

ABOUT CONFERENCE

India is placed at 120th rank in Sustainable Development Report—2021. Due to their unique position in the society, the HEIs have immense scope and potential to contribute towards achieving all the 17 SDGs and thereby accomplishing 2030 agenda. In the impact ranking of Times Higher Education which assesses universities with reference to their contribution in realizing UN SDGs, only 2 public universities and 9 private universities could find place. This compels us to think whether the Indian Higher Education Institutions are responsible enough in their approach towards sustainability in delivering education. Most importantly, it makes us ponder why we are not able to tap the potential of HEIs in achieving SDGs. To apprise the Indian HEIs about their role, and to reinforce them to take up the task of accomplishing SDGs as their prime responsibility, AIU as a representative body of HEIs in India, has set-out to organize all the Zonal and National Vice Chancellors Conferences in 2021-22 on the theme 'Realising Sustainable Development Goals through Higher Education Institutions'.

Accordingly, in the Annual Meet, all the 17 SDGs will be taken up for discussion. In zonal meets a set of 4 closely related SDGs will be deliberated in each of the 4 Zonal Vice Chancellors Meets i.e., East, West, Central and North. In South Zone SDG—4, the goal related to education will be discussed exclusively.

ABOUT ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

Association of Indian Universities (AIU), is one of the premier higher education institutions in India established in 1925. It plays a vital role in shaping Indian higher education by being a research-based policy advice institution to the Government of India in the field of Higher Education, Sports and Culture. One of the key activities of the AIU is to convene the Vice Chancellors' Meets at Zonal and National level to discuss various issues related to higher education. India being a country with large geographical area for ease of reaching out, AIU has grouped the member HEIs into 5 zones—East, West, North, South and Central. Every year in the Annual Vice Chancellors' Meet, a specific theme which is of topical significance for higher education community is taken up for discussion. As a run up, subthemes related to the main theme are discussed in the Zonal Vice Chancellors' Meets.

ABOUT MIT-WPU

Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University is a State Private University. For centuries, India has been the apostle of knowledge and peace. MIT-WPU has been built on this philosophy. MIT-WPU focuses on being the change that is needed in the world today by sensitizing and understanding the human dimensions of conflict, and developing a toolbox of transferable skills such as negotiation, peace building, technology and management. These skills enable graduates from various diverse Programs to succeed in peace building.

Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT-WPU is the Flagship University of MAEER's MIT Group of Institutes, which has over 100,000 alumni all over the world. MIT-WPU Campus is spread over a sprawling 54 acres at Kothrud, Pune. MIT is the most preferred destination for over 54,000 students every year. MAEER MIT's journey in the last 37 years has been in the pursuit of quality & excellence in education and research, a commitment to values. Our educational institutes are ranked by NIRE, accredited by national agencies like NAAC and NBA, which led to the creation of Centre of Excellence.

ABOUT UNITED NATIONS

One place where the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems and find shared solutions.

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.

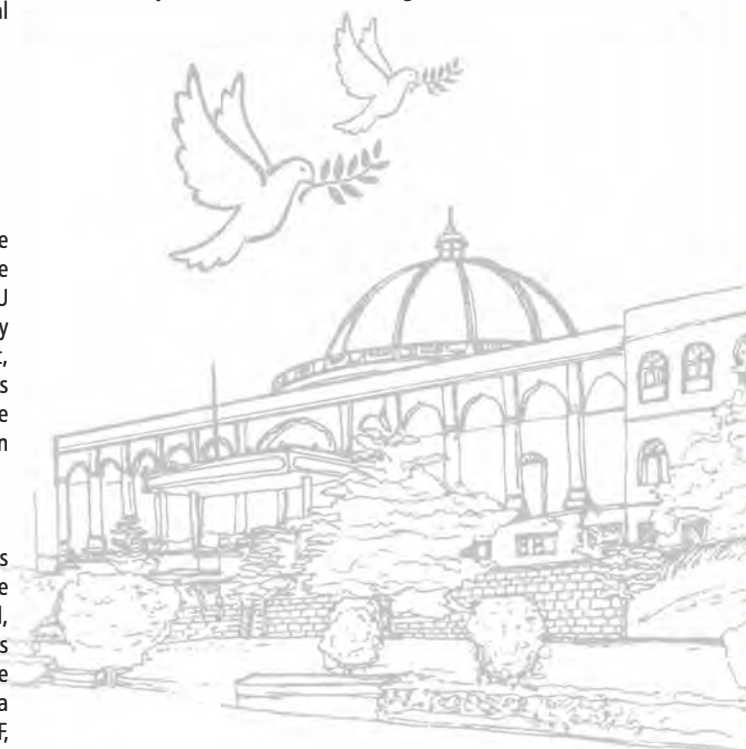
The UN has evolved over the years to keep pace with a rapidly changing world.

But one thing has stayed the same: it remains the one place on Earth where all the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems, and find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.

WEST ZONE VICE CHANCELLORS' MEET

The present Meet is the West Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet. The theme for this Meet is Realizing SDGs through HEIs for Promoting Industrialization, Employment, Peace Partnership and Prosperity. The theme is an overarching theme for the SDGs-8,9,16 & 17. The discussions will primarily address the role of HEIs in the perspective of their contribution. Besides, there will be stocktaking of global progress towards achieving these goals; share knowledge, success stories and good practices; identify particular areas of concern and main challenges; and suggest ways forward in terms of action points for HEIs, government and other stakeholders. Action points for HEIs will be for all the three dimensions of HEIs i.e., Teaching, Research and Community Development. Vice Chancellors of Indian Universities, Experts from United Nations System, Line Ministries in Government of India, Apex Bodies of Higher Education, and Academia will be speakers and Session Chairs. Experts from the UN system and other international organizations will also be invited to contribute. Discussions will be conducted in English. Sessions will be through blended mode.

The two-day event will include following 4 sessions:



SESSION DETAILS



Session -1:

Contribution of HEIs Towards Promoting Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG-16)

Goal 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance at all levels, and transparent, effective and accountable institutions. A peaceful, secure and just environment is essential for progress of any nation. It affects all aspects of economic and social development in a country, and is a necessary condition for realization of human rights which has direct effect on the creation of sound, competitive

and equitable economic development. But the world we live in is becoming increasingly fearful with new security challenges developing every other minute due to criminal activities like robberies, murders, rapes, terrorism, insurgency, cybercrime just to mention a few. For this goal to be achieved, universality is important. The deliberations will therefore address on:

- Role of HEIs in creating sensitivity towards peace, justice and strong institutions
- Contributions of Indian Knowledge Systems in enhancing peace cross the world



Session -2:

Contribution of HEIs in Strengthening Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (SDG-17).

Goal 17 aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. Key to the achievement of this goal is universal partnership, complemented by stakeholder partnerships to share and mobilise expertise, financial resources, knowledge and technology for supporting the SDGs in every country. An ambitious and interconnected global development agenda requires a new global partnership – this includes financing development, connecting people through information technology

networks, international trade flows, and strengthening data collection and analysis. Due to technological innovations the people around the world have come closer together through physical and digital networks. The deliberations will therefore address on:

- Measures to promote internationalization and strengthening and streamlining cooperation between nation-states using the SDGs as a shared framework and a shared vision for defining the collaborative way forward.
- Researches needed on issues like international trade, domestic resource mobilization, international support to developing countries, domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection etc



Session -3:

Contribution of HEIs Towards Promoting Productive Employment, Decent Work and Sustainable Economic Growth (SDG-8)

Economic growth and employment are important for reaching the economic security that is crucial equitable access to financial services. Youth unemployment is on the rise across the world. In India, increasing unemployment of the educated is accompanied by a widening job-skill mismatch and declining labour force participation rates, especially among women. The youth population in India is

expected to increase to 350 million by 2022 so there is pressure on the country to make best utilization of demographic dividend. In September 2020, due to COVID-19, India saw an increase in unemployment rate of over six percent. About 4.1 Million Indians have lost jobs in the formal sector. There is a need to adopt urgent, large-scale and targeted measures to generate jobs for the youth, keep education and training on track, and to minimize future scarring of youth. The deliberations will therefore address on Measures to be taken by HEIs in preparing the students for Productive Employment, Entrepreneurship, Decent Work and Sustainable Economic Growth.



Session -4:

Contribution of HEIs Towards Promoting Sustainable Industrialization, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Fostering Innovation (SDG-9)

Goal 9 encompasses infrastructure development, industrialisation and innovation. To meet this objective, work must be done to develop and ensure quality, reliable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient infrastructure. This will involve innovation and the creation of new and more sustainable industries, spurred by investments in research and development. In India, the Government has initiated a number of measures in crucial sectors to accelerate higher manufacturing growth and create jobs for millions. The Government's commitment to provide qualitative physical infrastructure has been reflected in global ranking of the World Bank's 2016 Logistics Performance, where India jumped to 36th rank in 2016 from 58th rank. Through SDG

9, countries have determined that investing in more resilient infrastructure, cooperating across borders, and encouraging small enterprises will all be critical to ensuring sustainable industrial development. The deliberations will therefore focus on:

- Strategies needed for promoting fourth industrial revolution in India
- Advancements in digital technology to leapfrog in traditional industries logistics, agriculture, communications, services, green growth and smart cities.
- Research in the concerned areas, especially in creating quality infrastructure at affordable cost, green buildings, cost effective rural infrastructure, earthquake resistant housing etc