

“Knowledge Partnerships to Advance UN Sustainable Development Goals” an International Interdisciplinary Conference

November 17-18, 2017, Mysuru, India

Organized by

St.Philomena’s College, Mysuru

in

collaboration with

Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) University Network

(ACD is an Intergovernmental Organization Headquartered in Kuwait)

SIAM University, Thailand

Chulalongkorn University Global Network (CGN), Thailand

and

The Sustainability Platform (TSP)



THE CONFERENCE

In the context of the UN 2030 Agenda and its practical implementation at the regional level, the Knowledge Partnership was organized to identify ways of strengthening knowledge cooperation between the UN system and institutions of higher learning in the region. We looked at ways to strengthen the science-policy interface for a more effective implementation of the SDGs and to extend learning opportunities for policymakers. We also sought to enlarge the constituency for the programme through academic innovations and student-faculty involvement to add value to the SDG Agenda.

Recognising the role academic institutions play as knowledge hubs that enable individuals to develop the skills to achieve SDGs, the Knowledge Partnership explored existing formats for collaboration between universities to revise and harmonise their curriculum related to sustainability. Business schools in particular play an important role in the development of leaders who are socially responsible, regionally conscious and who prioritise sustainability. As an Interdisciplinary Conference open to participants from Engineering, Management, Social Science and Natural Science Disciplines, discussions and outcomes at the Conference will be focussed on ways and means to advance the SDGs through Knowledge Partnerships.

The importance of learning institutions stems from their ability to prioritise learning objectives and long term perspectives over short term, target based approaches. Furthermore, academia was recognised as having a great potential to contribute critical data analytics to make policy more informed and evidence-based, while facilitating the creation of visual data that is more understandable and thus more accessible to a greater number of people.

Equally, it is imperative that the considerable experience and body of knowledge already at our disposal in respect of the UN's 17 SDGs be put to use through practical application. The Mysore conference presents a unique opportunity to evaluate and critically examine our frameworks in the presence of policy planners, administrators, academics and civil society groups. The objective is to develop generic solutions using the successes and failures in addressing Mysore's myriad challenges in the areas of urban planning, water and sanitation, energy and transportation systems.

Mysore is uniquely placed to host such a conversation: India's cleanest city and an emerging 'wellness city' is also where an expanding urban environment rubs up against the unique problems of its rural hinterland. The Conference will examine international perspectives on the UN SDGs as well as issues that confront a fast-changing rural India, with special reference to challenges in the areas of Climate Change, skilling and employment opportunities for rural youth, and look at the contribution that partnerships between Knowledge Institutions, business and civil society groups can make.

Background:

At the United Nations-ESCAP's Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APfSD) held in April 2016, a special event 'Building Knowledge Partnerships: Academia and UN System Knowledge Platforms for Advancing the SDGs' was jointly organised by UNESCO, Chulalongkorn University Global Network (CGN) and The Sustainability Platform (TSP). Participants included Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan and Asia Centre of the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, Siam University and chair of the Asia Cooperative Dialogue – University Network. The 2016 APfSD saw further work on Knowledge Partnerships and this Conference builds on the work and seeks to strengthen and promote Knowledge Partnerships with practical outcomes in the Region.

THE PROGRAMME

Workshop 1	The Future of the City – Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities)
Workshop 2	Managing Water Resources Sustainably - Natural Water and Reclaiming Water (SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation)
Workshop 3	Climate Change Challenges and Resilience Strategies (SDG 13 – Climate Action) With special reference to Natural Resources Management, Disaster Risk, Reduction and Climate Resilient Agriculture
Workshop 4	Energy Self Reliance – Options and Public Policy for Renewable Energy (SDG 7- Renewable Energy)
Workshop 5	Skilling for the SDGs (SDG 8 – Good Jobs and Economic Growth)
Workshop 6	Good Health and Well being (SDG 3)
Workshop 7	Business and Sustainability (SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals and including Design for Sustainability and Green Economy)
Workshop 8	Financing for the SDGs International Public Policy and Finance (SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities and cross cutting with other SDGs)

Conference Synthesis: The Conference, in a cross-disciplinary manner, will synthesize the output from the parallel workshops and look at outcomes for public policy coherence with SDGs, implications for education and research and interventions for promoting Sustainable Development. The Plenary will also bring in inputs for the other SDGs especially SDG 4 – Quality Education, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption.

Plenary: Shaping Public Policy for the SDGs – The Conference Plenary would be focussed on Good Governance, Public Finances and a Public Goods approach for achieving the SDGs.

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Please Note: Sponsorship and Pre-Conference Publication Advertising Opportunities are available. Funds raised are not only to support the Conference but also to support pre-Conference activities and outcomes that support grass root and other initiatives that carrying forward and implement the Sustainable Development Goals. A very important outcome will be programmes and projects to mainstream Sustainability in Higher Education.

For More Information and details regarding Registration, Participation and Advertising In the Pre-Conference Publication, Contact:

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ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

St. Philomena's College (Autonomous), Mysore was established in the year 1946 and was declared open by His Highness Sri Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar, the Maharaja of Mysore, a rare honour and privilege for any institution. The college has ever since followed a narrative of openness, keeping the access to higher education equitable and affordable to the under privileged, the marginalized and the deserving.

It was the first Science degree college in the erstwhile Mysore State and has been re-accredited by NAAC with A grade (with 3.58 CGPA on 4.0 scale). The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recognized the college as a 'College of Excellence' w.e.f from April 1, 2015. The college has attained autonomous status since 2011. The College has 39 departments at the under graduate level comprising of Science, Arts, Commerce, Management, BCA, Social Work, Tourism & Hospitality Management and B.Voc. It has a separate PG Centre offering 14 PG courses. Besides these, college also offers a good number of diplomas and add-on courses. St. Philomena's is verily a global village with students from 19 different states of India and around 32 countries of the world.

Continuing its tradition of patronage for moral and ethical concerns, the college is emerging as a leader. Organizing this international conference is another conscious endeavour towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as envisaged by the UN.

Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) is an intergovernmental organization involving 45 member States, headquartered in Kuwait. India is one of the founding members of ACD. **The ACD-University Network** was founded in February 2016 as an instrument for capacity building and increasing higher education accessibility for the benefit of ACD Member States and to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among higher educational institutions in Asia and the ACD region.

Siam University was founded in 1965 by the late Dr. Narong Mongkhonvanit as the first 3-year private engineering school in Thailand. Later, in 1986, Siam Technical College became Siam Technical University, and three years later became 'Siam University' to recognize the diversity in fields of study being taught at Siam University. Siam University now has courses ranging from Medicine, several engineering disciplines, Business Administration and Management, Law, Peace and Diplomacy. Over nearly five decades of steady growth and development, driven by a devotion to academic excellence, Siam University has over 15,000 students across eight schools, including an International and Graduate Program. Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, current President of Siam University, is also the Vice President of the International Association of Universities (IAU) and the President of the IAU's Working Group on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development.

Chula Global Network (CGN) was established in 2009, with the aim of combining the various disciplines and aspects of knowledge within **Chulalongkorn University**, which is one of Asia's most prestigious universities. Its mission is to promote the University's status as the source of creation, collection and dissemination of knowledge in area studies and to facilitate the study and analysis of key issues at local and global levels. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore stayed at Chulalongkorn University at the invitation of the then Thai King and spent several days at the university speaking to varied audiences. Subash Chandra Bose who based himself in Thailand in his mobilisation of South East Asia for the freedom struggle also delivered lectures at the Chulalongkorn University. He donated the money collected for the independence struggle that was given to him to the Chulalongkorn University and the Chulalongkorn University Hospital.

The Sustainability Platform (TSP) was founded at the 26th Engineering Congress of the Institution of Engineers held in Bangalore in December 2011. Subsequently, TSP has become widely recognised and respected as a platform involving wider professions other than engineers and as a genuine platform catalysing interventions that involve knowledge and competency building. TSP is unique in helping organizations and individuals access knowledge resources as well as sharing concrete experiences and providing knowhow in a practical and useful manner and, where necessary, creating forums for policy dialogue and policy formulation. TSP works with a range of individuals and institutions on best practices with regard to achieving sustainability objectives by industry, institutions and community level initiatives. TSP is currently engaged in catalyzing the involvement of especially higher education institutions in the SDGs Agenda and the United Nations 2030 Road Map.