development. The theme for World Habitat Day 2024, “Engaging youth to create a better urban future”, recognizes the pivotal role young people play in urban transformation. As global citizens, youth are increasingly at the forefront of addressing the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and climate change.

The observance of World Habitat Day focuses on several key areas that including the following:

- **Highlighting Urban Challenges:** The day provides an opportunity to address pressing urban issues such as housing shortages, inadequate infrastructure, and the impact of rapid urbanization on the environment and quality of life.
- **Advocating for Sustainable Solutions:** It emphasizes the need for sustainable and inclusive urban planning practices that promote resilient communities and equitable access to housing and services.
- **Promoting Community Engagement:** World Habitat Day encourages community involvement in shaping their living environments, and fostering local solutions to urban challenges.
- **Raising Awareness:** The day aims to increase public understanding of the importance of housing and urban development in achieving overall well-being and social inclusion.

COP 29 BAKU AZERBAIJAN

As we move towards COP29 in Baku Azerbaijan, the imperative to address the intersecting challenges of climate change, social inequality, and unsustainable urbanization becomes increasingly critical. COP29 will provide a global platform for governments, civil society, and youth to come together and advance solutions that prioritize sustainability, resilience, and equity in urban planning and development. The participation of youth in this dialogue is essential for crafting solutions that are inclusive and future-focused (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC], 2022).

THE INTERNATIONAL ECO-VISIONARY DIALOGUE ON ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURES (IEDASUF): ROADMAP TO COP29

The International Eco-Visionary Dialogue, organized while commemorating World Habitat Day 2024, seeks to align with these global priorities by placing special emphasis on youth leadership, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and global cooperation. Through this dialogue, young leaders, experts, academicians, activists, practitioners and policymakers will come together to explore how youth can drive the future of urban development in ways that are equitable and ecologically sound. By integrating perspectives from various global communities, the event aims to generate actionable insights that will contribute to the conversations at COP29 and beyond (UN-Habitat, 2020).


The INTERNATIONAL ECO-VISIONARY DIALOGUE serves as a global platform to discuss the future of urbanism through the lens of sustainable development. It will focus on:

- **Sustainable Urbanism:** The need for urban spaces to adapt to the realities of climate change, resource scarcity, and population growth by fostering green spaces, smart cities, and resilient infrastructures (Global Green Growth Institute, 2020).
- **Youth Actionism:** Encouraging youth leadership and participation in global and local environmental movements, promoting innovation in urban planning, and enhancing civic participation in policymaking processes (Berkhout et al., 2022).
- **Global Collaborations:** Strengthening international networks that bridge efforts across regions and sectors, enhancing cross-border cooperation for sustainable urban development, and achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities (United Nations, 2022).


By integrating youth engagement and education for sustainability, this dialogue emphasizes the capacity of young people to bring forth innovative solutions to the problems of housing, climate change, and inclusive growth. In an age where cities are increasingly digitalized and interconnected, this event underscores the importance of using technology and social media platforms to mobilize action and raise awareness about sustainable development. The collective knowledge and energy of the youth are crucial for shaping future cities that are inclusive, resilient, and sustainable (Eizenberg & Jabareen, 2017).

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

- To foster global dialogue on sustainable urbanism by reflecting on youth actionism and the role of education for sustainable development.
- To build synergies between global communities in addressing the challenges of urbanization, with youth leadership at the forefront of sustainable development.
- To explore pathways for youth to contribute to urban planning and sustainable development in the context of climate change, housing, and smart cities.
- To prepare action agendas for youth engagement and urban sustainability as inputs for the upcoming COP29 in Baku.



**PROFILE OF PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS**



Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) is a registered not-for-profit professional membership-based organization of professional social workers and development practitioners working in various social welfare domains across the country. APSWDP has been conferred Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and affiliated with the Department of Global Communication (DGC) of the United Nations since 2019. Recently, APSWDP has been conferred accreditation under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and extended Observer Status in United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and UNFCCC. **Website:** www.apswdp.org



The Climate Reality Project India and South Asia

Al Gore and TERI established The Climate Reality Project India (TCPI) in 2008. Our work focuses on climate education and empowering communities to take climate actions and prioritize the implementation of local climate solutions. The India branch supports more than 1500-trained Climate Reality Leaders across South Asia who are taking climate actions on the ground. The branch has been consistently putting in efforts to strengthen India's NDCs to work elaborately in the domains of clean energy, water conservation (including rainwater harvesting), and supporting electric mobility.

Website: <https://www.climatereality.org.in/>



About Asia Climate Change Education Center (ACCEC), Jeju, South Korea

Asia Climate Change Education Center (ACCEC), Jeju, South Korea is a global training centre jointly established by Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and Jeju Self Government Province in 2009. The main goal of the ACCEC is to establish a collaborative system of domestic and international climate change education through professional courses and promoting a world-class hub of climate change education institute in Asia being accredited by United Nations (UNESCO).

Website: <http://www.jeju-accec.com>



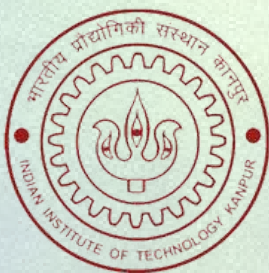
UNESCO MIL Alliance

The UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance, formerly known as Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL), is a groundbreaking effort to promote international cooperation to ensure that all citizens have access to media and information literacy competencies. Yet, organizations and individuals from over a hundred countries have agreed to join forces and stand together for change. is a network of networks dedicated to fostering international collaboration to advance Media and Information Literacy for all.



Website: <https://www.unesco.org/en/media-information-literacy/alliance>

Department of Management Science, IIT, Kanpur India



Set up in 1974 as an interdisciplinary program, the Department of Management Sciences (DoMS) at IIT Kanpur was one of the first in the country to leverage the analytical education of engineers in the training of management professionals. The program subsequently evolved as a full-fledged department in 1988. Under the aegis of IIT Kanpur, known for its vibrant academic culture, the DoMS has become one of the well regarded departments of industrial engineering and management sciences in India.

Webiste: <https://www.iitk.ac.in/doms/>

Azerbaijan Democratic Student & Youth Organization, (ADSYO), Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO) works to promote values of democracy among the young people of Azerbaijan and advocate their needs through active youth participation. ADSYO focusses on Socio-economic conditions, Arts & Humanities, Children, Education, Local NGO development and Capacity building.



Website: <https://www.active-youth.org/spolupraca/ngos/adsayo-azerbaijan>

Carbon Markets Association of India (CMAI), India



CMAI is a coalition comprising top industry experts who have joined forces to ensure that India's path towards developing the National Emissions Trading System (ETS) and a robust Domestic Carbon Market is well-structured. The primary goal of CMAI is to provide the necessary policy advocacy and regulatory framework to support this endeavor.

Website: <https://cma-india.in/>

Center of Public Health, Panjab University, Chandigarh

The Panjab University is having one of the eminent Centre for Public Health under University Institute of Emerging Areas in Science and Technology (U.I.E.A.S.T.), which is running a Master Program in Public Health since the year 2007 to cater to the emerging needs of the country to produce trained manpower for handling public health issues.



Website: <https://publichealth.puchd.ac.in/>

Global Youth Federation (GYF), India



The Global Youth Federation (GYF) is a national non-governmental organization based in India, registered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Headquartered in Chandigarh, we are dedicated to youth empowerment, environmental conservation, disaster management, and promoting government schemes for economically weaker sections. Our organization operates across all 28 states and 8 Union Territories of India, partnering with government departments, international NGOs, and national institutions.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563759766738>

YouVAH, India

YouVAH is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Himachal Pradesh, India. Its name stands for 'Youth for Voluntary Action in Himachal' and it is registered under the provisions of Himachal Pradesh, 2006 (Act No. 25 of 2006) having registration ID 'HPCD-8391'. YouVAH is constituted by the present and passed out NSS Volunteers from Different Colleges of Himachal Pradesh who came together during the lockdown in 2020 to run a campaign named Mission Digital CoroAware. **Website:** <https://youvahngo.org/>



Students for Development (SFD), India

Students for Development (SFD) initiated in 1992 to promote the need for sustainable development in its right form. Not just the environmental issues such as water conservation and management, plastic recycling, ban on plastic usage, forest conservation, etc. but also the issues related to the development in holistic sense that are concerned with the cultural, economic and physical (materialistic) development of person, society, nation and mankind are also dealt with so that the meaning of 'Development' is understood by the people in its right spirit. Then the question arises what is 'Development'? SFD is initiated to make understand, promote and disseminate the right concept of 'Development' to all people in General and students in specific.



Website: <https://www.sfdindia.org/about-us>

Indian Youth Diplomacy Forum (IYDF)

The Indian Youth Diplomacy Forum (IYDF) is a distinguished organization committed to fostering bilateral and multilateral relationships between India and other nations worldwide. IYDF convenes current and former Indian representatives from diverse international platforms and bilateral mechanisms, including Youth20, ASEAN+, the Commonwealth Youth Programme, COP, among others. This concerted endeavor seeks to provide continuity and coherence to youth discourse on global stages and pioneer new pathways for collaboration.



Website: <https://iydf.in/about.html>

Strategic Institute for Public Health Education & Research (SIPHER), INDIA

Strategic Institute for Public Health Education and Research (SIPHER) was established in 2018 under the Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860), with a fundamental purpose of creating a specialised public health workforce who can plan, execute and monitor national health programs and public health initiatives for tackling emerging public health challenges. The institute was born in the era when there is a global human resource crisis which is a major impediment to achieving Universal Health Coverage. There are very few institutes in the country which imparts quality public health education.



Website: <https://sipherglobal.org/about-us/>



PROFILE OF GUESTS & SPEAKERS





CHIEF GUEST

K.K. Yadav IAS
Administrative Secretary Higher Education and Languages
Government of Punjab, India

- He is an officer of 2003 Punjab Cadre of Indian Administrative Services.
- He served in various key positions in Chandigarh on deputation, including Chief Executive Officer of Chandigarh SMART City and Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Chandigarh.
- Present Roles: Vice-Chancellor of Punjabi University, Patiala and also serving as Chairman of Punjab State Education Board.
- Experience: Extensive administrative experience in prominent leadership positions within Punjab and on deputation contributing to governance, urban development, and education sectors.
- He is known for initiating COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Relief Campaign in Chandigarh and handled relief campaign effectively, which was widely appreciated by Govt. of India.



GUEST OF HONOR

Liliana Bucur Cress

**President, World Association of Former United Nations
Interns and Fellows (WAFUNIF), USA**

- Education: M.Sc. in International Affairs & Planning (2008), Hunter College, CUNY; B.Sc. in Sciences and Letters (2004), University of Petru Maior, Romania.
- Career: President, WAFUNIF (2018–present); extensive experience as Research Fellow and Director at WAFUNIF.
- UN Work: Led projects in education, environmental protection, and financing for development, with work in Japan, China, SE Asia, and Latin America.
- Event Leadership: Organized UNHQ events on sustainable development, peace, and climate action.
- Global Recognition: Represented WAFUNIF at major international conferences, including Rio+20.



PRINCIPAL CONVENOR

Dr. Vivek Trivedi
Founder-cum-Principal Advisor, APSWDP, India

- Founder of APSWDP: Established the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), with consultative status at UN ECOSOC and observer status with UNFCCC.
- Ph.D. in Social Welfare Administration: Earned from Panjab University, Chandigarh.
- Recognized Leader: Awarded Brightest Young Climate Leadership Award (2010) and State Awards (2014, 2020).
- Development Practitioner: Works as a social welfare administrator and activist.
- Global Presence: Has received accolades from institutions like UNESCO, the British Council, and Chandigarh Administration.



CONVENOR

Dr. Anshu Kumar
Hon. Director, APSWDP, India

- Technical expert with over 33 years of experience in Refrigeration & Air-conditioning (RAC), including 20+ years under the Montreal Protocol (MP).
- Specialized in managing projects, training, and capacity building in Asia & Pacific regions for MP, HCFC phase-out, HFC phase-down, and cold chain management.
- Extensive experience in developing vocational curricula and international standards for RAC technical training institutes.
- Led UNDP's efforts in implementing MP projects, including the Kigali Amendment and energy efficiency initiatives in RAC sectors.
- Partnered with various UN agencies and governments for project development and capacity building across multiple countries.



SESSION CHAIR

Prof. Dai-Yeun Jeong
Director, Asia Climate Change Education Centre (ACCEC),
Jeju, South Korea

- Received BA and MA degrees in Sociology from Korea University, South Korea, and a PhD in Environmental Sociology from the University of Queensland, Australia.
- Served as a professor of Sociology at Jeju National University from 1981 to 2012.
- Held the position of teaching professor at the University of Sheffield, UK.
- Acted as a delegate for the South Korean Government to the UNFCCC and OECD environmental meetings.
- Published 60 environment-related research papers and 7 books, and conducted 95 environment-related research projects funded by domestic and international organizations.



SESSION CHAIR

Dr. Mousami Prasad
Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT),
Kanpur, India

- Specializes in renewable energy opportunities, particularly in decarbonizing the electricity sector and industries.
- Focuses on greening the steel-making process, exploring the techno-economics and strategic considerations of producing green steel.
- Interested in early adopters of green steel and their role in the energy transition.
- Currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Management Sciences, IIT Kanpur (since April 2022).
- Former Research Fellow at The Australian National University, working on energy policy and sustainability (Feb 2020 - Apr 2022).



SESSION CHAIR

Dr. Alton Grizzle
Programme Specialist, UNESCO

- Programme Specialist at UNESCO: Works at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, focusing on communication, information, media, and gender issues.
- Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Co-Manager: Co-manages UNESCO's global MIL programs, promoting critical media consumption.
- Experienced Educator: Former principal and educator in Jamaica for 10 years, spanning secondary schools and vocational training.
- Diverse Expertise: Background in education, management, information systems, and communication.
- Published Author: Conceptualized multiple projects and co-authored books and articles on MIL, gender, media, and development.



SESSION CHAIR

Bhavesh Swami

The Climate Reality Project (TCP) India & South Asia

- Collaborated with central, state, and civic authorities on climate change action initiatives.
- Executed the plantation of one million fruit trees in Fani-affected areas in Puri, Odisha, with another million in progress.
- Actively involved in implementing the IGBC-CII Green Campus program with measurable improvement metrics for turning campuses greener.
- Focused on water stewardship, contributing to making areas in Beed and Pune water positive.
- Engaged in sustainable climate action strategies, aiming for measurable environmental improvements.



SPEAKER

Dr. Shin-Ock CHANG
Researcher, KFPRI, South Korea

- Current Role: Research fellow at Fisheries Policy Research Institute, Korea Fisheries Association (KFA).
- Academic Background: Holds a PhD in Environmental Sociology from the University of Queensland, Australia.
- Teaching Experience: Former environmental sociology professor at Jeju National University, Korea University, and Sungkyunkwan University.
- Professional Involvement: Active member of the Asia-Pacific Sociological Association, International Sociological Association, and the Environmental Sociologist Network at East Asia.
- Research Focus: Specializes in fisheries policy research and environmental sociology.



SPEAKER

Prof. Changhoon KO
Emeritus Professor
Jeju National University, South Korea

- Currently serves as Honorable President of the World Association for Environment, Social, Governance (previously known as World Association for Island Studies) since 2001.
- Acts as Representative and Chair of Peace Island Network Organization (PINO) since 2022.
- Visiting Scholar at Suffolk University, Boston (2002-2003) and University of North Carolina (1995-1996).
- Recent international activities include organizing and speaking at the 2022 Paris Peace Islands Forum, 2023 Kyoto Peace Islands Hybrid Network, and upcoming 2024 PINO Forum at UNESCO.
- Published books include "Jeju's Past, Present and Future: Peace-Building for Co-Prosperity" (2024) and "The 22nd World Peace Island Forum: Korean Cherry Trees and World Peace" (2022).



SPEAKER

Sarabeyim Amiraslanova
Program Coordinator, Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization (ADSAYO), Azerbaijan

- Ecology student focused on ecosystem fieldwork, aiming to develop practical skills and knowledge.
- Holds a diploma from Ecological Lyceum and studied Ecology at Baku State University.
- Completed a Bachelor of Ecology from the University of Geneva (Coursera).
- Gained marketing and sales experience at Afandy Business Academy, with roles such as receptionist and teaching assistant at Brain Power School.
- Volunteered at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (April-Sept 2023) and Migration Volunteer Public Union (July-Sept 2023).



SPEAKER

Prof. Sachchida Nand Tripathi
Dean of Kotak School of Sustainability,
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, India

- Appointed as the first Dean of the newly established Kotak School of Sustainability at IIT Kanpur and a faculty member in the Departments of Civil and Sustainable Energy Engineering.
- Developed indigenous low-cost sensor-based technologies for nationwide urban air quality monitoring and Real-Time Source Apportionment (RTSA).
- His work on Taj Mahal discoloration led to policy interventions in Agra, and his research on aerosol-induced cloud invigoration effects has impacted urban planning to mitigate flash floods.
- Leads the Center of Excellence for Advanced Technologies for Monitoring Air Quality Indicators (CoE-ATMAN), focused on building indigenous sensor manufacturing and AI/ML capabilities for improving air quality across India.
- Recipient of prestigious awards including the Infosys Prize 2023, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award, J C Bose National Fellowship, and a fellow of INSA, INAE, and NASI.



SPEAKER

Prof. Rajeev Jindal

**Professor of Practice, Department of Sustainable Energy Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, India**

- Over 20 years of experience in the technology industry, with expertise in technical and business roles across multiple sectors.
- Post-doctoral fellowships at Universite de Nice, France (1999-2000) and Michigan State University (2000-2002), following a PhD in Physics from IIT Delhi (1998).
- CEO of the lighting business at C&S Electric Ltd (2018-2022), responsible for the overall growth and strategic direction of the business.
- Led R&D at NTL Electronics (2015-2018), creating a product portfolio that grew the company's top line and enhanced profitability.
- Filed 20 patents and contributed to launching solar and LED lighting businesses during tenure as General Manager - R&D at Moser Baer (2002-2013).



SPEAKER

Dr. Reeta Sharma
Associate Fellow,
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India

- Knowledge Management Expert: Specializes in creating and implementing knowledge management systems, domain ontologies, taxonomies, and digital libraries, with over two decades of experience at TERI.
- Entrepreneurship Program Leader: Successfully led Women and Technology-Based Entrepreneurship Development Programs, training over 500 participants (2021-2023) under DST, Government of India.
- Capacity Building and Training: Organized professional development programs, including UNESCO webinars on digital literacy during the COVID-19 pandemic, engaging diverse stakeholders.
- Consultant for Corporations: Provides consultancy services to corporations, focusing on developing knowledge management systems and specialized products.



SPEAKER

Shyam Krishnakumar
Co-Founder, The Pranava Institute, India

- Co-founded The Pranava Institute, which focuses on the intersection of emerging technology, public policy, and society with an India-first perspective.
- Provides strategic briefings, risk advisory, and foresight on India's rapidly evolving technology policy landscape.
- Combines expertise in geopolitics, political dynamics, and deep technology knowledge to offer insights on regulatory risks across various technology sectors.
- Holds a degree in Computer Science and a Master's in Political Science with a specialization in International Relations.
- Splits time between New Delhi and Bangalore, with native fluency in Hindi and Tamil.



SPEAKER

Aditi Chaudhary Waste Warriors, India

- Project Associate at Waste Warriors Society: Aditi currently addresses environmental challenges in the Himalayan region, focusing on plastic waste management with innovative solutions.
- Intern at Municipal Corporation Chandigarh: Contributed to meeting SBM, AMRUT, and NCAP project goals under the Project Management Unit.
- Field Assessment Specialist: Worked on plastic waste management projects for IPP with Green Dream Foundation.
- Environmental Campaign Intern: Engaged in environmental campaigns in Chandigarh with Green Dream Foundation.
- Master's in Environmental Science: Holds a master's degree from Panjab University, Chandigarh.



SPEAKER

Gayathri Kuppendra Reddy
NOW Venture Studio, India

- Founder of NOW Venture Studio, focused on sustainability and climate tech.
- Leads efforts in DeepTech and DeepScience ventures targeting environmental challenges.
- Supports early-stage startups with mentorship, operational support, and capital investment.
- Founder of KReate Foundation, addressing urban planning issues in growing cities.
- Selected as one of the Davos50 young leaders at the World Economic Forum in 2023.
- Named among the top 20 women in India for the L'Oréal Women Climate Collective Cohort 2024.



SPEAKER

Shivam Singh
National Youth Coordinator
The Climate Reality Project, India

- Founder and CEO, ExploreiT: A sustainability-focused start-up that provides comprehensive ESG, CSR, and community outreach solutions for corporates and institutions.
- Collaborations: Worked with renowned organizations such as Serum Institute of India, ICICI Bank, HSBC, and various government bodies and international NGOs.
- Youth Leadership: National Coordinator for Youth of Climate Reality, India, recognized by Earth Day Network and UNICEF as a Climate Warrior.
- Global Representation: Represented youth at COP 21 and served as Youth Advisor to India's MOEFCC.
- Sustainability Projects: Implementing rainwater harvesting in Pune and running native fruit tree plantation campaigns.



SPEAKER

Rohit Kumar **Carbon Markets Association of India (CMAI), India**

- Secretary General, Carbon Markets Association of India (CMAI): Rohit Kumar leads initiatives for a Net Zero future through carbon market development.
- Two Decades of Experience: Extensive background in project development, sustainability, policy formation, and grassroots SDG implementation.
- Recognition and Awards: Honored by the President, Vice President of India, and the United Nations for sustainability efforts.
- Swachh Bharat Campaign: Formerly with the Chamber of Commerce, organized national campaigns.
- Limca Book of World Records: Twice recognized for the largest green drive initiative, My Earth My Duty.



SPEAKER

Gulnara Baghirova
Azerbaijan Democratic Students & Youth Organization
(ADSAYO), Azerbaijan

- Current Role: Executive Director of ADSAYO, Azerbaijan.
- Academic Qualification: Holds a PhD degree.
- Expertise: Specializes in international relations, youth engagement, and program management.
- Leadership: Leads initiatives and programs at ADSAYO with a focus on youth development and international cooperation.
- Professional Focus: Actively involved in fostering youth engagement and managing international programs.



SPEAKER

Dr. Sumit Arora
President, APSWDP, India

- Experience: Over 17 years as a Social Development Specialist with expertise in urban development, gender studies, climate change, and behavior change.
- Education: Holds a Doctorate in Sociology and advanced diplomas in Disaster Management, Human Rights, and AIDS education.
- Professional Roles: Guest faculty at institutions like MGSIPA, CRRID, and AILSG.
- Publications: Published extensively on topics like HIV/AIDS, transgender acceptance, and gender dimensions.
- Areas of Interest: Actively engaged in capacity building and advocacy through collaborations with public and academic institutions.
- Association: Climate Leader with The Climate Reality Leadership Corps; and Hon. National Coordinator (Waste) with the Climate Reality Project India & South Asia.
- Achievements: Awarded certificates of appreciation for COVID-19 relief efforts and contributions to community welfare initiatives.
- International Participation: Alumni UNITAR CIFAL Jeju, South Korea; and represented APSWDP at APCW-2019 at UN-ESCAP, Bangkok.



SPEAKER

Karamveer Singh
Chief Executive Officer, APSWDP, India

- Experience: Over 10 years in community work with expertise in Project Management, Capacity Building, and Sustainable Tourism.
- Education: Holds an MSW from IGNOU and an MCA from MDU, along with a B.Sc. in Electronics from Kurukshetra University.
- Professional Roles: Consultant (Academic) at the Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights; CEO (Honorary) of APSWDP.
- Associations: Young Climate Leader with The Climate Reality Leadership Corps and Climate Change & Youth Leadership Trainer at Nehru Yuva Kendra, Chandigarh.
- International Representation: Represented APSWDP at COP 28, Dubai, and other global forums including UNESCO and UNITAR events.
- Achievements: Awarded certificates of appreciation for COVID-19 relief efforts and contributions to community welfare initiatives.



MODERATOR

Rajeev Chodhary
Hon. Director, APSWDP, India

- Experience: Over 16 years in the health and development sectors, specializing in project implementation at various levels.
- Global Leadership Certifications: Certified in Tobacco Control (Johns Hopkins University) and Climate Leadership (The Climate Reality Project).
- Alumnus: Scholar in the 2021-2022 IGTC Program, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- Forum Participation: Active participant in prominent forums, including COP 28 in Dubai, UN Business & Human Rights Forum in Thailand, and the World Conference on Lung Health in Hyderabad.
- Editorial Roles: Associate Editor for "Tobacco Control Priorities in India" and Assistant Editor for "Tobacco Free Times" at PGIMER, Chandigarh.
- International Impact: Engaged in the Jeju International Future Generation Forum (South Korea) and other global discussions on health, climate, and human rights.



PROCEEDINGS



GUESTS



Chief Guest

K.K. Yadav IAS
Administrative Secretary Higher
Education and Languages,
Government of Punjab, India



Guest of Honor

Liliana Bucur Cress
President
World Association of Former United Nations
Interns and Fellows (WAFUNIF), USA

CONVENORS



Dr. Vivek Trivedi
Founder-cum-Principal Advisor
APSWDP



Dr. Anshu Kumar
Hon. Director
APSWDP

Inaugural Session

Formal Welcome, Introduction to Chief Guest & Guest of Honor and Programme Background by: Dr. Vivek Trivedi



Dr. Vivek Trivedi
Founder, APSWDP, INDIA
Principal Convenor



K.K. Yadav, IAS,
(Secretary Higher Education, Govt. of Punjab,
India and Vice Chancellor, Punjabi University)
Chief Guest



Liliana Bucur Cress
President, WAFUNIF, USA
Guest of Honor



Dr. Anshu Kumar
Hon. Director, APSWDP, INDIA
Convenor



11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Dr. Vivek Trivedi, Principal Convenor, IEDASUF-24, and Founder-cum-Principal Advisor, APSWDP gave a formal welcome to the august gathering during the APSWDP International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing a Sustainable Urban Future (IEDASUF): Roadmap to COP29. He acknowledged the presence of all the participants, esteemed delegates, distinguished guests, eminent & renowned speakers, faculty members, and students from various institutions for their interest and participation in the virtual dialogue. Dr. Trivedi proceeded with the program background and courtesy to all the partnering agencies for being thoughtful toward the Sustainable Agenda and collaborating with APSWDP to achieve the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Leave no one behind.

He introduced the **Chief Guest Mr. K. K. Yadav IAS, Administrative Secretary, Higher Education and Languages, Govt. of Punjab (India) and Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, Punjab (India);** and the **Guest of Honor Ms. Liliana Bucur Cress, President, WAFUNIF, USA.**

Dr. Trivedi set the stage for the International Eco-Visionary Dialogue by providing a comprehensive introduction rooted in the context of the UN Decade of Action for Sustainable Development (2020-2030). He emphasized the urgency for collective and transformative action to meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, highlighting that the next decade is critical for addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.

Dr. Trivedi explained that the Decade of Action calls for the acceleration of SDG implementation by mobilizing resources, fostering partnerships, and innovating solutions. Key aspects include scaling technologies, enhancing transparency, and engaging youth across all sectors to make significant strides towards a more sustainable and equitable world. He connected the dialogue to World Habitat Day 2024, themed **“Engaging Youth to Create a Better Urban Future”**, underscoring the need to address urban challenges such as housing shortages, inadequate infrastructure, and the impact of rapid urbanization on the environment.

Dr. Trivedi highlighted that as urban areas grow, they present both opportunities for innovation and challenges such as carbon emissions and resource degradation.

Dr. Trivedi outlined the importance of youth leadership in tackling the intersecting challenges of climate change, social inequality, and unsustainable urbanization. As the world moves towards COP29 in Baku, he emphasized that youth participation is essential for crafting inclusive and future-focused solutions. Their creativity, energy, and digital fluency position them as vital agents of change.

Dr. Trivedi concluded his introduction by highlighting the three focus areas for the dialogue:

- **Sustainable Urbanism:** How cities can adapt to climate change, resource scarcity, and population growth through green infrastructure, smart cities, and resilient planning.
- **Youth Actionism:** The role of youth in leading global and local movements, fostering civic engagement, and driving innovation in urban spaces.
- **Global Collaborations:** The need for international cooperation to bridge efforts across regions and sectors in achieving SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and other goals.

Dr. Vivek Trivedi's remarks laid a solid foundation for the following discussions, calling on all participants to reflect on the roles that youth must play in shaping the cities of tomorrow and contributing to a sustainable urban future. His emphasis on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and youth leadership served as the guiding themes for the dialogue, encouraging young leaders, experts, and policymakers to collaborate on innovative solutions.

The session proceeded with key speakers elaborating on these foundational ideas and how they can be operationalized in the context of World Habitat Day 2024 and COP29.

Address by the Guest of Honour Ms. Liliana Bucur Cress, President, WAFUNIF, USA

Liliana Bucur Cress followed up with a compelling reflection on the pivotal role of youth in building sustainable urban futures. She outlined several key points:

Youth Responsibilities: Liliana began by asserting, "Today, we realize the immense responsibilities our youth bear in shaping the sustainable communities of tomorrow."

She emphasized that the energy, creativity, and activism of young people are crucial in driving meaningful change, particularly in urban settings.

1. **Quote by Rabindranath Tagore:** She shared an inspirational quote by Bengali writer Rabindranath Tagore on youth and dreams: "The youth embody the dreams of the future; their power lies in making those dreams a reality." This, she noted, is the essence of empowering youth as resources for change.
 2. **UN Agenda for Sustainable Cities (SDG 11):** Liliana highlighted the United Nations' focus on Sustainable Development Goal 11—sustainable cities and communities. With cities around the world growing rapidly as hubs of innovation, she pointed out that they are also facing significant challenges, particularly from climate change, poor infrastructure, and inequality. She stated that "rethinking urban spaces" is critical, particularly as slums and informal settlements are expected to increase alongside rapid urbanization.
 3. **Public Transportation and Air Quality:** She raised issues like public transportation inefficiencies and poor air quality in cities were stressed. These factors contribute to environmental degradation and urban inequality, which must be addressed to create livable, resilient urban spaces.
 4. **Future Urban Growth:** Liliana projected that by 2050, 70% of the global population is expected to live in cities, presenting both challenges and opportunities for sustainability. She warned that without immediate action, problems like poverty, inequality, and climate threats will exacerbate, further straining urban infrastructure.
- **Three Key Areas for Action:** Liliana outlined three crucial areas where youth leadership is needed:
 - **Sustainable Development:** Youth must lead the way in creating greener cities, with some already pioneering efforts to reduce carbon footprints through urban innovation and green infrastructure.

- Social Equity and Inclusion: Given the diversity of cities, youth should champion inclusive policies that address inequalities in housing, public services, and access to opportunities.
- Digital Innovation: Technology is a transformative force in urban development, and young people are at the forefront of creating smart cities. From digital services to traffic management systems, urban life can be significantly enhanced by integrating tech solutions.
- Youth Voice and Vision: In closing, Liliana emphasized that youth voices and visions are critical for a brighter urban future. Young people, she stressed, hold the key to unlocking innovative solutions to the world's urban challenges, and their involvement in shaping policy and decision-making is essential.

Release of Books

The Chief Guest Mr. K. K. Yadav, IAS, Secretary, Higher Education and Vice Chancellor, Punjabi University, Punjab and the Guest of Honor Ms. Liliana Bucur Cress, President, WAFUNIF, USA released two books titled **Environmental Economics – Value the Nature Book** and **Sustaining the Future – Principles of Environmental Governance** authored by Dr. T. Gopinath and Dr. K. Ramesh Kumar.

Inaugural Address by Chief Guest Shri K. K. Yadav

The Chief guest of the event addressed the audience with a powerful introduction, quoting Mahatma Gandhi:

"The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."

This quote, he stated, serves as a reminder that sustainable cities must be both environmentally resilient and socially inclusive. Yadav emphasized that as cities grow, the well-being of the marginalized and vulnerable populations must be a core focus of urban development.

1. World Habitat Day 2024 Theme: Yadav acknowledged the World Habitat Day 2024 theme, "Engaging youth to create a better urban future," as a timely and important call to action. With rapid urbanization and climate change posing significant challenges, this theme highlights the need for youth involvement in creating inclusive, resilient cities. He stressed that this call to action is crucial for addressing environmental issues, such as pollution and inefficient urban systems, while ensuring that social equity is upheld.

2. Opportunities for Youth: Yadav pointed out that cities, despite their challenges, offer immense opportunities for youth to shape their future. The urban landscape provides fertile ground for innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development, and young people must seize these opportunities. He highlighted that youth today, and in the future, will be the most affected by current urban policies and climate challenges, making their active participation indispensable.

3. Chandigarh Corporation Initiatives: As part of local initiatives, Yadav proudly shared the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation's Youth Fellowship program. This program offers young graduates from academic institutions a unique opportunity to work directly on projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The fellowship promotes the development of innovative ideas to tackle urban challenges and fosters youth engagement in sustainable urban development.

Action Plans for Future: Mr. Yadav concluded his address by stressing the need for concrete action plans as foundational steps toward building resilient cities. He called for youth to actively contribute to shaping these action plans, which will serve as the cornerstones of urban sustainability moving forward. These efforts, he noted, will not only create positive change today but also lay the groundwork for a sustainable, inclusive future.

Vote of Thanks - Dr Anshu Kumar

Dr. Anshu Kumar concluded the inaugural session with thought-provoking insights that tied together the key themes of sustainable urbanism, youth engagement, and climate resilience.

1. Youth as Changemakers: Dr. Kumar began by reinforcing the message that today's youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but the changemakers of today. He emphasized the urgency for young people to take charge of their future by embracing leadership roles in urban sustainability efforts. Dr. Kumar reiterated that the solutions to challenges such as climate change, poor infrastructure, and environmental degradation lie in the innovative and bold ideas generated by youth.

2. Building a Collective Future: He stressed the importance of collective action, stating that sustainable urban development cannot be achieved in silos. Collaboration between youth, policymakers, educators, and global organizations is essential for addressing the complexities of urban growth and climate challenges. He highlighted that platforms like the International Eco-Visionary Dialogue serve as catalysts for such collective engagement.

3. Aligning with Global Agendas: Dr. Kumar also connected the discussions to broader global frameworks, particularly SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). He reiterated the importance of this goal in building cities that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. By aligning urban development strategies with this global agenda, young leaders can ensure that cities around the world adapt to meet the needs of future generations.

4. Call to Action for COP29: Concluding his remarks, Dr. Kumar urged participants to take the outcomes of the dialogue forward into tangible action for the upcoming COP29 in Baku. He stressed that the ideas discussed should form the foundation for youth-driven action plans that focus on reducing carbon footprints, enhancing social equity, and fostering innovation in smart cities. Dr. Kumar's conclusion echoed the earlier sentiments about the pivotal role of youth in shaping sustainable urban futures, leaving the audience with a clear message: The time to act is now, and the youth must lead the way.

Panel Discussion

Panel I: Envisioning Tomorrow: Reflections on Sustainable Urbanism and Education for Sustainable Development. Exploring integrative approaches to urban sustainability and educational frameworks.

Panel - I



Dr. Shin-Ock CHANG
Researcher,
KFPRI, SOUTH KOREA



Dr. Die-yun Jeong
DIRECTOR, ACCEC, JEJU, SOUTH KOREA
Chairperson/Moderator



Prof. Changhoon KO
Emeritus Professor
Jeju National University, South Korea



11:30 AM - 12 NOON

Dr. Die-yun Jeong in his discussion while chairing and moderating the session, highlighted the following key points:

- **Low Carbon Cities:**

Dr. Jeong introduced the concept of low carbon cities, emphasizing the need for urban environments to drastically reduce their carbon emissions. He highlighted that sustainable urban development must focus on decreasing carbon footprints through clean energy initiatives, efficient public transportation, and innovative green technologies.

- **Integrated Framework for Sustainability:**

He outlined the importance of an integrated framework that combines environmental, social, and economic factors. This holistic approach ensures that sustainability is not limited to environmental concerns but also addresses issues such as urban poverty, social equity, and economic resilience.

- **Socio-Economic Factors and the Concept of 'Cyber City':**

Dr. Jeong discussed the impact of socio-economic factors on sustainable development, noting that cities must balance technological progress with social inclusivity. He introduced the idea of a "Cyber City", where technology and human life co-exist seamlessly, enabling sustainable living through smart infrastructure and AI-driven governance.

- **Human-Nature Balance in Everyday Life:**

A critical theme in Dr. Jeong's deliberation was the need to restore the balance between humans and nature. He stressed that sustainable urbanism must encourage harmony in everyday life, where urban citizens actively engage in eco-friendly practices, and cities are designed to coexist with natural ecosystems rather than exploit them.

- **Urbanism as a Way of Life:**

Dr. Jeong defined urbanism as a way of life, explaining that sustainability is not only about infrastructure but also about the cultural and social behaviors of urban dwellers. Cities must promote sustainable living through public policies and community initiatives that foster environmentally responsible lifestyles.

- **Role of NGOs in Urban Sustainability:**

Dr. Jeong also discussed the critical role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in promoting urban sustainability. NGOs often act as intermediaries between governments and citizens, helping to raise awareness, advocate for policy changes, and implement grassroots projects. Their contribution to building sustainable, resilient cities is invaluable, particularly in areas like waste management, community engagement, and environmental conservation.

Dr. Chang provided a detailed explanation of the origin of the concept of sustainable cities, tracing it back to the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which gave rise to the modern understanding of sustainability. The key points of her discussion are:

- **Definition of Sustainability:** Dr. Chang emphasized that sustainability is essential for human survival. Without adequate natural resources (like air and clean water), the cost of living and survival itself will rise sharply.
- **Sustainability and Human Life:** She described sustainability as a concept that makes human life possible, particularly in the context of urban environments where most of the global population will live.
- **Sustainable Cities and Population Growth:** With 8 billion people expected to live in urban centers, the balance between industrialization and natural resource availability is at a critical juncture.
- **Challenges:** Dr. Chang highlighted how industrialization and humanization from the 18th century onward have stressed the limits of natural resources.

She warned of the fragility of nature, citing rising consumption rates of water and food.

- **The Future of Sustainability:** New ideas about sustainability are emerging, and she stressed that the 21st century must focus on these as central to future development.

Prof. Changhoon KO centered his talk during the session on the following key points:

- **Role of Youth in Building Sustainable Cities:**

Prof. KO highlighted the vital role of youth in achieving sustainable urban futures. He emphasized that without the involvement of younger generations in leadership and actionism, sustainable development goals (SDGs) for cities cannot be fully realized.

- **18 Core Elements for a Sustainable Future:**

Prof. Ko presented a framework of 18 essential elements crucial to the foundation of sustainable cities. These elements include:

- **Hope:** Building a future based on optimism and constructive vision.
- **Peace:** Peace as a cornerstone for development.
- **Resonance:** Harmonizing human efforts with the environment.
- **Reconstruction:** Rebuilding societies after conflicts and disasters.

- He stressed that these elements should be woven into the educational systems to nurture a new generation of leaders capable of advancing sustainable cities.

- **Global Conflicts and Sustainability:**

Prof. Ko drew attention to the ongoing conflicts, such as the war between Russia and Ukraine, as well as the tensions involving Hamas and Israel. He argued that global sustainability cannot be achieved without resolving these conflicts and promoting peace. In his view, peace is the foundation for all forms of sustainable development.

- **Climate Justice and Global Frameworks:**

Prof. Ko spoke about the role of international bodies like the United Nations and the concept of climate justice. He linked the life of the USA's climate talks and UN innovations in addressing the imbalance caused by environmental degradation, particularly in developing nations. Climate justice, he argued, ensures that vulnerable populations do not suffer disproportionately from the environmental damage caused by industrialized nations.

- **1972 UN Agenda and the Path to COP29:**

Reflecting on the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Prof. Ko pointed out how the agenda laid the groundwork for global environmental discussions that continue today. This trajectory from 1972 to COP29 illustrates how sustainability goals have evolved and how today's discussions must carry forward this legacy.

- **Mahatma Gandhi's Principle of Non-Violence:**

Prof. Ko concluded by invoking the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence, stressing its relevance in today's world. He argued that non-violence not only pertains to social and political conflicts but is also crucial in human relationships with nature. Following Gandhi's principle, humans must develop a non-violent approach toward exploiting natural resources if we are to sustain our ecosystems for future generations.



Panel II: Empowering the Next Generation: Engaging Youth for a Sustainable Urban Future.
Delving into strategies for involving youth in transformative urban development.

Panel - II



Dr. Mousami Prasad
Asst. Professor, IIT KANPUR, INDIA
Chairperson/Moderator



Sarabeyim Amirasanova
Program Coordinator,
ADSAYO, AZERBAIJAN



Prof. Sachchida Nand Tripathi
Dean of Kotak School of
Sustainability, IIT Kanpur



Prof. Rajeev Jindal
Professor of Practice Department
of Sustainable Energy Engineering,
IIT Kanpur



12:00 AM - 12:30 NOON

Dr. Mousami expressed her gratitude to APSWDP for hosting the dialogue and providing a platform for such important discussions. She introduced the other panelists and highlighted the significant role of IIT Kanpur in empowering students to contribute to a sustainable world. Dr. Mousami emphasized that IIT Kanpur has been instrumental in advancing technological solutions for India's development. However, the institute has also recognized the importance of social science aspects of sustainability and established the School of Sustainability.

Dr. Mousami outlined three key strategies employed by IIT Kanpur to prepare youth for the transition to a sustainable future:

- 1. Comprehensive Education:** Offering a wide range of undergraduate, graduate, and specialized courses on sustainability, climate change, and various aspects of the transition.
- 2. IIT Kanpur do lot of community engagement:** Conducting research projects and providing empirical evidence to support policy interventions within local communities.

3. IIT Kanpur Leading by Example: Pledging to achieve a net-zero campus, conducting energy and water audits, and directly assisting nearby villages in their development.

Dr. Sachchida Nand Tripathi expressed gratitude to the organizers acknowledged the significant initiative taken by IIT Kanpur in establishing the Kotak School of Sustainability. He emphasized the school's integrated approach to addressing sustainability challenges and highlighted the collaborative efforts of faculty from diverse disciplines to create interdisciplinary research agendas.

Dr. Tripathi outlined the research focus of the School of Sustainability, emphasizing the development of low-cost, field-deployable technologies to address local challenges related to water, soil, and biodiversity conservation. He highlighted the potential of these technologies to inform policy decisions through validation and data collection. As an educational institution, Dr. Tripathi emphasized the importance of sustainability education, transitioning from efficiency-focused project execution to a nature-centric approach. He discussed the integration of climate change, environment, energy, and sustainability into undergraduate courses and the development of more specialized courses that promote systems thinking and resource conservation.

Dr. Tripathi made a compelling argument for balancing the emphasis on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with Gross Environment Product (GEP), advocating for the development of sustainability-focused courses across various departments. He suggested collaborating with Indian agencies and regulatory bodies to implement these courses in technical institutes, addressing the critical need to upskill the future generation for climate readiness and sustainability. The Kotak School's ongoing work on data-driven, AI-powered solutions for water and waste management was also mentioned, with plans to incorporate these into future course offerings.

Ms. Sarabeyim from Azerbaijan, who shared her insights through a presentation. Ms. Sarabeyim began by discussing the significance of World Habitat Day 2024, to be held in Mexico, and its aim to address the challenges and opportunities of rapid urbanization by focusing on the role of young people in shaping sustainable cities and communities.

She highlighted the importance of technology, resource sharing, and collaboration with local governments in addressing urban challenges. Ms. Sara also discussed Azerbaijan's youth policy and the country's active participation in international environmental forums, including COP29.

Dr. Mousami praised Azerbaijan for placing youth at the center of dialogue and planning for a sustainable future.

Dr. Mousami invited Prof. Rajeev Jindal, Professor of Practice at the Department of Sustainable Energy Engineering, IIT Kanpur, to share his perspective as someone who witnessed the transformation of solar energy from a niche concept to a mainstream choice in India.

Dr. Rajeev Jindal acknowledged the organizers and expresses his appreciation for Dr. Tripathi and Ms. Sara's presentations. He highlighted the Department of Sustainable Energy Engineering's focus on low-carbon emission-based energy generation, with a clear aim to train master's and doctoral students to become practitioners in this field. Dr. Jindal emphasized a significant shift – IIT Kanpur students are increasingly becoming true practitioners, joining the core domain of sustainable practices rather than just focusing on general engineering fields.

Dr. Jindal described various youth engagement activities at IIT Kanpur, including:

Student-driven project: Converting the IIT Kanpur campus to a net-zero water, waste, and carbon campus within 5-6 years. Students actively participate in data collection, simulations, and pathway development for achieving this goal.

Prof. Jindal introduced three active student bodies at IIT Kanpur:

- **Prakriti Cell**
- **Sustainable Cell**
- **IGBC Student Chapter**

He elaborated on how these student bodies engage hundreds of students, reaching out to nearby villages, schools, and communities to promote sustainability.

Prof. Jindal acknowledged his students who engage in practical waste collection and cleaning initiatives in nearby villages, along the Ganga river, and in collaboration with army cantonments.

Dr. Mousami raised a question to all the co-speakers about the biggest challenge in engaging youth in sustainability at the institute and societal levels.

Dr. Tripathi: Identifies three key points for youth engagement:

1. Integrating Social Science: Emphasizes the need to bridge the gap between technological development and social perception. Encourages the inclusion of social science education in engineering curriculums.

2. Startup and Innovation Ecosystem: Proposes creating an ecosystem where students can partner with startups and become part of the entrepreneurial and innovation process.

3. Field Project Integration: Advocates for incorporating field projects as part of the curriculum, not just research, to enhance student excitement and engagement.

Ms. Sara Responded to the same question by highlighting the importance of youth involvement in education, awareness campaigns, community projects, and collaboration with local governments for sustainable development efforts.

Dr. Rajeev Jindal concluded by emphasizing the role of youth as drivers of the future. He stresses the need for holistic training and engagement in practical projects.

Panel III: Amplifying Voices: Media and Information Literacy for Sustainable Development.

This session will focus on the critical role of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in empowering individuals, especially youth, to critically evaluate and effectively use media and digital information.

Panel -III



Dr. Reeta Sharma
Associate Fellow, TERI,
INDIA



Dr. Alton Grizzle
Programme Specialist, UNESCO
Chairperson/Moderator



Shyam Krishnakumar
Co-Founder, The Pranava Institute,
INDIA



12:30 PM - 1 :00 PM

Dr. Alton Grizzle said that in today's rapidly evolving world, it is crucial to communicate development initiatives to citizens, particularly youth, in ways that are both accessible and impactful. Public participation in development processes hinges on ensuring that information is understandable and engaging. He further added that a decade ago, when the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted, experts predicted that rapid technological advancements and digital capabilities would lead to a data revolution, fundamentally shaping urbanization. Now, ten years later, algorithms and generative artificial intelligence are at the forefront of this revolution, with information as critical to urbanization as steel itself.

He shared that as we approach the 2030 Agenda, marking the culmination of the SDGs, digital technologies stand as powerful tools in shaping people-centric, sustainable urban futures. These technologies can empower citizens, including youth, by granting greater access to information and the freedom to express themselves both online and offline. However, misinformation—especially climate disinformation—poses significant threats to meaningful civic engagement in these processes.

In response, UNESCO champions media and information literacy for all, ensuring people can critically assess information, particularly in the digital space. This promotes transparency and ethical engagement, fostering a future where citizens, especially youth, play an active role in shaping urban development.

As we look toward COP29 and the Pact for the Future adopted by the UN General Assembly, the global community must prioritize media and information literacy initiatives at all levels of society. UNESCO is at the forefront of this effort, with projects like Media and Information Literacy Cities, designed to make smart cities more people-centric, and a forthcoming massive open online course on media literacy and climate change targeting youth and educators.

This initiative also includes building the capacity of youth organizations to integrate media literacy into diverse fields—from water sustainability to clean air in cities—ensuring that young people are equipped to face the complex challenges of urbanization and climate change. As cities become increasingly digital and interconnected, especially post-COVID-19, young citizens must trust the work of research institutions, governments, and international organizations like the UN, which are driving efforts to address environmental issues. Through collective action, we can work toward a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban future for all.

Dr. Reeta Sharma, in her address, highlighted the critical role of media and information literacy in today's digitally connected world. She pointed out that in 2019, the World Bank reported that 45% of social media users were globally connected, while only 23% of India's population was on social media at that time. However, by 2024, this number had grown significantly, with 462 million social media users in India, making up 35.2% of the country's population. This figure is projected to increase by 83.16% by 2028.

Dr. Sharma also stressed the alarming fact that India experiences more fake news than any other country, with research showing that fake news spreads six times faster on social media. The rise of advancing technology and the surge in social media users have only exacerbated this issue, as people forward messages without fact-checking, relying on unreliable sources such as Wikipedia or artificial intelligence.

She provided examples from the COVID-19 pandemic and election campaigns, where misinformation spread rampantly. Dr. Sharma emphasized that some media houses are complicit in spreading fake news, often picking up false stories from others without verifying them. This, she argued, highlights the urgent need for media and information literacy, particularly among youth, which should be introduced at the school level.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many rumors surrounding vaccination led to widespread hesitancy, fueled by a lack of literacy in discerning reliable information. The government had to launch campaigns to combat these misconceptions and encourage vaccinations.

Dr. Sharma concluded by stressing that media literacy is crucial in helping individuals navigate the digital world, as its absence can disrupt industries and affect public health, as seen during the pandemic.

Mr. Shyam Krishnakumar's address highlighted the critical need to understand the impact of digitalization on Indian society, particularly in the context of equity, justice, and individual agency. He pointed to the COVID-19 pandemic as a pivotal moment when youth, confined to their homes, experienced a rapid shift to online education. Many faced significant challenges, such as limited access to devices, shared usage, and unprepared educational institutions, which exacerbated the difficulties of transitioning to a fully digital environment.

The sudden increase in screen time—from 1-2 hours to 8-10 hours daily, not only for classes but also for homework and socialization—posed further issues, including psychological and physical tolls on young people. Mr. Krishnakumar emphasized the lack of adequate digital literacy among youth navigating this new digital landscape, noting that existing ICT curricula did not address these emerging challenges.

A workshop conducted among 30 participants from different parts of India revealed these gaps, underscoring the need for policies that ensure digital inclusivity and safety. He also pointed out that the design of certain technologies seemed biased, further complicating young people's ability to navigate them effectively. Despite these challenges, his institution sought to offer multimedia-based interventions to empower young people, helping them engage with digital tools safely and with greater agency, which remains crucial as digitalization continues to shape their lives post-pandemic.

Question: Disinformation and Media Literacy

Mr. Shyam Krishnakumar emphasized the crucial role of digital public infrastructure, which has expanded access to essential services like education, payments, and government services online.

With broadband usage rising sharply, citizens interact more in digitally mediated environments, necessitating a foundation of media literacy. However, the surge of AI-powered tools, such as generative AI, has introduced risks like phishing scams and fraud, complicating the digital landscape. He advocated for integrating media and digital literacy within ICT curricula, particularly in the face of AI-related challenges, to help people evaluate information more effectively. He stressed that this should be a core public policy priority, focusing on fact-checking, consumer literacy, and countering disinformation to restore public trust.

Dr. Reeta Sharma highlighted the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors within a robust regulatory framework to ensure transparency and accountability on media platforms. She underscored the need for greater support for fact-checking organizations and public awareness campaigns. To build a more resilient and informed public, she suggested that awareness about misinformation must start early—beginning at the school level—since waiting until university is often too late to make a significant impact.

Dr. Alton Grizzle discussed the critical role of governments in regulating digital platforms to increase their accountability while safeguarding freedom of expression. He pointed out that UNESCO has been at the forefront of driving global change, publishing guidelines on the governance of digital platforms. Media and information literacy, he said, is one of the key pillars of these guidelines. He emphasized the urgency of integrating media and information literacy across all education levels, from primary to post-graduate, to prepare society for the challenges of the digital age.

Question: Generative AI and Sustainable Development

Dr. Reeta Sharma discussed the dual nature of AI technologies, which offer both benefits and challenges. While AI can solve many problems, it also poses significant threats to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, generative misinformation can undermine SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by eroding trust in democratic processes.

Similarly, misinformation during health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, can negatively impact SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Therefore, she emphasized the need for responsible AI use, especially by media outlets, social media influencers, and youth.

Mr. Shyam Krishnakumar linked AI to SDG 4 (Quality Education), which, he argued, underpins all other SDGs. The rapid evolution of AI has the potential to exacerbate the digital divide, leaving vulnerable populations at risk of being left behind. He advocated for grassroots-level AI literacy to help people distinguish between real and fake information. Tools such as Bashini, an AI-based natural language translator, can help bridge these divides by making digital literacy more accessible in local languages. When used effectively, AI can empower individuals to be creators rather than mere consumers of content, fostering sustainable development at the grassroots level.

Dr. Alton Grizzle highlighted UNESCO's recent policy brief on user empowerment through media and information literacy in response to the rise of generative AI. Key recommendations include integrating AI and data literacy within broader media and information literacy efforts, rather than treating them separately. These competencies are essential for helping people navigate the evolving digital landscape and empowering them to engage with generative AI responsibly.

He discussed the critical role of governments in regulating digital platforms to increase their accountability while safeguarding freedom of expression. He pointed out that UNESCO has been at the forefront of driving global change, publishing guidelines on the governance of digital platforms. Media and information literacy, he said, is one of the key pillars of these guidelines. He emphasized the urgency of integrating media and information literacy across all education levels, from primary to post-graduate, to prepare society for the challenges of the digital age.

Panel IV: Youth-led roundtable- Exchange of Local Ideas and Experiences in Community-Driven Urban Development.

Panel -IV



Bhavesh Swami
TCP India & SA
Chairperson/Moderator



Simardeep Syal
DIRECTOR, GYF,
INDIA



Aditi Chaudhary
WASTE WARRIOR,
INDIA



Garapati Tarun Kumar
IIT, KANPUR
INDIA



Gayathri Kuppendra Reddy
NOW Venture Studio
INDIA



Shivam Singh
NYC, TCP
INDIA

Mr. Bhavesh started with a note that 1985 marked the beginning of World Habitat Day, celebrated in October. While the initial focus was on shelter for all and housing for all, today's discussions emphasize sustainability, equity, and equal resource sharing. This year's World Habitat Day celebrates youth power and the importance of including more youth voices in decision-making processes.

The panel discussion began, focusing on youth actions and the challenges they face in community-driven urban development

Ms. Gayathri, founder of NOW Venture studio, explained that her organization focuses on supporting deep-tech entrepreneurs developing climate and sustainability solutions. Through innovation support and investment, NOW aims to bring these solutions to market within 12-18 months. The venture's blueprint is to address pressing climate and sustainability challenges, especially in large, growing cities. NOW focuses on solutions for critical issues like clean drinking water, mobility, and air quality. The venture's areas of focus include built environment, energy efficiency, and advanced materials.

NOW's mission is to accelerate market entry for climate-smart solutions, foster an ecosystem of innovation, and collaborate with research institutions, corporations, and governments to address pressing environmental challenges holistically.

Mr. Simardeep Sayal greeted everyone. Mr. Simardeep emphasized that societal change requires a collaborative approach. He shared his experience in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, a region impacted by Naxalite violence. Despite challenges in reaching remote villages, his team used Google Forms to gather data and advocate for community needs, successfully leading to the renovation of a local school. Inspired by his colleagues Mr. Rohit's selfless service during the COVID-19 pandemic, where they undertook the difficult task of cremating unclaimed bodies. This act of compassion underscored the potential of young people to make a profound difference, even in the face of adversity. Mr. Simardeep highlighted the potential of youth to drive positive change. He emphasized the importance of intergenerational cooperation and the unique role of his generation as "transitional persons" shaped by significant events like the pandemic, digital India and Swachh Bharat initiative.

Mr. Simardeep's journey, from addressing local challenges in Chhattisgarh to representing India on global platforms, showcases the impact that youth can have when empowered and engaged. His work with the Global Youth Federation and his advisory role with the Ministry of Youth Affairs demonstrates his commitment to fostering positive change and inspiring others.

Ms. Aditi expressed gratitude to APSWDP for organizing the eco-visionary dialogue on sustainable urban future. She works with Waste Warrior, a grassroots organization founded in 2008 by Jodie Underhill, a British woman inspired by the excessive waste she encountered during a hike in Triund, Dharmshala. She initiated a community-driven approach involving local youth to carry 100-200 kg of waste daily. This demonstrated the potential of youth-led initiatives for longer run.

Challenges and the intervention Waste Warrior's vision is grounded in three core principles: inclusivity, participation, and sustainability. They believe that everyone should be involved in waste management, regardless of their background. The organization emphasizes a participatory approach, encouraging individuals to take action based on their own willingness and capabilities. Sustainability is defined as a state where local communities are empowered to take initiative and implement solutions without relying solely on external intervention.

One significant challenge faced by Waste Warrior in Dharmshala was the logistics of waste management. Additionally, changing behaviors within the local community was a hurdle. Recognizing the importance of youth engagement, the organization implemented various interventions through its YouVah initiative. YouVah provides a platform for young people to participate in pro-planet initiatives, such as the Eco Olympics competition, which fosters a holistic approach to creating a positive impact.

Mr. Garapati Tarun Kumar shared his experiences establishing a banana fiber extraction unit. While the technological challenges were relatively straightforward, he encountered significant obstacles in navigating the market. Unlike traditional businesses with established pathways, pioneering new and transformative ventures can be particularly daunting for small producers.

Mr. Kumar observed a dearth of support systems for such ventures, especially for those outside the IT sector. His experience in the banking sector highlighted the challenges faced by startups in securing funding. Financial institutions often hesitate to invest in innovative ventures, leaving entrepreneurs without the necessary resources. To encourage greater youth participation in sustainable technologies, Mr. Kumar emphasized the need for a supportive ecosystem.

He suggested that multilateral organizations and venture capitalists, such as Ms. Gayathri, could play a pivotal role as facilitators. By conducting market research and identifying opportunities in various regions, these organizations can encourage local entrepreneurs to form mutually beneficial partnerships. This collaborative approach can foster a thriving ecosystem that promotes innovation and sustainability.

Mr. Kumar concluded by emphasizing the importance of profitability in sustainable initiatives. He encouraged young people to explore ways to make their ventures financially viable, ensuring a lasting impact.

Mr. Shivam, the National Coordinator at the Climate Reality Project, Mr. Shivam emphasized the importance of storytelling in addressing issues like climate change. He explained, "When discussing problems, particularly climate change, it's crucial to connect with local communities. We serve as sustainability aggregators, integrating intent, investment, and impact. In urban centers like Pune, Delhi, and Mumbai, rapid urbanization has depleted ecosystems.

Our 2019 campaign to promote bees in the city faced initial resistance from the corporation due to concerns about stinging. By adapting our strategy slightly, renaming the campaign 'Bring Back the Butterflies,' we successfully implemented the first butterfly garden near the airport. This demonstrated the potential for such initiatives and attracted corporate interest. We've now expanded our efforts to municipal corporations and government schools, raising awareness about butterflies and their ecological significance. In fact, just a day before the International Dialogue, the

city installed its 61st butterfly garden, attracting a diverse range of insects and pollinators. The key is to develop practical solutions that resonate with the community and then scale them up through industrialization.

Message to youth:

- **Mr. Simardeep:**

"Never be afraid of the obstacles that come your way. If you encounter challenges while striving for change, it's a positive sign that you're making progress. Youth should be the driving force behind the positive transformation they wish to see in the world.

- **Ms. Aditi:**

She is handling a project YouVah, which stands for 'Youth United for Climate Action.' We employ a competition-based approach to engage more young people in youth management and climate change initiatives. A classmate of mine, Deepak, inspired me with his plan to address local waste management issues in his area. Youth should be aware of environmental challenges and take proactive steps to address them."

- **Mr. Garapati:**

Sustainable development creates opportunities for young people across diverse regions. encourage all youth to step up and become leaders in the sustainable sector.

- **Ms. Gayathri:**

Collaborative action and collective efforts are key to addressing environmental challenges. My foundation focuses on urban planning and development in growing cities. Through our work, we've realized the interconnectedness of ecosystems. While community members were engaged in discussions about environmental issues, there weren't enough solutions available. We need more entrepreneurs who see the value in addressing climate and environmental problems. I'm ready to connect technology entrepreneurs with management professionals to accelerate the development and market introduction of innovative solutions.

- **Mr. Shivam:**

When providing solutions, inclusivity and integration are paramount. Be a solutionist, focus on inclusivity and integration, and your products are more likely to succeed.

Panel V: Networking Meet-cum-Group Work- Group Chairpersons/Moderators

Panel - V



Karamveer Singh
APSWDP, INDIA



Rajeev Chaudhary
APSWDP, INDIA



Rohit Kumar
WYF, INDIA



Lalit Dogra
YouVah, INDIA



Prof. Manoj Sharma
CENTRE OF PUBLIC
HEALTH, PU, INDIA



Dr. Sumit Arora
President,APSWDP,
INDIA



Dr. T. Gopinath
RGNIID, INDIA



Dr. Sakshi Grower
TCP INDIA & SA



Manshi Thakkar,
United Nations India
YuWaah Advocate



Rahul Gaur
National Incharge, Students
for Development (SFD)



Aanchal
APSWDP, INDIA



Ripu Daman Chopra
APSWDP, INDIA



Dr. Anshu Kumar
APSWDP, INDIA



Dr. Rakesh Gupta
SIPHER, INDIA



Gurpreet Chaudhary
RGNIID



Rajeev Bhardwaj
RGNIID



Rita,
YouVah, INDIA



Ankita Rani,
APSWDP India

The Networking Meet-cum-Group Work session provided an excellent opportunity for the 500+ delegates participating in the APSWDP International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing Sustainable Urban Future (IEDASUF): Roadmap to COP29 to engage with one another. The session focused on fostering collaborations and exchanging ideas for future activities and events aimed at advancing sustainable urban futures.

Participants were divided into 15 breakout rooms, each with a group coordinator to manage the interactions and ensure efficient timekeeping. The purpose of the session was for participants to introduce themselves, share their experiences, and discuss potential collaboration opportunities. Each breakout session was designed to last approximately 10 minutes.

Key Highlights:

- **Participant Interaction:** Each participant introduced themselves, offering insights into their professional backgrounds, organizations, and areas of interest concerning sustainable urban development and climate action. The introductions were kept brief, allowing ample time for group discussions.

- **Collaboration Opportunities:** Participants explored various avenues for future collaboration, particularly in the context of sustainability, urban planning, and climate initiatives leading up to COP29. Many expressed interest in co-organizing future events, joint research projects, and information-sharing platforms to address urban sustainability challenges.
- **Experience Sharing:** Delegates shared success stories, challenges, and innovative approaches from their respective countries or regions. The exchange of ideas and experiences enhanced the global understanding of the shared challenges in advancing urban sustainability.
- **Coordination and Facilitation:** The coordinators successfully managed the discussions, ensuring that all participants had the opportunity to contribute. Time management was crucial, as each session had a limited timeframe, but the coordinators ensured that all voices were heard.

Outcomes and Next Steps:

- Participants expressed keen interest in continuing the dialogue and exploring tangible ways to collaborate on projects related to sustainable urban futures.
- Many participants highlighted the importance of maintaining connections beyond the event, suggesting the creation of an online platform or community to keep the momentum going.
- Delegates expressed enthusiasm for future networking opportunities and collaborative events leading up to COP29, emphasizing the role of international partnerships in achieving global sustainability goals.

Conclusion: The Networking Meet-cum-Group Work session was highly successful, enabling delegates from diverse backgrounds to connect, exchange knowledge, and identify future collaboration opportunities. The session's success highlights the importance of such interactive formats in fostering global cooperation for sustainable urban development and

Panel VI: Concluding Session and Vote of Thanks

Panel - VI



Dr. Anshu Kumar
APSWDP, INDIA
Chairperson/Moderator



Rohit Kumar
CMAI, INDIA



Bhavesh Swami
TCP INDIA & SA



Gulnara Baghirova
ADSAYO, AZERBAIJAN



Principal Convenor
Dr. Vivek Trivedi
Founder, APSWDP,
INDIA



Dr. Sumit Arora
President, APSWDP,
INDIA

Concluding Session - Chaired By Dr. Anshu Kumar

As Chairperson and Moderator of the session, **Dr. Anshu Kumar** began by underscoring the pressing challenges that unplanned urban cities face today, such as rising urban heat, pervasive pollution, and a lack of sustainable opportunities for their inhabitants. He emphasized the urgent need to move beyond theoretical academic discussions on sustainability to implement concrete actions within the mainstream of society. According to Dr. Kumar, the path forward lies in embracing digitalization, fostering collective efforts, and developing effective waste management practices that can sustainably enhance urban environments.

In integrating insights from the preceding panelists, Dr. Kumar reiterated the importance of embedding sustainability into urban planning processes. He highlighted the potential of leveraging technology for improved governance, which can drive inclusive growth across diverse urban landscapes.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Kumar stressed that true inclusivity in urban planning means ensuring that no one is left behind. He underscored the necessity of behavioral change as a cornerstone for sustainability, asserting that dialogues like this serve as vital stepping stones toward transformative change. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of ensuring safety in the use of AI and digitalization, advocating for a responsible approach to technology that prioritizes ethical considerations and inclusivity. In conclusion, he reinforced that collective efforts, informed by open dialogue, are essential to addressing the multifaceted challenges of urbanization, ultimately paving the way for a sustainable and equitable future.

Concluding Remarks - Bhavesh Swami

In his concluding remarks, **Bhavesh Swami** focused on the critical role that youth engagement plays in driving sustainable urban futures. He stressed the importance of grassroots action in every city, emphasizing that while international forums like COP provide a necessary framework for discussions, the real impact must occur on the ground, where local initiatives can thrive. Swami articulated the need for youth not only to participate in sustainability efforts but to take the lead in initiating and driving these initiatives within their communities. He pointed out that platforms like APSWDP can serve as valuable mentors and guides, equipping the youth with the tools and resources needed to effect meaningful change.

Swami's call to action was clear: youth must rise to the challenge and harness their creativity and energy to create solutions tailored to their local contexts. By leveraging existing platforms, young people can champion sustainable practices and inspire others in their cities and communities. His passionate advocacy underscored the belief that empowered youth are essential for achieving sustainable urban futures, where innovative ideas and collaborative actions can significantly contribute to addressing pressing urban challenges.

Concluding Remarks - Gulnara Baghirova

Gulnara Baghirova brought an international perspective to the dialogue, sharing insights into Azerbaijan's proactive efforts in promoting a green economy, green energy, and the goal of achieving zero-carbon emissions.

She emphasized that both national and international programs are essential components of the global fight against climate change, highlighting the interconnected nature of environmental issues across borders. Baghirova outlined Azerbaijan's active role in fostering a "green world" through sustainable development initiatives, underscoring the significance of partnerships and international cooperation in this endeavor.

In her invitation to COP29 in Baku, she expressed hope that the global community would unite to push forward these green initiatives. Baghirova emphasized that the journey toward sustainability requires not only collaboration but also continuous innovation in environmental policies and practices. She encouraged participants to embrace the concept of a sustainable future, one that prioritizes ecological integrity while fostering economic growth. By sharing her country's experiences and aspirations, Baghirova illuminated the path forward for collective action in tackling climate change and promoting sustainable urban development.

Concluding Remarks - Dr. Vivek Trivedi

Dr. Vivek Trivedi closed the session by emphasizing the critical importance of including marginalized communities in urban development planning. He noted that historically, these groups have often been sidelined in development projects, resulting in a lack of representation and resources. However, recent governmental policies have begun to shift this narrative by prioritizing the inclusion of marginalized voices and perspectives. Dr. Trivedi passionately advocated for the eradication of discrimination, asserting that creating a more equitable urban future is essential for achieving sustainability.

He highlighted the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders, noting that diversity in thought and experience can lead to more unified and inclusive solutions to urban challenges. Dr. Trivedi's vision encompassed a holistic approach to development, where marginalized communities are not only heard but also empowered to lead sustainable urban progress. By integrating their insights and needs into planning processes, urban environments can evolve to be more inclusive and responsive to the diverse populations they serve.

Concluding Remarks - Dr. Sumit Arora

Dr. Sumit Arora centered his discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly emphasizing the significance of the 17th goal: partnerships for achieving the

other 16. He articulated that forming alliances among like-minded organizations is crucial to accelerating progress toward sustainability. Dr. Arora stressed that collaborative networks can significantly enhance the global community's capacity to tackle critical challenges, from poverty alleviation to climate action. He highlighted the transformative potential of partnerships to bring together diverse stakeholders, facilitating the sharing of resources and knowledge necessary for the fulfillment of all 16 SDGs.

By fostering an environment of collaboration, Dr. Arora argued that organizations can leverage their unique strengths and expertise to achieve common goals more effectively. He called for the establishment of strategic alliances that encompass a variety of actors, including government agencies, non-profits, and the private sector. Through such partnerships, the global community can harness collective strengths to address urgent issues and build a sustainable future for all, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of development.

Vote of Thanks - Dr. Sumit Arora, President, APSWDP

Dr. Sumit Arora thanked Chief Guest – Mr. K K Yadav, IAS (Secretary Higher Education, Punjab), India; and Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India; and Guest of Honor – Ms. Liliana, President, World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows (UAFUNIF), USA for their inspiring address. He thanked Prof. Dai-Yeun Jeong, Director, Asia Climate Change Education Center, and an Emeritus Professor of Environmental Sociology at Jeju National University, South Korea, Dr. Mousami Parsad, Professor, Department of Management Studies, IIT Kanpur, Dr. Alton Grizzle, Program Specialist, UNESCO, Mr. Bhavesh Swami, Lead - Clean Energy Policy and Engagements, The Climate Reality Project India for gracing this event as a Session Chairs and for focussing on the theme of the World Habitat Day 2024 in their respective sessions. Further, he extended the courtesy to Mr. Aditya Pundir, Country Head India and South Asia for partnering with the global dialogue and providing support.

He also extend deep gratitude to all the eminent partner institutions The Climate Reality Project-India and South Asia; Asia Climate Change Education Center (ACCEC), Jeju, South Korea; UNESCO MIL Alliance; Department of Management Science, IIT, Kanpur, India; Centre for Public Health Panjab University, Chandigarh; Azerbaijan Democratic Student &

Youth Organization, Azerbaijan; YouVAH, India; World Youth Federation, India; Carbon Markets Association of India (CMAI), India; Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD); Students for Development (SFD), India; Strategic Institute for Public Health Education & Research (SIPHER); and The Indian Youth Diplomacy Forum (IYDF), India. He said that the generous support provided by them has been instrumental in making this event possible and successful.

Further, he shared that an event like this requires meticulous planning and an eye-for-details, and for that, he extended his sincere thanks to Mentor & Guide, Dr. Vivek Trivedi, Founder cum Hon. Principal Adviser, APSWDP and Principal Convenor, International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing Sustainable Urban Future: Road to COP209, and Mr. Aditya Pundir, Director, The Climate Reality Project, India, and the South Asia for their visionary leadership and empowering the team to accomplishing the virtual dialogue meticulously.

Dr. Arora thanked participants and attendees, for their active engagement and enthusiasm. He said that their presence and contributions have made this event memorable, impactful and collaborative success.

In the last, he shared that on the eve of World Habitat Day 2024, the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners has been conferred with HUDCO Award under the category of “Best Practice to Improve the Living Environment” for improving the living standards of the Transgender Community. The Award has been presented by Sh. Tokhan Shau, Hon’ble Minister of the State, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India, and Sh. Katikithala Srinivas, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Transformative Outcomes: APSWDP International Eco-Visionary Dialogue on Advancing Sustainable Urban Future (IEDASUF): Roadmap to COP29

The APSWDP International Eco-Visionary Dialogue, a confluence of youthful energy and visionary ideas, paved the way for a sustainable urban future. With the key objectives guiding the discussions, this event not only illuminated pressing urban challenges but also ignited a passionate commitment among youth to lead transformative change. Here are the innovative and impactful outcomes that emerged from the dialogue:

- **Fostering Global Dialogue on Sustainable Urbanism**

Outcome: A Collective Vision for Sustainable Cities

The dialogue catalyzed a collaborative framework where young leaders articulated a unified vision for sustainable urbanism. Through interactive sessions, participants created a manifesto outlining innovative educational practices that prioritize sustainability. This manifesto serves as a guiding document for educational institutions globally, integrating sustainability principles into curricula and inspiring a generation of environmentally conscious citizens.

- **Building Synergies among Global Communities**

Outcome: A Global Youth Coalition for Urban Sustainability

In a powerful display of unity, participants established a Global Youth Coalition dedicated to sustainable urban development. This coalition will facilitate ongoing dialogue and collaboration across borders, enabling youth to share resources, strategies, and best practices. By harnessing digital platforms, the coalition aims to amplify local initiatives, transforming them into global movements that drive sustainable urban practices.

- **Exploring Pathways for Youth Contribution**

Outcome: Pathways to Empower Youth in Urban Planning

The dialogue produced a comprehensive framework detailing pathways for youth engagement in urban planning.


This framework identifies key areas where young people can contribute, such as climate

resilience, smart city initiatives, and community-led development projects. It emphasizes mentorship programs connecting experienced urban planners with youth to foster skills and knowledge transfer, ensuring that the next generation is well-equipped to tackle urban challenges.


- **Preparing Action Agendas for Youth Engagement**

Outcome: Action Agendas for COP29 and Beyond

The dialogue concluded with a robust action agenda tailored for youth engagement at COP29. This agenda encapsulates specific initiatives, such as the implementation of youth-led green projects in urban areas, advocacy for policy changes that prioritize youth voices in urban development, and campaigns to promote sustainable practices within local communities. This action plan not only serves as a blueprint for participants but also positions youth as pivotal players in the global sustainability narrative.



ANNEXURES



Programme Agenda

Time	Sessions	Themes	Speakers
11.00 AM	Inaugural Session	Welcome and introduction to the program Address by Guest of Honor Official Release of Publication: <i>Book 1: Environmental Economics – Value the Nature</i> <i>Book 2: Sustaining the Future – Principles of Environmental Governance</i> Address by Chief Guest Vote of Thanks	Dr. Vivek Trivedi, Founder, APSWDP, India Ms. Liliana Bucur Cress, President, WAFUNIF, USA Mr. K.K. Yadav, IAS, Secretary (Education and Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, Govt. of Punjab, INDIA Dr. Anshu Kumar, Hon. Director, APSWDP.
11.30 AM	Panel -I	Panel Discussion – I: Envisioning Tomorrow: Reflections on Sustainable Urbanism and Education for Sustainable Development	Chair and Moderator: Dr. Die-yun Jeong DIRECTOR, ACCEC, JEJU, SOUTH KOREA Panelists: Dr. Shin-Ock CHANG, Researcher, KFPRI, SOUTH KOREA Prof. Changhoon KO Emeritus Professor Jeju National University, South Korea Dr. Die-yun Jeong DIRECTOR, ACCEC, JEJU, SOUTH KOREA
12.00 PM	Panel-II	Panel Discussion – II Empowering the Next Generation: Engaging Youth for a Sustainable Urban Future	Chair and Moderator Dr. Mousami Prasad Asst. Professor, IIT KANPUR, INDIA Sarabeyim Amiraslanova

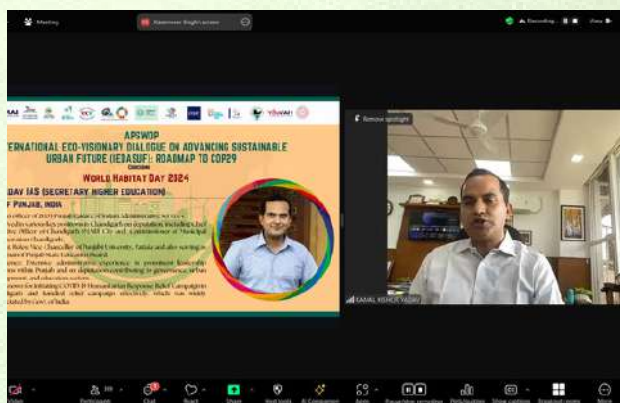
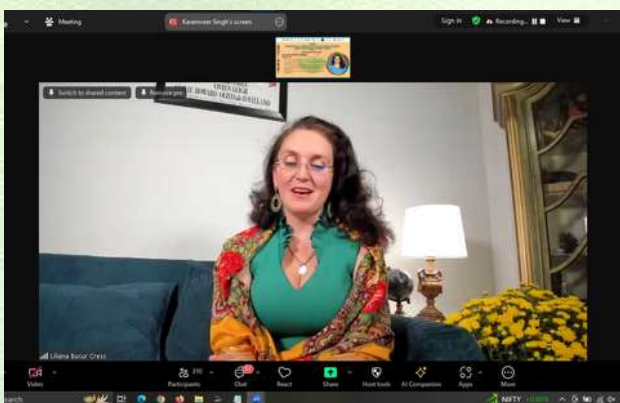
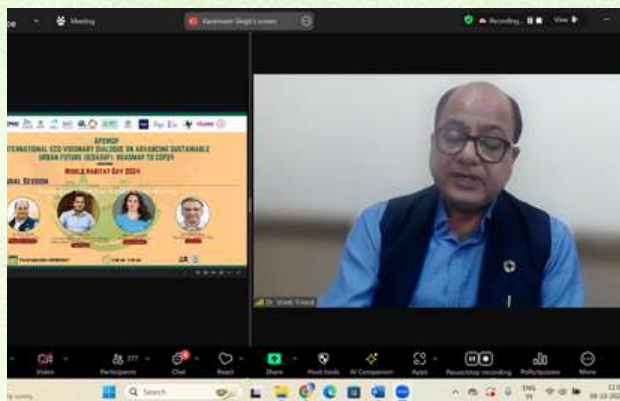
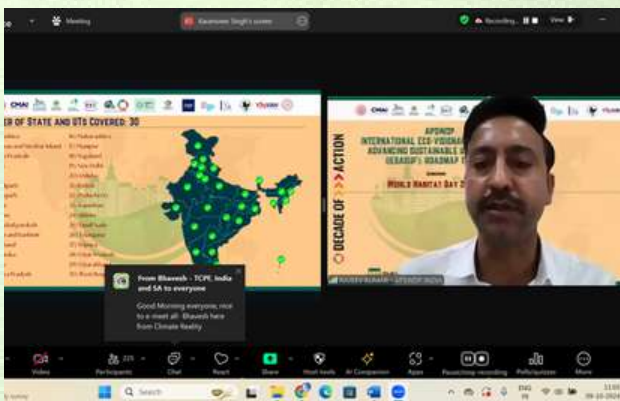
Programme Agenda

		Delving into strategies for involving youth in transformative urban development.	<p>Program Coordinator, ADSAYO, AZERBAIJAN</p> <p>Prof. Sachchida Nand Tripathi Dean of Kotak School of Sustainability, IIT Kanpur</p> <p>Prof. Rajeev Jindal Professor of Practice Department of Sustainable Energy Engineering, IIT Kanpur</p>
12.30 PM	Panel-III	Panel Discussion – III Amplifying Voices: Media and Information Literacy for Sustainable Development	<p>Chair and Moderator Dr. Alton Grizzle Programme Specialist, UNESCO</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Reeta Sharma Associate Fellow, TERI, INDIA</p> <p>Mr. Shyam Krishnakumar Co-Founder, The Pranava Institute, INDIA</p> <p>Dr. Alton Grizzle Programme Specialist, UNESCO</p>
01.00 PM	Youth-Led Roundtable	Youth-Led Roundtable: Exchange of local ideas and experiences in community-driven urban development	<p>Chair and Moderator Mr. Bhavesh Swami TCP India & SA</p> <p>Mr. Simardeep Syal DIRECTOR, GYF, INDIA</p> <p>Ms. Aditi Chaudhary WASTE WARRIOR, INDIA</p>

Prgramme Agenda

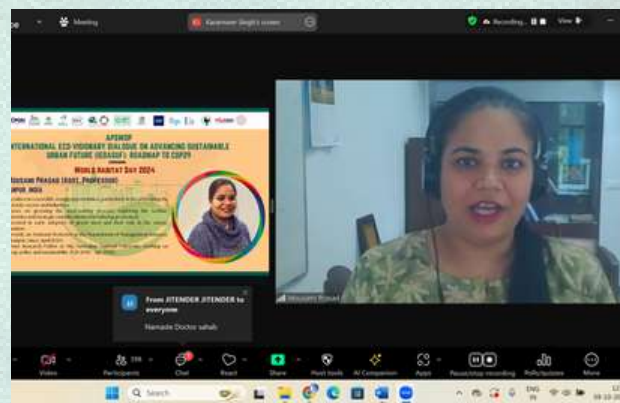
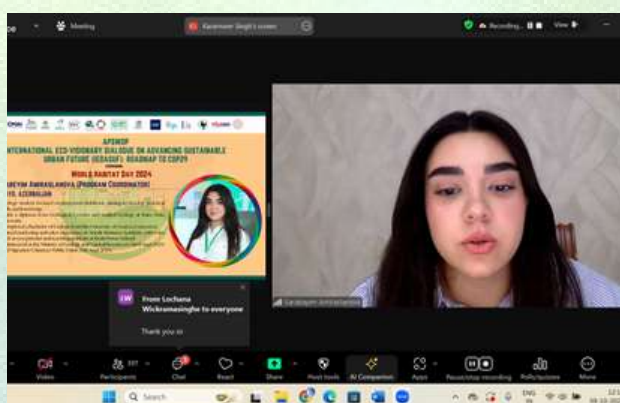
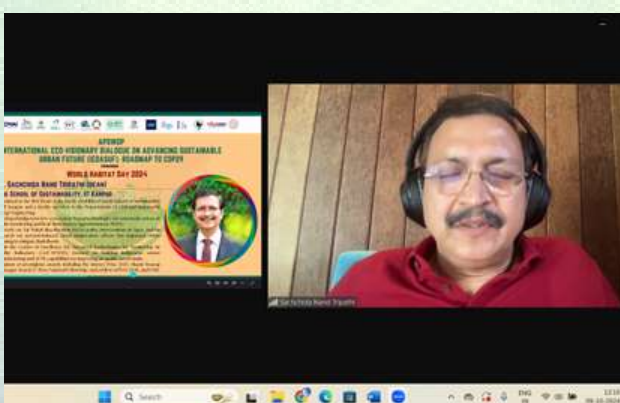
			<p>Mr. Garapati Tarun Kumar IIT, KANPUR, INDIA</p> <p>Ms. Gayathri Kuppendra Reddy NOW Venture Studio INDIA</p> <p>Mr. Shivam Singh NYC, TCP, INDIA</p>
01.30 PM	Networking meet-cum-Group Work	Opportunities for Connection and Collaboration among Participants.	Group Chair/Moderators:
01.45 PM	Concluding Session	Summarizing key insights and action points from the day's discussions.	<p>Chair and Moderator Bhavesh Swami TCP INDIA & SA</p> <p>Mr. Rohit Kumar CMAI, INDIA</p> <p>Dr. Anshu Kumar APSWDP, INDIA</p> <p>Ms. Gulnara Baghirova ADSAYO, AZERBAIJAN</p> <p>Dr. Vivek Trivedi Founder, APSWDP, INDIA</p>
01.58 PM	Vote of Thanks	Vote of Thanks	<p>Dr. Sumit Arora President, APSWDP, INDIA</p>

Picture Gallery



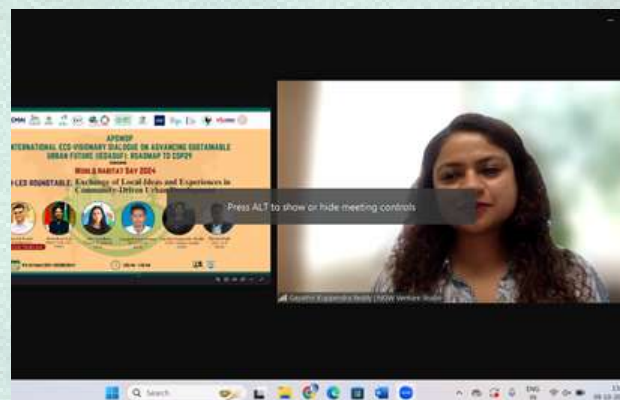
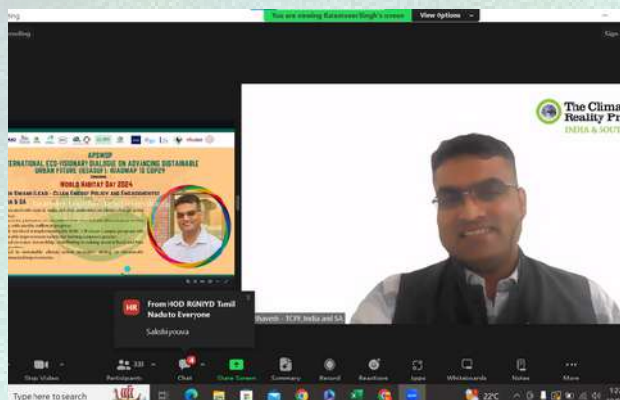
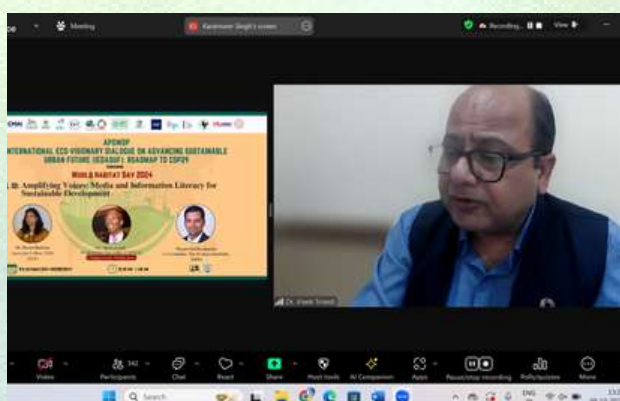
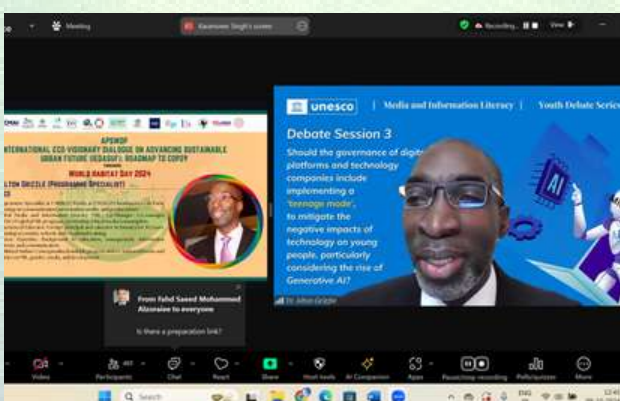
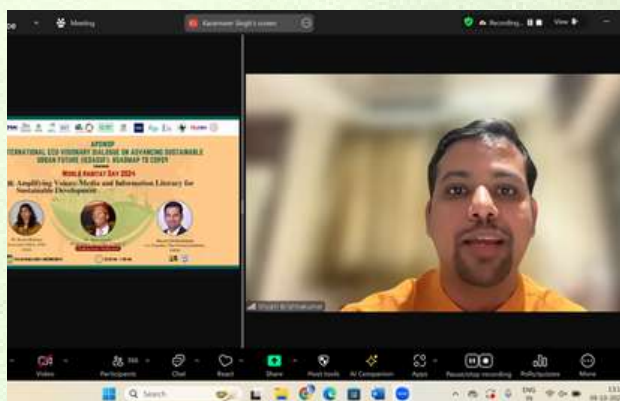
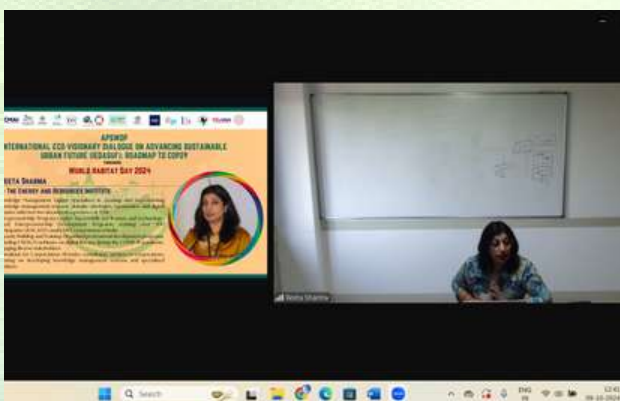
Picture: Inaugural Session

Picture Gallery



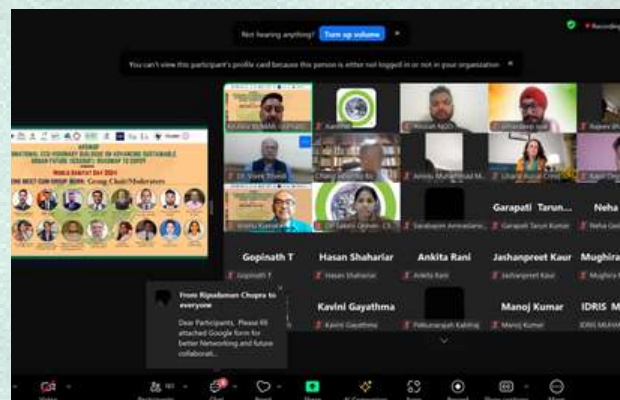
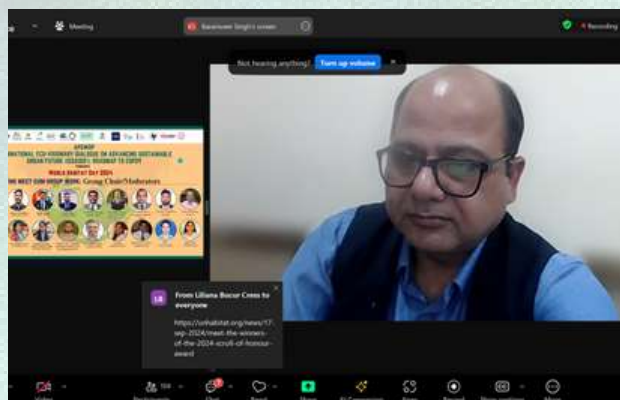
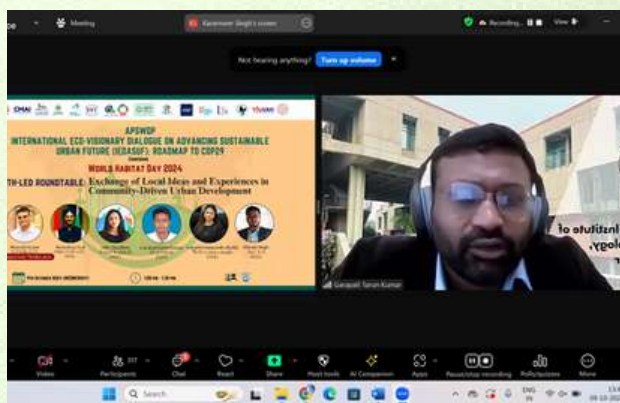
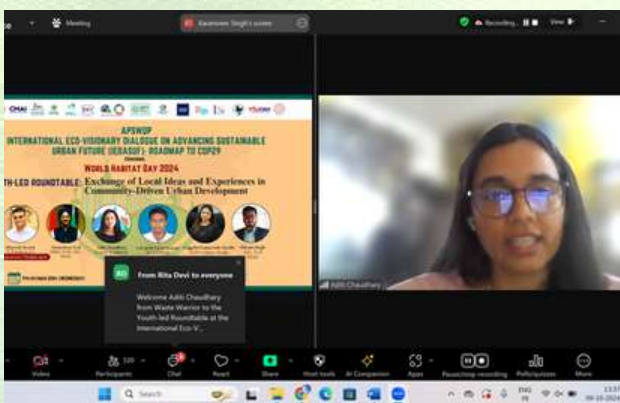
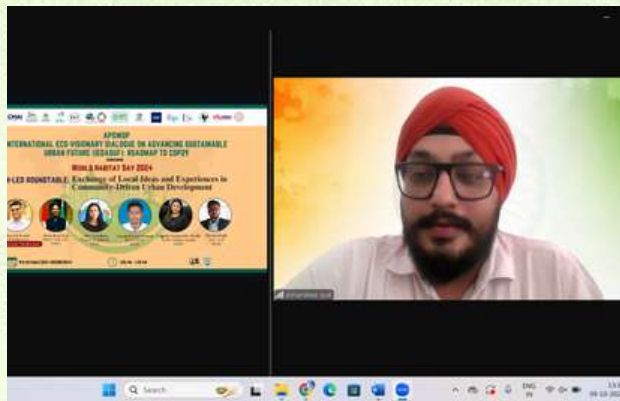
Picture: Session I and Session II

Picture Gallery



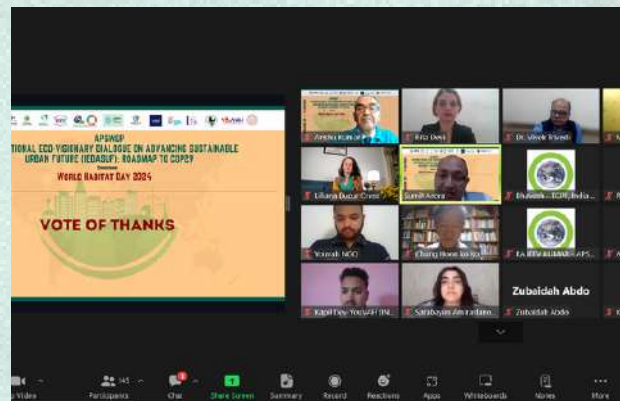
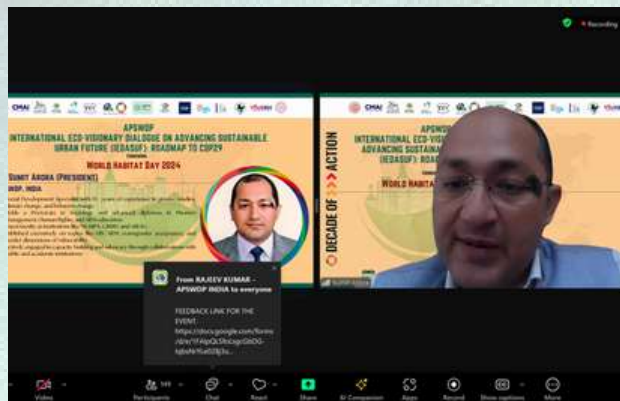
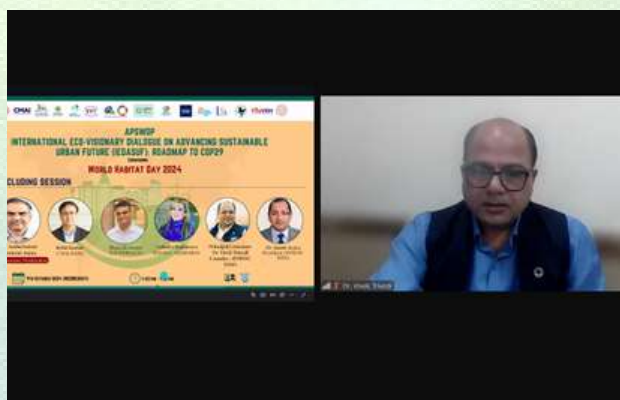
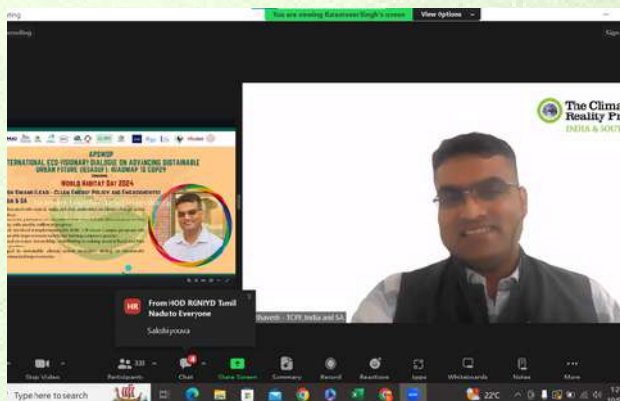
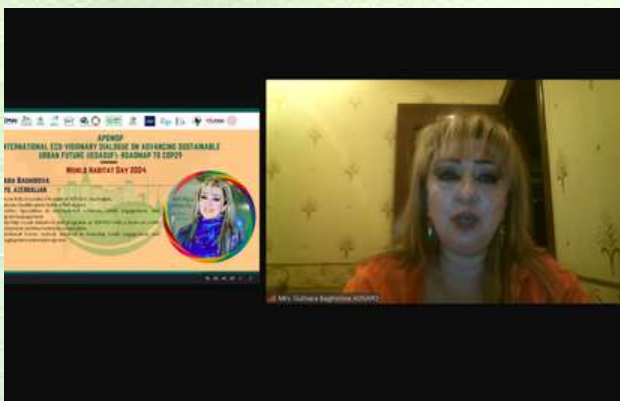
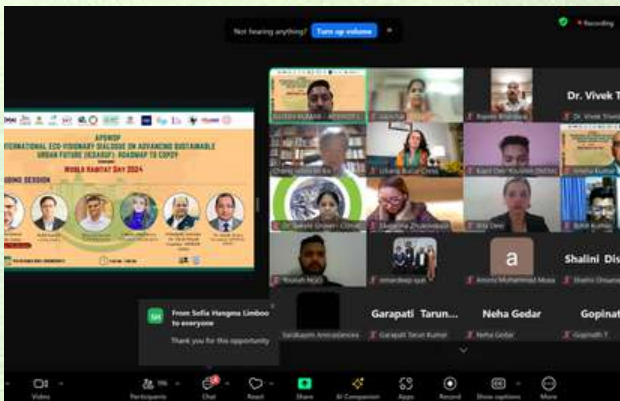
Picture: Session III and Session IV

Picture Gallery



Picture: Session IV and Session V

Picture Gallery



Picture: Session VI

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