



## International Conference on Sustainability Education 2020

### *ICSE II WEBINAR*

*September 9 & 10, 2020, 15:30 to 17:00 hrs IST (GMT + 5:30)*

#### INTRODUCTION

The First **International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) 2019** was successfully organized by Mobius Foundation, Climate Reality Project India, UNESCO, TERI and 30+ other distinguished partners on 9th and 10th September 2019 in New Delhi, India. The conference brought together some 750 delegates including experts and practitioners of Environment Education (EE), Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and Climate Change Education (CCE) to discuss innovative ideas, practices and pedagogies to incorporate sustainable practises in education. The conference highlighted the key role of **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** as an element of quality education through 5 Plenaries, 15 special sessions with as many 20 keynote speeches on various themes of sustainability education.

One of the key outcomes of the ICSE 2019 was to create a FORUM for regular exchange of ideas, experiences and efforts throughout the network, in order to carry forward the initiative. The 1<sup>st</sup> FORUM was organized on World Environment Day 2020 through an International Webinar and School Principals Conclave on the theme “**SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION IN COVID ERA**” on 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> June 2020. ICSE FORUM 2 was organized on the World Population Day 2020 through webinar titled “**POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY IN COVID ERA**” on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### WELCOME TO 2<sup>nd</sup> ICSE 2020

In continuation of these forums and to keep up the momentum of the 1<sup>st</sup> ICSE, Mobius Foundation and partners are planning to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> version of the ICSE on 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 virtually. The ICSE 2020 was initially planned to be held in Abuja, Nigeria in association with the Federal Ministry of Education, Government of Nigeria along with other Nigerian organizations. However, due to COVID - 19, we have now planned to organize the first anniversary of this landmark event through a two-day webinar as per the following details:

#### **Day 1: Sustainability Education and the New Normal**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought huge disruption in education forcing around 1.58 billion children and youth out of their campuses. Several new and innovative online, virtual and distance teaching learning initiatives are being tried out across the world as the new normal with their own



positives and negatives. The challenge today is to reduce as much as possible the negative impact this pandemic will have on learning and schooling and build on this experience to get back on a path of build back better the educational system.

India's National Education Policy 2020 announced recently, has huge implication on the future of education in general and sustainability education in particular. The policy advocates for an education system that contributes to an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all. The NEP 2020 is also in the line with the Goal 4 of the U N Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4), which clearly believes equal access to education is the basis for sustainable development.

The panellists and speakers during the session will share their views on the specific themes of Sustainability Education and the New Normal. The broader themes proposed are:

1. How can sustainability education help bring the desired transformation in education system during and post pandemic?
2. How can sustainability education with its emphasis on exposure to nature and outdoor hands on activities be practiced beyond the comforts of homes during COVID-19 or beyond the classrooms post COVID scenarios?
3. Is it possible to bridge the digital divide with regard to internet access and availability of devices? What should be the alternatives that technology can offer for education to the unreached students and regions? How to make joy of learning possible in the scenario of the Internet fatigue during this virtual teaching learning session?
4. How can India's New Education Policy help to promote environment and sustainability education?

## **Day 2: Sustainability Education and the Youth**

Mobius Foundation, Earth Day Network and The Climate Reality Project India joined hands to launch the Youth for Earth and My Future My Voice Campaigns to mark the 50th year of the Earth Day. The campaign was run through January to July 2020. Youths were invited to participate in the campaign and be a 'Champion for Earth' and a 'Change Maker' by submitting their activity done from 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 onwards. It is also to provide a platform for youth to showcase their ground actions and influence the world that change starts from them.

The campaign received overwhelming responses from the youth from all over India and South Asia about doing an activity (projects) on the ground which brings about a change and leads to a more sustainable planet. The 90-minute youth led and focused webinar on "Sustainability Education and the Youth" will feature some 11 youth from all parts of the globe to present their projects in 3 minutes each on the themes related to *air, water, energy, waste and biodiversity*.