



5th International Conference on Sustainability Education

Educating For Climate Action and Sustainability



**A Clarion Call
for Climate Action**

Day 1

September 19, 2023 | India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India

Leading with Climate Commitment: Inaugural Session

Day one of the 5th International Conference on Sustainability Education was inaugurated at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. Post the ceremonial lamp lighting, beautiful welcome song by students of Gyan Anant Vidyalaya and an inspiring welcome address by Dr. Ram Boojh, CEO, Mobius Foundation, the conference went straight into the important issues regarding climate and sustainability with insightful addresses by the panelists.



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Education can play an important role not only by creating awareness but by focusing on what we can really do. We know what needs to be done and what is needed is 'action', and all of us can do our bit for it. Indeed these conferences have been at a forefront to further the cause of sustainability”

-Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder - Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace

In the light of the Paris agreement, this is a remarkable event. The realisation of the Paris agreement depends on taking positive steps towards climate action with such events, and all of us will try to get the Paris agreement on ground. The education on climate action will be a key focus area of this conference. Let us seize this opportunity to take necessary steps to make a better world for future generations”

-Dr. Rajendra Singh, Magsaysay Awardee, “Water Man of India” & Chairman, People’s World Commission on Drought and Flood

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Blueprint for a Sustainable Tomorrow: Opening Plenary Session

The opening plenary session saw a distinguished panel of keynote speakers sharing expert opinions based on their unique experiences. Viewpoints encompassing all aspects of the environment, namely the ocean, land and air resonated throughout, highlighting the holistic aspect of climate action. A key message that emerged throughout was the need to fill the gap between the knowledge discourse of experts and that of policymakers.

Diving Deeper into Sustainability: Thematic Sessions

With the cornucopia of ideas to be discussed and debated in a limited time, the event branched into six Thematic Sessions post lunch. Each session addressed a critical facet of sustainability, climate action, and societal transformation.



- **Private Sector Engagement in Climate Action** focused on the private sector's role in climate action, emphasising emissions reduction strategies, green energy endeavours, and the importance of sustainability education.
- **Building a Multi-country Civil Society Partnership to Increase the Resilience of Coastal Population in South Asia** emphasised ocean literacy, the potential for meteorology education in schools and the effects of mangrove depletion in South Asia.
- **Integrating Climate Change in Education Systems** highlighted the importance of region-specific resources, flexible educational frameworks, actionable classroom knowledge, stage-specific education, and the need for holistic, experiential learning in integrating climate change into education systems.
- **Water Literacy: Water Insights on Climate Change for Sustainable Future** reiterated the critical role of media in promoting water literacy, the potential of wastewater reuse, the importance of community participation, and innovative solutions for water treatment and reuse.
- **Closing the Loop: Empowering Climate Action through Circular Economy Education** highlighted the significance of the circular economy, sustainable packaging alternatives, green job opportunities, innovative waste management, and advancements in bioplastics for effective climate action through education.
- **Women Writers in Sustainability: Old Dilemmas, New Realities** focused on the interplay between gender roles and sustainability, highlighting the underrepresentation of women in decision making and encapsulated the role of institutional support while celebrating the increasing prominence of women decision-makers.



Detailing the Way Forward: Evening Sessions

As in the Thematic Sessions, the evening session too saw a plethora of concurrent panels discussing climate and sustainability education. The 2nd Plenary Session moderated by Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai, Consulting Editor and Anchor, India Today, saw passionate discussion on the role of education in population, climate action and sustainable development. A conclave on sustainable thought leadership stressed the need for leaders who think from the heart as an answer to the crisis of thoughtful leadership, and emphasised practical knowledge.

The conference also had a poster presentation on the topic of climate change. Participants from all over the country and comprising people as young as class 6 students, all the way to experienced Ph.D. scholars, showcased their creative streak.

The highlight of the evening sessions was the launch of SASEANEE, the South and Southeast Asia Network for Environmental Education, which has been established through the joint efforts of the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), the Northern American Association for Environment Education (NAAEE), IUCN CEC, Earth Charter and Mobius Foundation. The network will be important in studying and mitigating environmental problems across political borders.



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People are receptive to the idea of population control, and education along with interventions like contraception has played a key role in it. However, there is a need for these interventions to reach out to remote and rural masses for wide-scale impact.

-Mr. Pradip Burman
Chairman, Mobius Foundation

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A Vibrant End to Day 1 of ICSE 2023

An inspiring musical act by students of Gyan Anant Vidyalyay (GAV), a soulful group performance by youths from Nagaland, followed by a rousing dance performance by DAV School students, made for a mesmerising denouement to the first day of the conference. Through their artistic endeavours, the young performers conveyed the message of how tradition can walk hand-in-hand with sustainable learning practices. Following the children's captivating performances, the day concluded with an appetising dinner.

Overwhelmingly, the conference advocated urgent, immediate and cooperative action on climate change. The need for collaboration and collective responsibility among all stakeholders was a constant motif throughout all sessions. The inaugural evening set the bar high, reminding attendees that the path to sustainability is enriched by embracing the wisdom of our ancestors and the proven practices of contemporary innovators.

