Innovative approaches and partnerships to strengthen the role of educators & academia to implement the SDGs

Bio Notes

Dr Joanna Newman, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) (Key note speech)

Dr Joanna Newman is Chief Executive and Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) – an international organisation dedicated to building a better world through higher education, with more than 500 member institutions in over 50 countries. She is an authoritative voice on higher education, and has a deep understanding of the diversity of the higher education sector internationally and the important role of universities in addressing the SDGs.

Prior to joining the ACU in April 2017, Joanna was Vice-Principal (International) at King’s College London. Her previous positions include Director of the UK Higher Education International Unit (now known as Universities UK International) and Head of Higher Education at the British Library. Joanna remains a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of History at King’s College London and an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Southampton. In 2014, Joanna was awarded an MBE in recognition of her work promoting British higher education internationally.

Panel 1 “Building Bridges” to achieve the SDGs and to inspire change together

Ms. Bianca Kopp, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (Opening Remarks & Moderator)

Bianca Kopp is a Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer working for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Global Coordinator of the university related activities of UNODC’s Education for Justice (E4J) initiative. She has been working for the United Nations since 2010, including for the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the UN Democracy Fund, and for various sections in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Prior to this, she was working for the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Political Science of the University of Salzburg, Austria.

Prof. Muneo Kaigo, University of Tsukuba

Professor of Communication and Media in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Teaching in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Comparative Culture at the University of Tsukuba. Currently 1) the Chair for the Doctoral Program of International and Advanced Japanese Studies in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2) Director for the Institute for Comparative Research in Human and Social Sciences, and 3) Director for the University of Tsukuba Europe. The Asian Media Information and Communication Centre, country representative for Japan. Leading a joint research project on social media uses among local municipalities in Japan with cooperation from the municipal government of Tsukuba and Intel Corporation Japan. The University of Tsukuba is leading SDG 10 (Reducing Inequality within and among nations) with IAU.

Prof. Elena Diaz Galan, Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid and Carlos Fernández Liesa, University of Carlos III

Elena Carolina Díaz Galán es docente de la Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Sociales. Campus de Madrid | URJC de la Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, en la provincia de Madrid.
Carlos Fernández Liesa, Head Professor of Public International Law and International Relations at the Carlos III University of Madrid.

Ms. Ricarda Motschilnig, International Council for Adult Education (ICAE)
She completed her studies of pedagogic and educational science, followed by a master's degree in social and cultural anthropology at the VU University Amsterdam. Over the past years she worked in international adult education and lifelong learning in various countries. Currently Ricarda Motschilnig is the policy and advocacy officer for the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) and lecturer at the Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt/Austria.

Dr. David Smith, University of the West Indies
David C. Smith, PhD (Zoology) is the Coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) and Director of the Centre for Environmental Management (CEM). He is also Coordinator of the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS) and Caribbean Coordinator for the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN). He is a member of the Independent Group of Scientists who will prepare the UN Global Sustainable Development Report to be published in 2019. Dr Smith has many years of experience in academia, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations, focusing on Sustainable Development, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction. He initiated Jamaica's first debt-for-nature swap and played a key role in establishing the Jamaica National Parks Trust Fund and the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. He was instrumental in the successful development of proposals for a number of UWI projects in sustainable development research, distance teaching, knowledge management, disaster risk management and hazard mapping. He is also one of the Principal Investigators for the Enhancing Knowledge and Application of Comprehensive Disaster Management (EKACDM) Initiative, a regional project.

Panel 2 “Education as a tool to achieve SDG 16 and 17”

Dr. Hilligje van’t Land, International Association of Universities (IAU) (Opening Remarks & Moderator)
Hilligje van’t Land is the Secretary General of the IAU. For the past two decades, she has worked at IAU committing to make higher education a key driver of societal change. Initially as Director and later as Deputy Secretary General, she co-supervised the overall programmatic activities of the IAU and the everyday work of the secretariat, she engaged in developing the IAU Membership base and strengthening the IAU membership development strategy. She positioned the IAU as lead partner network in the UNESCO Global Action Program on ESD by promoting the role of higher education and research in addressing the goals set in the context of Agenda 2030 (HESD). She engaged the Association in strategic partnerships to advance HESD and represented IAU at external events to foster leadership engagement and advance action at all institutional levels. She strongly believes in the importance of intercultural understanding and developed projects and other initiatives to promote higher education’s actions in this field. Convinced that societies can foster research and innovation through innovative approaches to doctoral education, she developed a six-year project on this topic for Africa and internationally. She represents IAU in various working groups and expert Committees including at the Council of Europe where she contributed to intercultural understanding initiatives and related publications, and more recently the development of a European Framework for Competences for Democratic Citizenship.

Prof. Adam Tickell, University of Sussex
A highly-regarded economic geographer, he began his academic leadership career as Research Director in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law at the University of Bristol. During this time, he served as Vice Chair of the Research Grants Board of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and as the Editor of Transactions, Institute of British Geographers. He then joined Royal Holloway as Dean of the Faculty of History and Social Sciences, before becoming Vice Principal
(Research, Enterprise and Communications) at the same institution. Before he joined Sussex, he held the position of Provost and Vice-Principal at the University of Birmingham.

Prof María Sagrario Morán and Cástor Díaz Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid

María Sagrario Morán Banco, Tenured Lecturer of Public International Law and International Relations at the Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid

Cástor Miguel Díaz Barrado. Head Professor of Public International Law and International Relations at the Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid.

Ms. Leyla Tavernaro-Haidarian, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Dr. Leyla Tavernaro-Haidarian is a senior research fellow at the University of Johannesburg, where she is a faculty member of the Leadership, Women and the UN program. Leyla regularly lectures and keynotes at international fora such as TEDx, The US State Department, NATO Building Integrity and the UNSSC/University of Stellenbosch Business School MBA program in Managing International Organizations and continues to produce television content for Persian Baha'i media services. Leyla is also a South African Women in Science Awards nominee. Dr. Tavernaro-Haidarian is one of UNODC’s Education for Justice (E4J) Champions.

Ms. Katarina Popovic, International Council for Adult Education (ICAE)

Secretary General of International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) and Professor for Adult Education at the University of Belgrade. Katarina has had a distinguished career in academic, policy and in civil society settings, was active in the Serbian peace movement, has worked and researched for many years in development cooperation, and worked in many countries in Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. She has rich teaching experience, and is certified trainer (Swisse) in the field of educating the educators.

Dr. Tor Halvorsen, University of Bergen, Norway,

He is member of the SDG-Bergen working group(s) under the Rectors office, is a researcher linked to Berge-Global with projects and programs focusing relations between knowledge and development. As associate professor he teaches courses on the SDGs at Department of Administration and Organization Theory. He is academic responsible at UiB for Southern Africa – Nordic Center (SANORD), member of World Wide University (WUN) team on higher education (focusing on SDGs), and also researcher at FAFO in Oslo, the research group on global issues.

Living Books

Dr. Pastora Martínez Samper, Open University of Catalonia

Pastora is Vice President for Globalization and Cooperation at UOC since February 2016 and President of the UOC Equality Unit since September 2016. She is member of the expert group on Open Science at the European University Association since May 2017. At the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE), she was the leader of the working group for Cooperation from October 2016 to March 2019 and Director of OCUD (Observatory for University Development Cooperation) since April 2019. She coordinates a specific module on Responsible Research and Innovation at the Master in Translational Medicine-MSc from the University of Barcelona since 2013. She has a PhD in Physics (UAM, 2003), a Master in the Leadership and Management of Science (UPF-UB-UAB, 2008) and an Executive Master in Business and Administration (EADA Business School, 2014). She has more than 14 years of experience in the management of science including management of research centers, European projects or networks.