



Network India

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY (CEGET)
[Promoting Corporate, Urban and Environmental Governance]

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Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: The subliminal message of empathy amidst the global crisis

Sustainable development depends critically on the core values, attitudes and competencies of all citizens of the world. Promotion/development of empathy, generosity and sharing, interest in engaging with others, and emotional well-being are the set of values and attitudes that need to be augmented to achieve those goals. Now more so, than ever.

The most recent coronavirus pandemic is yet another indication of how interconnected our world is. The corona virus began in a single city of China, but within a couple of weeks had affected 177 countries around the world, bringing some of the world's most vibrant and resilient cities to a standstill. The lockdowns, closure of borders and air spaces, have disrupted supply chains affecting the lives of billions of people. The new reality has compelled businesses to discover innovative ways of getting work done and bringing an emphasis on deliverables.

In this trying time for humanity, where all eyes, hearts and minds focus on the corona virus, the world is made more aware of the indispensable mandate of the Decade of Action for the SDGs. The biggest lesson is need for human empathy and compassion that must allay the sentiments of fear, hostility and unconscionable prejudices that have arisen, by leaps and bounds, in this crisis.

SDGs recognize the strong interdependency among all beings living on this planet, and how one person's or country's actions can affect others living thousands of miles away. The degree and intensity of interdependency just became more acute in the last couple of months.

The deadly corona virus puts a moral onus on us to care for others—a reminder that, for better or worse, we are all connected. Victory over the current pandemic can only be achieved through global collaboration that requires governments and businesses to work together, towards the broader global goals. The mantra of **“Leave No One Behind”**, that the SDGs espouse, requires dollops of empathy, the only means by which we can achieve the SDG goals.

Cultivating a culture of radical empathy in a time of crisis like the Corona virus outbreak, that we are facing right now is extremely important and especially when it helps to drive the agenda of Sustainable Development Goals and corporate social responsibility, where funds spent in the fight with coronavirus will be considered CSR activity.

Whether you are a corporate or civil society, do share with us what you are doing to alleviate the situation, for your stakeholders within the confines of your own domain, and the world at large. We sincerely believe that collectively we can make an impact.

Special task force for COVID 19 under Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India

The Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India has recently established a special task force for COVID 19 in order to facilitate fast tracked innovation that helps keep a quality medical equipment/devices supply chain in the Nation. In this context a list of proposals has been approved by scientific subject matter experts for feasibility for prevention (masks and gowns), detection, therapy, medical equipment's and ventilators, data analysis and imaging, medical camps for rural India, among others.

CEGET requests stakeholders to explore CSR funding/mass production support directly through the PSA's office. For further details please connect with Dr. Sapna Poti sapnapoti@ia.iitm.ac.in

A Webinar Inclusion and Diversity: Practices, Issues and Challenges

Ms. Shabnam Siddiqui, Director, CEGET at Global Compact Network India was invited as a speaker at the Webinar organized by **Peoplescient** on 4th March 2020 in Gurgaon/Haryana. Ms. Shabnam Siddiqui spoke on practical measures to promote inclusion and diversity practices in organization.

Inclusion and diversity though closely interrelated are two very different concepts, the significance of which is becoming very important today to manage the human resources at workplace. Inclusivity is the key to maintaining diversity in the workplace, as it ensures increased productivity and growth of the organization.

The Constitution of India has made a conscious effort to promote inclusion not only in the workplace but also in the country by prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment is also laid out as a directive principle. Through the directive principles of state policy, the Constitution lays down that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the scheduled castes and tribes. This serves as a protective measure in terms of reservations in educational institutions for the socially and economically marginalized segments.

Smart Republic 2020: Program Advisory Members Meet

Smart Republic 2020 is envisaged as a multi-partner global forum to support collaboration for development of global knowledge products and digital strategies for accelerating the goal of creating digital economy and governance transformation ecosystem for IR 4.0 era. The 2020 conference will see deliberations on the collaboration framework for Digital & Data Economy Ecosystem between government multilateral and bilateral development agencies, industry, civil society organizations and academia for achieving shared goal of making India a leading data and digital economy and a Smart Republic by 2024. Smart Republic forum will focus on innovative digital platforms & solutions and deployment of best practices to catalyze effective, coordinated and results-based implementation of Digital Economy program.

The first meeting of the Program Advisory Members of Smart Republic 2020 Conference was held on 12th March 2020 at the World Bank, Delhi to discuss the preparations, sessions, objectives and the dates and agenda for the conference wherein CEGET-GCNI and other partner agencies had participated. Ms. Shabnam Siddiqui represented CEGET-GCNI in this 1st Program Advisory Meeting of World Bank.

In the wake of developments relating to the spread of COVID-19, it was proposed by all the partner agencies and members that the conference dates be postponed from April 29-30 to a future date. This will enable experts from all the partner agencies from across the world to participate. It was agreed that the new date of the conference will be decided and announced in consultation with all the partners once the COVID-19 epidemic is under control and restrictions on travel and visa are lifted across the world. In the run-up to the Conference VC based webinars will be organized on each of the topics related to Smart Republic sessions so that all the partners can contribute their expertise in different domains. This will allow the deliberations during the conference to be more productive. Stay tuned for more updates.