



Working Session on

## **World Environment School**

International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) 9- 10 September 2019

### **Background**

We have seen several efforts at global, national, state and local level in past few decades which are working towards bringing environmental sustainability concerns in schools. Environment Education is a compulsory subject at all levels of formal education in India. Environmental consciousness, sensitivity, and values need to be built up at all levels. Realizing the value of developing young generation to become custodians of mother earth, it is important to create school environment which can create green citizens. The whole idea of environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD) is to make students develop an eco-friendly attitude and making them the part of the solution which eventually encourages them to take ownership and responsibility and become an active practitioner. These practices and approaches are directly correlated to sustainability which is not limited to the environment alone but every sphere of human lives be it equity, justice or rights. One needs to move from knowledge to action through the Handprint methodology.

A step towards in this direction is creation of the World Environment School at Kodagu, Karnataka, India by Mobius Foundation. The school aims at creating learning environment which could connect knowledge, encourage critical and systems thinking, develop attitude and skills to take responsible action towards protection of mother earth. It is envisaged that school will develop its own curriculum, adopt innovative teaching learning approach, and develop environment friendly campus infrastructure and plan community partnerships and outreach. WES is conceived of as a world-class international school aimed at creating global citizens dedicated to environmental custodianship. School named; World Environment School - Coorg (WESC) will be located on a 100-acre campus as an International Baccalaureate school in Southern India. The school as an educational institution aspires to be a world-leading environmental school creating a community committed to developing individuals who seize and act ethically upon the environmental issues facing our planet to create a sustainable tomorrow. The school is residential and co-educational covering grades 6-12 (age 7-13) school. It is planned to initiate first session from 2020. School is being built in over 100 -acre areas which the planned to be carbon neutral, generating its own power, harvesting all rainfall, and adopting zero waste practices. Thus the school is aiming to design and develop a pioneering and ground-breaking

environmental curriculum in association with renowned institutions to get its international recognition for the academic curriculum.

WES aims to:

- Strive for excellence in all aspects of school life, promoting a culture of aspiration and the celebration of achievement.
- Offer a broad, balanced and innovative curriculum which challenges all students at an appropriate level.
- Develop positive values of mutual respect, tolerance and self-esteem, fostering an informed and critical awareness of the dynamics prevalent in society.
- Apply a supportive pastoral framework, which both establishes a strong community identity and allowing every individual to flourish.
- Provide a stimulating and life-enhancing environment in which to live and learn.
- Attract and develop well-qualified, talented and forward-thinking staff capable of inspiring students in their respective fields.
- Offer a rich and broad co-curricular programme which enables both the highest levels of achievement and wide accessibility.
- Foster and maintain excellent relations with the wider community, nurturing mutually beneficial links in a variety of spheres.
- Prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly technological future.

Mobius Foundation is partnering with the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) for this initiative and to bring its expertise for developing the green school curriculum for WES. CEE is a national level institution set up in 1984 as a Centre of Excellence in the field of environment education. CEE has been working with schools, teachers, children and other stakeholders over the last three decades. CEE has played a leading role in fostering ESD during the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), at international and national levels. CEE was the National Focal Point for DESD in India.

Director CEE was a member of the DESD Reference Group (2005-2014) which provided direction to the programmes planned by the global partners led by UNESCO, and also the member of the International Steering Group to plan the end of the Decade Conference and the outcomes. He is also the Co-Chair of the UNESCO Global Action Plan (GAP) for the first area. A curriculum framework is being developed with the perspective where students are naturally curious and observant and therefore EE's pedagogy is highly activity and inquiry-based. A study is also being conducted to review current practices in other schools of the country. A working session is proposed during the International Conference on Sustainability Education for getting wider inputs for the school. This working session during the conference will bring global experience from planners and practitioners. This entire process will recommend approaches and process for the school towards teaching, learning and assessment so that lifelong learning skills are fostered.

## About the Working Session

The discussion at the 90 minute session will revolve around the objectives of the WES and the draft curriculum framework for the school, which will be presented at the session. The International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) brings together experts, researchers, practitioners etc. together to plan and share EE and ESD efforts. This working session is aimed to bring together different stakeholders with different capacities such as teachers, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, etc. for sharing their experiences and also provide their suggestion on the curriculum framework of WES. Experiential learning, hands-on and activity-based approaches is planned to be a key part of the curriculum design. The curriculum would also build upon the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets.

### The objectives of the session

- To discuss and comment on the draft WES curriculum and methodology which will be presented
- To share experiences of schools in India and abroad towards applying sustainability education in WES
- To review new approaches, ideas, perspectives and questions necessary to develop a contextual and transformative pedagogical tool for WES
- To look at ways to inculcate the learnings of Sustainable Development Goals and receiving inputs/ feedbacks for further designing the Green Curriculum Framework for WES
- To consolidate recommendations emerged through discussions

### Schedule of the Session

Day II- 10 September 2019

Timings	Format	Speakers
11.30 -11.40 am	Opening Remarks  Special Invitees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Pradip Burman, Chair of Mobious Foundation</li> <li>• Shri Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, Director, CEE</li> <li>• Mr. David Boddy, ASIS</li> <li>• Mr. Chris Ramsey, Headmaster of Whitgift School</li> </ul>
11.40-11.55 am	Sharing Framework	Power point presentation by CEE
11.55 - 12.25 pm	Panel Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel Chair: Dr. Ram Boojh, Convene ICSE</li> <li>• Speakers: 3-4 Teachers/Principals - School representation from India and World;</li> <li>• Dr. Rob O'Donoghue, Rhodes Univ.</li> </ul>

		South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Pramod Sharma, FEE, Inputs from World perspective for WES</li> <li>• Dr. C. V. Shimray, Assistant Professor, Department of Education in Science and Mathematics, NCERT</li> </ul>
12.25 - 12.45 pm	Open for Discussion	Participants
12.45 - 1.00 pm	Concluding session - Consolidating Comments and Remarks	Panelists, CEE and Participants

The duration of the panel is of 90 minutes.

### **Focus questions for discussions**

- How to make EE, ESD and CCE part of mainstream curriculum in WES?
- Is there a specific ESD methodology to be adopted by WES?
- How to infuse sustainable development concepts across subjects and also have standalone component? How to structure and formulate curriculum framework?
- How do we promote teaching-learning about sustainability at WES?
- What are the constraints and challenges to achieve that?
- Do we have contextual pedagogy to train teachers?
- Discussions over components for the pedagogy of ESD.
- Sharing experiences through case studies from different parts of the world

### **Expected Outcome**

- Get expert recommendations to develop the draft green curriculum framework for WES further.
- Note case studies from various part of world on initiatives and efforts in the field of environmental and sustainability education in schools
- Share resources developed in various part of world which would require country specific adaptations and use

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT SCHOOL SESSION**  
**ICSE Conference, New Delhi**  
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Title	Coordinator	Duration	No of participants	Facilitator/Speakers	Brief format of session (Panel/Lecture/Workshop)	Description of the session	Expected Outcome
<b>11.30 am - 1.00 pm (90 min) WORLD ENVIRONMENT SCHOOL SESSION 3 on 10 September</b> Overall Session Coordination: Kartikeya Sarabhai, Sanskriti Menon and Narayan Sharma							
Opening Remarks	as above	11.30 – 11.40 am (10 min)	30	Kartikeya Sarabhai (CEE)	Lecture	Presentation on CEE's experience of sustainable school programmes	Understand background of whole school approach
About World Environment School	as above	11.40 – 11.50 am (10 min)	30	Mr. Pradip Burman, Chair of Mobius Foundation	Lecture	Talk on vision of World Environment School	Introduction to the concept of World Environment School
Sharing Framework	as above	11.50 – 12.05 pm (10 min)	30	Sanskriti Menon and Narayan Sharma (CEE)	Lecture	Sharing the framework for inputs and discussion	Looking at various aspects of making a school world environment school
International Schools	As above	12.05 - 12.20 pm (15 min)	30	Mr Christopher Ramsey (Whitgift School), Mr. David Boody (ASIS)	Lecture	Talk on international school experience	Reference to other international school boards
National and International Experience of Sustainable policies and practices in schools	as above	12.20 – 12.40 pm (50 min)	30	Dr, Ram Boojh (Convenor ICSE - Chair of session), Speakers: Dr. Chochong Shimray (NCERT, India), Dr. Gosia Luszczek (FEE), Mrs. J. Sumedha Jayaweera (St. Paul's Girls' School Srilanka), Ms. Neerja Bhatnagar (Bal Bharti School, Noida)	Panel	Panel discussion on sustainable school experiences	Sharing of experiences

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Concluding Discussion	as above	12.40 – 1.00 pm (10 min)		Facilitator: Sanskriti and Narayan (CEE)	Panel		
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