
Concept Note

Awareness on SDGs & Climate Neutrality

Under

UNESCO's Open Access to Knowledge and Data

Through

Smart Campus Cloud Network of Universities

Context

UNESCO's effort to support the openness of global flow of knowledge, innovation and equitable socio-economic development are critical to accelerate implementation of SDGs and address climate change. UNESCO along with TERRE Policy Centre, an NGO having consultative status with UNESCO, are undertaking background research and organizing interactive sessions to communicate the importance of Openness of scientific data for SDGs and Carbon Neutrality. Such efforts would also focus on actions needed for openly disseminating the knowledge and information.

Why

Youth are the change-makers for Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Neutrality. The campus of Higher Educational Institutes/Universities are the breeding grounds for skilling these change-makers.

The Decade of Action for the attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has begun. The need for accelerating actions arises from the concern expressed by UN General Assembly on the occasion of 75th Anniversary of United Nations. The progress in attaining the 17 SDGs is slow. Worst, 2020-21 were the years of unprecedented consequences for the people, prosperity and planet due to abrupt emergence of pandemic.

In order to limit the temperature-rise of our planet to not more than 2 deg C above pre-industrial times, the world's carbon emission must be reduced by around 45 percent by 2030 and then net-zero by mid-21st century.

Thus, the coming decade, called as Decade of Action by UN, is crucial times to achieve the goals and targets agreed by universally by all the countries.

FOR WHOM

The accelerated actions are proposed to be directed towards **those who matter the most** i.e., students in the higher education institute. They will, after their graduation, bear the responsibility towards sustainable world as Policy Makers, Entrepreneurs, and responsible citizens. The actions towards sustainability, as proposed in this project, would take place in the Campus from where results emanating from actions would be measured digitally and shared in the network through digital cloud. The campus thus would become a laboratory for SDGs and climate action. Students, tomorrow's policy makers, will be skilled to address these challenges when they face the real situation in their professional career.

TERRE Policy Centre's Smart Campus Cloud Network (SCCN) under the guidance of UNESCO has established the digital network of universities to engage and skill the youth to make them SDGs-ready and Climate-Ready. The awareness on open access data among the higher educational institutes and related audience will play a very crucial role in it.

CONTENTS

The awareness material that will be shared would have information in youth-friendly language. It would include importance of SDGs, guidance for jump-start the action, mission of Smart Campus Cloud Network, importance and benefits of Open Access Data for accelerating SDGs and Climate Neutrality.

It would utilize the existing available information in more effective content and format by including the emphasis of relevant open access and fake information programme of UNESCO and their link with SCCN.

Actions under Workshop

1. **Sharing a set of awareness material** in youth-friendly language that addresses the importance of SDGs, mission of Smart Campus Cloud Network, importance and benefits of Open Access Data for accelerating SDGs and Climate Neutrality.
2. **Engaging the youth in carbon-neutrality of campus** specifically for 'net-zero emission' as per pre-COP26 discussions and as per announcements before and during the COP26,
3. **Providing a procedural guideline to take pledge on carbon neutrality 'Not Zero-Net Zero'** and establish an easy-to-understand methodology for creating Open Data for 'Not Zero-Net zero' campus.
4. **Regional Workshops** to communicate importance of Openness for SDGs and Carbon Neutrality and on actions needed through openly disseminating the knowledge and information.
5. **Encouraging the educational institutes** to develop the Open Access Programme in their institute for SDGs and Climate Change .