

From New York to New Delhi: Mobilizing a Movement of Sustainable Companies and all Stakeholders to advance the Global Goals 2030 Agenda

Youth are no longer sitting on the sidelines of the debate about the urgency for changes leading to a sustainable future. Young people lent their voices for the world's 2030 agenda during the week of the 74th UN General Assembly, challenging world leaders to commit to action for achieving the Global Goals. For instance, youth activists are leading climate movements all over the globe, from Sara Blazevic of the Sunrise Movement and Jamie Margolin of Zero Hour in the United States. Sixteen-year old Greta Thunberg's anger was evident at the General Assembly, when she said "We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth." But all hope is not lost. The youth are calling on corporations, lobbying organizations, and governments to take action for a livable future for themselves and the generations to follow. In a recent report, [United Nations gets mostly positive marks from people around the world](#), and young people are also becoming motivated to work together with UN leaders on bold ideas at scale, creating opportunities to solve the challenges faced by global citizens.

On September 24th 2019 during the week of the 74th UN General Assembly in New York City, the UN Global Compact [launched](#) the 2019 Young SDG Innovators program in the U.S., led by the Global Compact Network USA, which supports U.S.-based entities as they engage with and advance the SDGs in alignment with the Ten Principles of the Global Compact. The launch was in collaboration with SAP and its SAP Next-Gen program which hosted the UN Global Compact Network USA at the SAP Leonardo Center in New York.



Mr. Kamal Singh, Executive Director, GCNI

Mr. Kamal Singh, Executive Director, Global Compact Network India says- "India is truly the laboratory of the world for driving SDGs and the whole world is looking at us. We are delighted that all the major players including Central and State Governments, UN Agencies, Private and Public Sector Business Enterprises, NGOs, Academic Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and many others are coming together to realign their efforts with the SDGs. SAP, as we all know, is a global leader in Sustainable Development and it's a matter of pride and privilege to join hands with them to create a new platform dedicated fully to drive certain critical SDGs. Together, we can do it and Together, we will do it!"

On October 3rd, 2019, during the week of the World Economic Forum India Economic Summit in Delhi, SAP and UN Global Compact Network India are coming together to inspire a movement to lead with purpose in India, encouraging public-private partnerships to accelerate the path to achieving the 17 Global Goals. The collaboration aims to bring together next generation social entrepreneurs; support young women and girls in science, technology, engineering, arts and science (STEAM); and inspire purpose-focused partners and citizens in using technology for good.



SAP through its SAP Next-Gen program is committed to provide youth with resources, access to mentorship and a platform to accelerate the achievement of the 17 SDGs. Working with organizations like UN

Partnering for Inclusive Growth organized by GCNI and SAP India

Technology Innovation Labs among others, SAP and UN Global Compact Network India aim to enable youth to develop disruptive solutions to SDG challenges. The recent [Reboot the Earth](#) social coding event brought young computer programmers, scientists and other interested people together under the auspices of the United Nations to improve upon or build a new software program addressing the current climate crisis. Through a series of SDG tech challenges in India with technologies such as [SAP Analytics Cloud](#), young people including students were presented with the opportunity to use open data and tech concepts to solve local sustainability issues that may be unique to each city and its community needs.

“SAP shares a joint commitment with UN Global Compact Network India to mobilize youth for good,” said Ann Rosenberg, senior Vice President for UN Partnerships at SAP & Global Head of SAP Next-Gen and SAP University Alliances. “We are mobilizing the global SAP Next-Gen network in India of 350+ educational institutions including 25 SAP Next-Gen labs and chapters at universities, to scale up engagement with SDG champions in industry.”

SAP Labs India was recently ranked Number 1 in India’s Best Companies to Work for in 2019, and is also the company’s largest R&D center outside its headquarters in Germany with a focus on developing leading enterprise applications to help customers become intelligent enterprises in the experience economy. SAP in India works across sectors and industries — including private and public sector, to support the more than 10,500 customers. SAP Labs India has a strong focus on ensuring education and digital literacy for women and youth, entrepreneurship development focusing on creating social enterprises via [Startup Studio](#), and helping engineering students embrace entrepreneurship.

Sindhu Gangadharan, Senior Vice President and Managing Director SAP Labs, India shared “*SAP is proud to team up with UN Global Compact Network India and is fully behind the efforts to support and help scale the SDGs in India. With SAP’s exponential technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, and the Internet of Things , we are presented with a leap of new business opportunities for companies both established and new, to provide new opportunities for finding disruptive solutions to the UN Global Goals.*” She also spoke about the progress and growth of the SAP social impact activities including Code Unnati, Bharat ERP, Digitalist and others that have been helping SAP employees to come closer to serving societies and using our technologies for good.

The SAP Next-Gen program inspires SAP customers to work with purpose led youth to show how SAP technologies can bring sustainability to the core of customers’ strategies and operations. With 12 FQ Lounge @ Campuses in India, we are also seeking to cultivate the next generation of female entrepreneurs, executives, and innovators offering young women a community in which they can collaborate and connect, setting a strong foundation for them to thrive in their future careers and create meaningful change in the workplace. Through our SAP initiatives like [Startup Guide](#) , we are connecting the global SAP Next-Gen “Innovation with Purpose” network with the resources and insights of the popular Startup Guide guidebooks for the world’s leading startup cities. By connecting startups to purpose driven accelerators, tech community leaders, universities, institutions and the SAP ecosystem of customers and partners, Startup Guide helps them accelerate their impact and contribution to creating a more sustainable future.