



Green Jobs & Green Minds: How can Education Rewire the Future of the Planet?

Wednesday, 10th July 2019, UNHQ, New York

Room: Trusteeship Council: 3 – 6pm

Background: The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), a partnership between United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNESCO, United Nations Environment, UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative, United Nations University (UNU), UN-HABITAT, UNCTAD, and UNITAR, was created in 2012 in the run-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative is supported by a wide range of global and international networks of Universities and other higher education institutions, national and regional organizations, and several student organizations (the full list is available on the HESI website). With commitments from over 300 universities from around the world, HESI accounted for more than one-third of all the voluntary commitments that were launched at Rio+20. Through its strong association with the United Nations, HESI provides a space for higher education institutions with a unique interface between higher education, science, and policy making across the UN.

Event: On the occasion of the 2019 session of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – the United Nations' central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - the HESI partners are organizing an event for higher education institutions and other interested stakeholders.

The event will explore how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is changing the way higher education institutions are working and how they engage critically with the SDGs, with a specific focus on SDG 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals). The event will seek to generate a new commitment and vision for the kind of impact that partners are collectively having on this agenda. It will look to build on the work of the SDG Accord – see more here www.sdgaccord.org – which has five core areas of work including:

- 1) Teaching sustainable development across all disciplines of study, including through online based platforms,
- 2) Encouraging research and dissemination of sustainable development knowledge,
- 3) Green campuses and supporting local sustainability efforts,
- 4) Engaging and share information with and through international networks,
- 5) Engaging universities in local and national government, as well as city development projects.

For this HESI event, the ambition will be to introduce a new vision for this Initiative and coalesce a range of actors on a joint agenda and showcase SDG good practices by Higher Education Institutions, organisations and their partners. This will explore questions such as:

- Youth employment: Given young people are the main beneficiaries of higher education, what more could universities be offering to building the skillset, place the sign-posts and work with public / private sector to create more green collar jobs?
- Private sector perspectives: Are companies hiring the right kind of young talent with the right kind of skills for the sustainability and energy transformation the world needs to undertake?

- Green campus vs Green choices: Given the biggest sustainability legacy of higher education is not in infrastructure investments, but the mindsets and behaviors of students that live for a further 70 years, is enough measurable and discernible action being taken around influencing sustainable lifestyles?
- Incentives: What incentives matter the most to Universities when it comes to engaging with the Agenda and associated SDGs and investing in sustainability?

Logistical Details: The event will take place at the UN HQ as part as the HLPF and is open to participants from the fields education, youth leadership, private sector, government and diplomatic fields, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders. This will be organized with live social media interaction so that questions and a discussion can be held and built upon for those not in New York.

TIME	ITEM
3.00 – 3.10	<p>Opening:</p> <p>Opening remarks: H.E. Ms. H. Elizabeth Thompson, Permanent Representative of Barbados, launched the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) at Rio +20.</p> <p>HESI Co-Chair: Mr Sam Barratt, Chief of Education and Youth, UN Environment: Introducing the objectives of the afternoon session and the vision for the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative.</p>
3.10 – 4.00	<p>SDG4 in Higher Education: An ecosystem in movement</p> <p>The session focuses on Higher Education Institutions’ commitment to the SDGs, challenges in embedding the SDGs and compliance vs action: what difference is SDG integration making? The session also discusses student awareness and global accreditation and ranking:</p> <p>Moderator: JC Carteron, Kedge Business School, HESI Senior Advisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the stage: UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Mrs Stefania Giannini, to present the roadmap for 2030 and what needs to be done. • Institution Movement: Perception of SDG integration by HEIs in their own institution: trends from the SDG Accord report & recommendations – Fiona Goodwin, Global Alliance & The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education. • University Alliance: Joint statement from Dr Joanna Newman from the Association of Commonwealth Universities and Dr Hilligje van’t Land from the International Alliance of Universities. • Performance: Global assessment of the progress that institutions are making on delivering the SDGs through Higher Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Evolution of performance evaluation systems in HE: Dan LeClair, Global Business School Network</i> ○ <i>World University Impact Rankings - Ross Duncan, Times Higher Education</i> • If time, questions to be made from the floor

4.00 – 4.50	<p>SDG 17 Partnerships + Where will we go next:</p> <p>Introducing session on what are the new opportunities for learning and innovation through partnerships at universities, what is the 2030 vision for Education for Sustainable Development and how do we close the gap. How does the private sector partner up with Higher Education Institutions to support inclusive education and lifelong learning opportunities for all?</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General, DESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Partnerships: Mr. Kazuhiro Yoshida, Co-Chair of the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee and Director, Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education, Hiroshima University • Localizing the SDGs: Ms. Yi Zheng, Head of Office, Institute for Sustainable Development Goals, Tsinghua University • Technology and Innovation: Ms. Ann Rosenberg, Senior Vice President, Global Head of SAP Next-Gen, SAP • Vocational training and e-learning: Mr. Sanjay Tiwari, CEO of 21CC Education <p>Contributions to be made from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provost, Dr. Willard Gingerich, Montclair State University, United States
4.50 - 5.00	<p>Game around SDGs - Sulitest quiz – Jaclyn Rosebrook Collignon</p>
5:00 – 5:50	<p>SDG 8: Improving employability through education</p> <p>How Higher Education and Youth can be partners in delivering improved employability for all. What needs to change and where do we go from here?</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Satya Tripathi, Assistant Secretary General, Head of UN Environment’s New York Office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Labor Organization: Mr. Matthieu Cognac, Senior Multilateral Cooperation Specialist. • Junior Achievement: Brandie Conforti, Global Chief Development Officer, JA Worldwide • University perspective: Henning Jensen, President UDUAL, President Rector’s Conference, Costa Rica. • World Bank: Sheila Jagannathan, Head of the Online Learning Campus. <p>If time, questions to be made from the floor with Private Sector contributions anticipated.</p>
5.50 – 6.00	<p>So, what happens next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapporteur feedback on the 3 things that came out most strongly in this session. • HESI to outline the 3 priorities for the initiative for 2019/2020 and next steps for collaboration.

Note: The International Green Gown Awards Ceremony will be taking place at the Institute of International Education (opposite the UN building). The Drinks Reception starts at 6.15 and the Ceremony starts at 7.00. Entry is by invitation only.

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For full details and registration to the Green Gown Awards Ceremony please visit

<https://www.greengownawards.org/international-green-gown-awards-ceremony-2019>