



Concept Note

Seminar on Youth and Sustainable Development: Role of Media, Knowledge Networks and Libraries

**Organized by
United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan**

***in collaboration with*
Jawaharlal Nehru University
Association of Media Libraries and Archives
Delhi Library Association**

On Tuesday, 11 August 2015. at UN Conference Hall, 55 Lodi Estate, New Delhi

Seminar Background

The United Nations Information Centre for India & Bhutan (UNIC), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Association of Media Libraries and Archives (AMLA), and the Delhi Library Association (DLA) are jointly organizing one-day seminar on “Youth and Sustainable Development: Role of Media, Knowledge Networks and Libraries” on the occasion of the International Day of Youth and Librarian’s Day at 9 a.m., on 11 August 2015 at UN Conference Hall, 55 Lodi Estate, New Delhi.

The seminar will be primarily attended by librarians, researchers, communication and information officers working in ministries, research organizations, college and universities, NGOs and UN depository libraries. This will provide them with an overview of the importance of the Youth Day and on how to improve the situation of young people around the world and promote their rights, aspirations and increase their participation in decision making as a means of achieving peace and development.

Sustainable development is the overarching paradigm of the United Nations. The concept of sustainable development was described by the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

The sustainable development framework rests on four pillars – society, environment, culture and economy. Thus, it envisages a future in which there is a balance between social, economic, cultural and environmental objectives. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, agreed on a range of measures to establish Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. "Through a widely inclusive consultative process that included governments, civil society, industry, research bodies and others, 17 SDGs were decided upon. The first seven correspond roughly to the Millennium Development Goals in the social sphere, such as gender equality, education and health; the next five deal with economic issues like inclusive growth, resilient infrastructure, sustainable consumption etc.; the next three address the environment, through climate change, oceans, and land degradation; and finally, the last two deal with promoting peaceful societies and partnerships for sustainable development. These SDGs which will be adopted in Sept. 2015, define the way forward for the international community on all issues related to sustainable development, and, it is hoped, will help set national and local agendas for the future.

The future is a matter of concern for all of us. And since we have to find new, better ways of doing things, it is clear that information and education on some of these issues is critical. Libraries will be called upon to provide information on a variety of sustainable development themes, and furthermore, they will be required to ensure that such knowledge is easily accessible. High quality knowledge and information is central to the effectiveness and overall success in that regard requires a rich and diverse repository of knowledge with significant capacity to generate, collect and share knowledge among the intended beneficiaries.

Open data and open knowledge are crucial to this effort, and libraries will need to find ways to collate a range of information – backgrounders, statistical data released by countries at the central and local levels, as well as by public policy think-tanks, corporations, international organizations and institutions. Increasing awareness among librarians on sustainable development themes is also essential if library users are to make sense of the information that already exists, and which will necessarily continue to evolve. The seminar will seek to discuss the way forward in this important endeavour.

Seminar Objectives

1. The seminar will be an educative event consisting of invited talks and panel discussions. Each panel discussion will have expert speakers.
2. To better understand the concept of sustainable development – development that fully integrates the need to promote prosperity, well-being and protection of the environment.
3. To make use of library networking as a key channel of information sharing to promote, display and disseminate information on various sustainable development issues.
4. To upgrade the level of knowledge and skills of librarians and other stakeholders to better organize and conduct web-based searches and use on-line information resources for further facilitating and sharing knowledge with user communities.
5. To make people aware about the open data and other e-based knowledge resources in the field of sustainable development.

Seminar Organizers:

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