



## Centre for Environment Education

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CEE is the nodal agency for implementation of DESD in India.

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# Ethical Framework for a Sustainable World

A Report on the International Conference  
Centre for Environment Education  
Ahmedabad, India

November 1 – 3, 2010







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We are today at a critical time in human history. Our way of life has reached a level of impact that is changing the basic systems, cycles and the unique balance that has made life on Earth possible. Our time is also unique for it is one in which we understand how our collective footprint exceeds the capacity of the planet to sustain it, and we also know of ways in which to reduce it. We collectively have the technologies and the resources to do what is required to make our life styles sustainable. We have inter governmental and intra-national governance mechanisms that could implement the desired and needed changes towards sustainable lifestyles and yet we are unable to put it together.

There are times when we seem to get really close to reaching international agreements, and others when we get a sense of sliding back, of losing momentum. We speak of global goals and ideas that inspire humanity as a whole and yet at negotiating tables we slip back into narrow self interest. We need a basis for what we do, an ethical framework for our actions. The meetings leading up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development at Rio in 1992 did recognize such a need but then the world was not quite ready for the Earth Charter. When the Earth Charter was formally launched in the year 2000, culminating a participatory process involving civil society across the globe. The Charter continues to be one of the best articulations of the ethical principles we need to make the planet a sustainable one. It can be seen as a powerful educational resource and an effective tool for developing international treaties as well as for guiding business towards a more responsible role in a more sustainable world.

The Conference at CEE, Ahmedabad, marked ten years of the signing of the Earth Charter. It was indeed at CEE in 2005 that the first International Conference during the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development was held. It was also here that in 2007 the UNESCO Conference, marking thirty years since the Environmental Conference at Tbilisi, was held to explore the synergistic relationship between Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Ten years of the Earth Charter became a point to look at how ethics and values could be better integrated into ESD; at how, as the world moves towards 2012 and the Rio plus 20 Conference, do we bring the ethical dimension back to centre-stage and finally, at how we can employ the power of the Earth Charter to guide us in our journey towards sustainability.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has been the lead partner in all three of the key ESD Conferences held at CEE in India. So too have UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP and other agencies been a part of the planning and deliberations of these important seminars. Partners from the academic world, NGOs, industry and research institutes have all added to the richness of the deliberations. The Conference, this brief report and the more detailed publication to follow will, we hope, go a long way towards bringing Ethical Principles and the Earth Charter into Education and Policy making at all levels.



Kartikeya V. Sarabhai  
Director  
Centre for Environment Education

## Partners And Sponsors



## Acknowledgement

We sincerely thank the Earth Charter International for partnering with us and co-hosting the International Conference, Ethical Framework for A Sustainable World as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Earth Charter.

We thank the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India (MHRD, GOI) for extending financial and programmatic support towards hosting this Conference

We thank the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India (MoEF, GOI) for its contribution towards the programme content development of the Conference.

We thank United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for its programmatic support as knowledge partner. A special thanks to the DESD Secretariat at UNESCO for their inputs. We thank The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and especially TUNZA, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) for its contribution financially and programmatically.

We thank the core team members for their time in the development of programme content many months prior to and leading up to the Conference in preparing the input documents for the Conference.

A special thanks to the Gujarat Government, Department of Environment and Forests for its support. Our grateful thanks to the technical partners and industry sponsors without whose support the Conference would not have been possible. We also acknowledge the invaluable contribution of our event partners, venue partners, service partners and the media.

Last but not the least, heartfelt thanks to each and every one of the delegates from the various parts of the world for making this Conference a very meaningful, productive and truly enjoyable experience.



## Executive Summary

### The Ahmedabad Process

"The participants of the Ahmedabad Earth Charter+10 conference noted the ongoing and urgent need for a holistic and comprehensive ethical framework that cuts across conventions and the special role the Earth Charter can play in facilitating this process. Participants recommended that the Centre for Environment Education work with the Indian Government and through them the world community, to take this message to national governments at Rio+20, the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development."

Brendan Mackey, Co-chair, Earth Charter International Council summarizing the Conference recommendations on the way forward.

The International Conference, "Ethical Framework for A Sustainable World" was held at the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) campus in Ahmedabad from 1 to 3 November, 2010.

The Conference was held in partnership with the Earth Charter International. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India (MHRD-GOI) was the co host of the Conference. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India (MOEF-GOI), United Nations Educational, Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-TUNZA and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) were partners at the Conference.

The Conference brought together over 500 participants. There were about 100 participants from all over the world representing a variety of stakeholder groups including government officials and representatives of UN agencies. Participants from India were from diverse fields including environment, school and higher education, human rights, gender, peace, religion, citizenship, social justice and others. The Conference was a forum for interaction of civil society, NGOs, corporates, academics and media.

The Conference was held to commemorate 10 years of the Earth Charter (EC). The Earth Charter, over the ten years since its formal launch in 2000, has gained recognition as a global consensus on the meaning of sustainability, the challenge and vision of sustainable development, and the principles by which sustainable development is to be achieved. Many groups from different parts of the world have endorsed the Earth Charter, promoted it as an ethical framework for decision making and utilized it as an educational or reference instrument. It is today accepted that there are many dimensions to the concept of sustainability, all of which need to be supported by an underlying ethical framework.

The purpose of Earth Charter+10 (EC+10) efforts was to reach a higher level of awareness and outreach of the Earth Charter; clearly position the Earth Charter initiative as an inspirational,





dynamic, global civil society movement; and encourage a positive conceptualization of the future by using the Earth Charter as a framework to address key world challenges, issues and priorities.

The Earth Charter has been an important guiding influence on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD- 2004-2014). Midway through the UNDESD, the Earth Charter vision of “a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace” being more relevant than ever before, the Conference was held to review and strengthen ways by which these principles and values can find resonance in different areas of life and work across different sectors from international organizations and business enterprises to formal education.

It is in this background that the Conference “Ethical Framework for A Sustainable World” was organized to meet the need to bring together policy makers, practitioners, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, academics and religious thinkers working with the Earth Charter and in Education for Sustainable Development onto a common forum towards discussing synergies between the two and defining ways of the EC from principles to practice.

The Conference was specifically held with a view to do the following:

Strengthen efforts at making Education for Sustainable Development central to education practice and training; clarify the role the Earth Charter can play in education; share experiences on the use of Earth Charter in education; strengthen partnerships with the Earth Charter; and capture the spirit of the events related to EC +10 and to use the ideas to discuss and launch the vision for the Earth Charter for the next decade (2011-2020)

The Conference looked at the effective translation of the Earth Charter from principles to practice. Specifically the Conference sought to review and strengthen ways by which these principles and values can find resonance in different areas of life and work across different sectors from international organizations and business enterprises to formal education. Seven plenary sessions set the tone and pace for more focused discussions and interactions within the 10 Workshop Themes.

The plenary sessions included key expert presentations on experiences of application of the Earth Charter Principles. There were seven plenaries including the inaugural and concluding sessions.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Governor of Gujarat Dr. Shrimati Kamla. Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director CEE welcomed the audience on behalf of the Conference organizers and expressed hope that



the conference would generate a range of positive outcomes in taking the Earth Charter forward. Mirian Vilela, Executive Director, Earth Charter International, informed the gathering about the various Earth Charter +10 events which were held in different regions of the world prior to the Conference. Shri Amit Khare, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India (MHRD, GOI) addressed the audience on behalf of MHRD and said that sustainable development for India meant taking a development path that included making the right choices towards sustainability. He spoke about the principles of Government of India in taking the sustainable development path and the Government's focus on a multi-pronged strategy for ensuring the overall growth and well-being of the people by focusing on sustained livelihood, right to food and work as well as access to basic health, nutrition and education. Prof. Steven Rockefeller, Chair, Earth Charter Council, addressed the audience on behalf of the Earth Charter International. The DG UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova's address was read out by Dr. A. Parsuramen, Director UNESCO, Delhi who also addressed the audience independently as the head of UNESCO, Delhi. They mentioned about the importance of the Earth Charter, Education for Sustainable Development and work done by UNESCO.

The second plenary had a keynote address by Prof. Steven Rockefeller on the challenges and opportunities facing the Earth Charter Initiative. Prof. Rockefeller in his speech gave a background of the Earth Charter and highlighted key declarations which have reaffirmed its vision. He emphasised on Education which has a critical role to play in the transition to a just and sustainable world reiterating that the Earth Charter can be used in both formal and informal educational programs to clarify the critical choices facing humanity and the urgent need for commitment to a sustainable way of life. Prof. Rockefeller's address was followed by observation and discussions initiated by Razeena Omar, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa who summarized the comments made in the talk by Prof. Rockefeller. The other discussant was Sudarshan Iyengar, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapith who presented a Gandhian perspective based on the Prof. Rockefeller's talk.

A special session at the second plenary was a video conference where Julia Martin Lefèvre, Director General, IUCN and Ashok Khosla, President, IUCN were beamed in live for a comments on their insights and experiences with the Earth Charter followed by an interaction with the audience.





The third Plenary of the Conference focused on the Ethics of Climate Change. Chaired by Alexander Likhotal, President of Green Cross International, the session had several speakers from industry, government and civil society presenting their viewpoints.

Focusing on energy efficiency, Prasad Menon of Tata Power emphasized the need to convince industry stakeholders and business owners about the long term benefits of addressing sustainability. Dr. S K Nanda, Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Gujarat, highlighted the ethical principles of equity; 'polluter pays' and the right to development and sustainability which need to be reflected in adaptation and mitigation programmes. Prof. Brendan Mackey of the Australian National University said that the Earth Charter can unblock the UNFCCC negotiations by resolving the ethically challenging questions, mostly concerning common but differentiated responsibilities.

The fourth and fifth plenaries at the Conference were on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) leading a discussion to explore the Ethical Framework in the context of ESD. The panelists in Plenary session 4 included Prof. Charles Hopkins, Prof. Anil Gupta, Prof. Vinod Raina, Ms. Nandita Krishna, Dr. Ram Boojh Yadav, Prof. Rick Clugston, and Prof. James Hindson.

Rick Clugston highlighted numerous examples of universities in the US that are reorienting the content and process of education by integrating the Earth Charter. Dr. Anil Gupta, Prof. and Coordinator at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, highlighted the need to learn from India and Indian culture where some people have set extraordinary standards to measure consciousness. Prof. Vinod Raina of Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti addressed on the Gandhain concept of Education and how well it fitted in India. Dr. Ram Boojh of UNESCO informed the gathering that UNESCO recognizes the Earth Charter as an important ethical framework for Sustainable Development and cited examples of work done in collaboration. Prof. James Hindson, Director, Sense and Sustainability, UK, emphasized his speech on optimism as a strategy for making a better future.

Plenary 5 began with Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director, CEE drawing the attention of participants to the need to appreciate diversity of opinions and perspectives in relation to context. Prof. Ryokichi Hirono from SEIKEI University, Japan showcased the initiatives of schools and universities in Japan and spoke of how the EC framework was promoted to seek value-based education in the curriculum. Bernard Holland from International Eco Schools spoke about the eco-school networks across the globe. Mr. Manuel Obregon, Minister of Culture, Costa Rica, shared his thoughts on culture, heritage, education and the environment. The plenary concluded with the presentation of a film clip on 'Journey of the Universe' by Mary Evelyn Tucker.



The plenary session of Day 3 of the EC+10 conference was held in the serene environment of the Sabarmati Ashram on the banks of river Sabarmati, from where Mahatma Gandhi had once orchestrated India's historic and unprecedented freedom struggle based on the principle of non-violence or Ahimsa. Threads of sustainability ceremony was held where everyone shared their vision for a sustainable world. The panel of speakers at the plenary session included Prof Steven Rockefeller, Prof. Mary Evelyn Tucker, Forum on Religion and Ecology and Earth Charter International Council; Rabbi Soetendorp, Earth Charter Commissioner; Vishwaguru Paramhans Swami and little Avatarpuri representing Yoga for Daily Life; Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Art of Living; Sister Valerie Bernard representing the Brahma Kumaris; Michael Slaby of the Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values; Kartikeya Sarabhai and Tridip Suhrud from the Sabarmati Ashram.

The concluding plenary saw workshop participants weaving through the strands of inspiring ideas and recommendations that they had deliberated over for days. Jim Taylor, Director WESSA, South Africa and Mamata Pandya, Senior Programme Director, CEE facilitated this process. They invited workshop representatives to share the key outcomes of their deliberations with the audience. This helped bring together the strands of discussion from each of the workshops contributing to a rich tapestry of inspiring views that will help take the EC forward from Ahmedabad.

Workshops on specific areas explored how an ethical framework and specially the Earth Charter can be applied in that area. Best practices were shared and key issues were discussed. The ten workshop themes covered areas like School Education and Teacher Training; Higher Education; Non Formal Education; Information and Communication Technologies for Education for Sustainable Development; Business & CSR; Religion, Spirituality and Ethics; Cities, Communities and Urbanisation; Sustainable Livelihoods; Global Challenges and Global Governance; and Biodiversity.

A summary of the discussion at the workshops was posted on the Conference website each day. Each workshop came up with a final report on day three. In addition to this each workshop came up with a set of three recommendations they felt were the key recommendations which was shared at the concluding plenary session. The Overall Recommendations of the Conference was developed based on the recommendations from the workshops.

Two exhibitions - "The Seeds of Hope" and "Our Living Culture" were displayed during the Conference and received a very good response from the participants. Several stalls were also put up by partner institutions.







The publications launched during the Conference were “Gandhi and the Earth Charter – Towards A Sustainable World”; “Explore Discover Think Act- the Paryavaran Mitra Publication”; “Multilateral Agreements: Legal Status of Secretariats”. A special music album “Life Alert” inspired by the Earth Charter was also launched as part of Conference special events. A special edition of CEE’s ESD journal dedicated to the Earth Charter was launched at the ESD plenary of the Conference. The publication, “Earth Charter and Gandhi—Towards a Sustainable World” compiled by Kartikeya Sarabhai, Meena Raghunathan and Amishal Modi was released by Steven Rockefeller. Largely a compilation of quotes from Mahatma Gandhi, the book explores the links between Gandhian thinking and the EC principles. Prof. Rockefeller said that the book was a wonderful gift to the EC and hoped that it would inspire many people.



Youth Participation formed an integral part of the Conference. Youth not only volunteered and took up specific tasks as part of the various teams working on different tasks but also spoke as youth representatives in each of the plenaries. They also took part in the workshop discussions and expressed their viewpoint in the concluding plenary. Children participated in the Conference primarily through the Paryavaran Mitra Event but could be seen as avid listeners in the plenaries and also presented work at the exhibition.

Cultural programmes every evening during the conference days brought in an element of festivity to the Conference. The Simbiosis

Concert by Manuel Obrego'n, Costa Rican Minister of Culture was a unique experience where he played the piano to match the visuals of nature in the background. On the second night of the Conference there was a performance by Mallika Sarabhai and Artists of Darpana. 'Yatra Gurjar', directed and choreographed by Ms. Sarabhai, a dance drama depicting the history, culture and costumes of Ahmedabad was much appreciated by both the International and Indian participants.

For media coverage, a press conference before the event was planned to inform the media about this significant conference and brief them about the important happenings during the conference. The media covered the event extensively on all three days- the local newspapers carrying articles and photographs of the event everyday.

The Conference had live streaming of plenaries during all the three days of the Conference. About 100 persons from over 20 countries participated in the Conference virtually.

The Conference consultations centered on identifying effective and creative ways of embedding into practice, the values and principles that constitute an ethical framework for a sustainable world. Each workshop came up with a set of three recommendations in their specific area. As a result of the Conference it is expected that there is increased networking and the fostering of partnerships for integrating the EC principles in practice. The Conference created an effective forum for exchange of knowledge and experiences of applying the EC principles in ESD.

## Planning for the Conference

The Conference was proposed by Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director CEE at the Earth Charter Council meeting in March 2010 when the Earth Charter +10 events were being discussed. Since events were being planned in Mexico, Netherlands, Australia and several smaller events around the world were being proposed, Mr Sarabhai suggested that the Conference would be a culmination of the events held around the world to commemorate 10 years of the Earth Charter and would specifically look at the Ethical Framework in the context of Education for Sustainable Development.

Planning for the Conference by the core team began about 8 months before the actual dates of the Conference. The core team for the programme included Mirian Vilela and Rick Cluston from Earth Charter International, Bernard Combes from UNESCO and Kartikeya Sarabhai and Prarthana Borah from CEE. The Conference being organized jointly by CEE and Earth Charter International, letters of invitations had to be jointly drafted with roles of each invited speaker and participation decided upon jointly by both partners. Letters were drafted and sent out almost 6 months prior to the Conference. All decisions on the programme content for the Conference was discussed between the two partners and the conclusion arrived at jointly. From almost three months prior to the Conference the core team met regularly every night via skype to take stock of what had been done and to discuss the way forward. Meetings were held every night from mid September and the entire month of October just before the Conference days.



A draft note on the workshop content was developed by CEE and then shared with the Earth Charter team, which was then improvised upon. Initially the lists of workshop themes were almost fifteen which after a series of discussions was finalized at 10. CEE workshop coordinators were identified and developed the concept notes for their individual workshops. The CEE workshop coordinators also developed the schedule for the workshops, decided on the format and identified the list of Indian speakers who could give an Indian perspective to the workshop content. The list of international participants who could look at the workshop content from the point of view of the Earth Charter was suggested by the Earth Charter International and shared with the CEE workshop coordinators who got in touch with them and jointly planned the workshop content.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India (MHRD, GOI) expressed interest in partnering the Conference while the Conference was being planned. This required many meetings





with the Secretary and Joint Secretary, MHRD to get the Ministry on board. Initially it was proposed that the Conference would be organized in partnership with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Peace and Sustainable Development, a Centre of MHRD and the proposal was submitted for the same. However later the Ministry officials proposed that it would be a conference of the MHRD and not just organized in partnership with the said institute. The proposal was then revised and MHRD approached to not just partner but to co sponsor the Conference. Since the Ministry was keen that it be organized in a partnership in the lines of what was done in the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education held in 2007, the Conference was later announced as a Conference supported by MHRD where the MHRD logo was given equal prominence as the other two organizers, Earth Charter International and CEE. The Conference was co sponsored by MHRD.



Efforts were also made to get on board industry as a partner towards which the Government of Gujarat played a very significant role. Shri S.K Nanda, Secretary Environment, Government of Gujarat called a meeting of the industry in Gujarat and invited them to extend financial support to the Conference. This required rigorous follow up by CEE which resulted in several industry partnering the Conference.

A website [www.earthcharterplus10.org](http://www.earthcharterplus10.org) was developed exclusively for the Conference almost 8 months prior to the Conference. It had a background of why the Conference was to be held and highlighted the Conference Objectives. Online registration began in April 2010. As the plans for the Conference took concrete shape this website was constantly updated. It also served as a platform to link the different Earth Charter plus 10 events being held around the world. The concept notes for each workshop was uploaded on a separate page which also had a discussion forum to facilitate a pre conference discussion on the programme content for the workshop. There was also a youth blog and Facebook page link on the website.

In addition to the Conference content, other logistics related information was updated on the website. Hotel information and the CEE negotiated special Conference rates were put up for the convenience of the possible participants. The



website had information on the city of Ahmedabad, places to visit, pre/post conference tours, details on CEE campus which was the venue and the directions for reaching it. An email id [info@earthcharterplus10.org](mailto:info@earthcharterplus10.org) was created for the participants to communicate with the Conference secretariat. The conference secretariat was formed about 8 months prior to the Conference.

A Call for papers was put up on the website and papers invited on the 10 workshop themes. A scientific committee for review of papers was constituted and was responsible for reviewing and selecting the papers. The selected papers were forwarded to the workshop coordinators who decided based on the format of the workshop how these were to be shared.

The participants were provided with a Conference kit which consisted of a Programme Guide which had all general information related to the Conference, the schedule, and details of the event. It also served as a ready reckoner containing a list of important contact numbers and the campus map.

During the Conference days, Ceenario, CEE's inhouse online magazine carrying day to day Conference proceedings was uploaded on the Conference website. Daily workshop reports and photographs were also uploaded on the website.

Since there were many participants around the world who could not attend the Conference due to different reasons, planning for the Conference also involved trying to organise a platform for a virtual conference. Online meetings were held with Heart In Action Enterprises, a virtual platform service provider, on how this was to be done. A platform was developed for two way streaming of the Conference. This also included discussions with IUCN, Geneva for the virtual participation of Julia Martin Lefèvre, DG, IUCN and Ashok Khosla, President IUCN. The virtual platform was publicised through social media like Facebook and Twitter. A Facebook page on Earth Charter plus 10 was developed almost 6 months prior to the Conference and this had active participation of the virtual participants for the Conference since this was constantly updated. During the Conference there were about 100 participants from over 20 countries who participated in the Conference virtually.





## Conference Format

The Conference had simultaneous plenaries and working sessions. There were seven plenary sessions including the inaugural and concluding plenary. The plenary themes identified for discussions were on the Earth Charter, Climate Change, Education for Sustainable Development and Future Directions for the Earth Charter

Date	Plenary	Key Speakers
01.11.2010	Inaugural	Amit Khare, A Parsuramen, HE Dr.Shrimati Kamlaji, Kartikeya Sarabhai, Mirian Vilela, Rudd Lubbers
01.11.2010	Earth Charter	Steven C Rockefeller Razeena Omar, Sudarshan Iyengar ( discussants) Ashok Khosla, Julia Martin Lefèvre (via virtual conference)
01.11.2010	Climate Change	Alexander Likhotal, Brendan Mackey, Prasad Menon, S.K.Nanda
02.11.2010	Education for Sustainable Development.	Anil Gupta, Charles Hopkins, James Hindson, Nanditha Krishna, Ram Boojh Yadav, Rick Clugston, Vinod Raina
02.11.2010	Education For Sustainable Development-2	Bernard C Holland, Manuel Obregon, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Kartikeya Sarabhai, Razeena Omar, Ryokichi Hirono
03.11.2010	Threads of Sustainability	Mary Evelyn Tucker, Michael Slaby, Rabbi Soetendorp, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Steven C Rockefeller, Tridip Suhrud, Valerie Bernard, Vishwaguru Paramhans Swami
03.11.2010	Future Visions & Conclusions	Erna Witoelar, Isabel Enstr m, Jim Taylor, Kartikeya Sarabhai, Mamata Pandya, Mirian Vilela, Rudd Lubbers, Sunita Narain

### Workshops

Workshops on 10 specific areas explored how an ethical frame work and specially the Earth Charter can be applied in that area. Best practices were shared and key issues were discussed.

Each thematic workshop involved

1. Sharing of experiences and good practices.
2. Exploring and clarifying how the Earth Charter as an ethical framework and guide to action can be used most effectively in each area.
3. Exploring ways to develop the resources and tools needed to support EC activities in each area



### Workshop Themes

Sr. No	Themes
01	School Education and Teacher Training
02	Higher Education: Towards a Responsible Future
03	Non Formal Education
04	Reviewing, Rethinking, and Reorienting Information and Communication Technologies for Education for Sustainable Development.
05	Business & CSR in a Green Economy
06	The Earth Charter and Religion, Spirituality and Ethics
07	Cities, Communities & Urbanisation
08	Ethical Development Practices for Sustainable Livelihoods - Issues and Concerns
09	Global Challenges and Global Governance
10	Biodiversity & Ethics



# Conference Schedule

Time / Date	1-Nov-10	2-Nov-10	3-Nov-10
8:00 - 9.00	Registration	Registration	9.00 AM at Sabarmati Ashram
9.30 - 10.45	Plenary 1: Inauguration	Plenary 4 Education for Sustainable Development	Plenary 6: Threads of Sustainability
10.45 - 11.00	Tea Break	Tea Break	Tea at Sabarmati Ashram Transfer to Cee
11.00 - 1.00	Plenary 2: Earth Charter Keynote : Mr. Steven Rockefeller	Parallel working sessions	Parallel working sessions
	12.30 PM - Video Conference, IUCN		
1 00 - 2 00		Lunch Break	
2.00 - 4.00	Parallel Working Sessions	Parallel Working Sessions	Plenary 7: Future Visioning
4.00 - 4.30	Tea Break		Plenary 8: Conclusions
4.30- 6.00	Plenary 3: Climate Change	Plenary 5: Education for Sustainable Development-2	High Tea
6.30-8.00	Dinner		
7:00	Manuel Obregon Simbiosis Concert	Mallika Sarabhai - Darpana Performance	
7:30			





## Plenary Sessions

### Inaugural Plenary

Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director CEE welcomed all the dignitaries present on the dais and began his address by stating that the Earth Charter conference initiative has taken a step forward in the journey of reaching a sustainable planet. He said that to achieve a sustainable planet “Ethics and Values” need to be put in sync with development planning. He stated that the Earth Charter is an unfinished agenda of the Rio Summit of 1992. He said that today we know where we are and now there is a need for us to find out ways which will lead us forward to a sustainably developed world for all. In his address he mentioned the history of “The Green CEE campus” at Thaltej Tekra, Ahmedabad - how nature paved its own way and has turned an almost barren land to a spectacular natural green area in the heart of the city. According to Mr. Sarabhai, this conference would provide an opportunity to mend individual ways of development and build a common sustainable world for all.



Amit Khare IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India opened his address by congratulating CEE for organizing the Conference in the land of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. He asserted that this conference will invite many new ideas for development, which will bring a new outlook to people. Mr. Khare stated that sustainable development has always been in the roots of India's development strategies, where emphasis has always been laid on developing with nature. Be it during ancient Indian historical era or recent political history, India has always supported the cause of development with sustainable practices. He mentioned how the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, was one of the first leaders among the upcoming world powers to have taken part in the Stockholm Conference in 1972, UN's first major conference on international environmental issues, which marked a turning point in the development of international environmental politics. He stated that it was for the first time in the world that environmental concerns of the developing world along with their societal issues like Poverty were brought in light to the developed world. Mr. Khare advocated the cause of Development, but by not following models of already developed nations. He proposed that through leapfrogging, developing countries can avoid environmentally harmful stages of development and do not need to follow the polluting development trajectory of industrialized countries. In the Indian context of development, Socio-Economic aspects have to be addressed when one is concerned with developing through sustainable practices. He accentuated that over all growth of the country should ensure not only



financial well being but factors like right to food, right to work, right to good health, right to education etc. Mr. Khare said that human beings stand at the centre of Sustainable Development and maintaining harmony with nature is an integral part of that development process. The development paradigm has to be so, which should take care of not only the present generation but of the upcoming future generation as well. Mr. Khare threw light on integral planning policy of India by stating planning process of the nation through five year plans, which form the backbone of development of the nation. He said by initiatives like National Rural Health Mission, Right to Information, Rights of Tribals, Forest Right Act etc the government is initiating and empowering the participation of communities of the country in the Sustainable Development process. The journey from a developing to a developed nation, should be based on the model of development with its foundation as transparency and participation of people. He highlighted India's process of initiating the same through decentralization at various administrative levels as well like Panchayati Raj System involving representation from village, block, taluka and district. Mr. Khare stated that students and teachers play an important role in the well being of the nation. Towards this, Government of India has taken steps to promote the context based learning of which National Curriculum Framework 2005 is an example. Mr. Khare closed with a thought of walking on the path of sustainable development with ethics and values. He considered this conference an opportunity for all those present as a platform to interact and learn from each other.

Mirian Vilela, Executive Director, Earth Charter International informed the participants about the Earth Charter plus 10 events which had happened in at least one region in the world in the year. She said that the Conference should be a forum for sharing good experiences and learn from each other. She said the overall purpose of the Conference would be to 1) Advance the mission goals 2) Raise the understanding of Earth Charter 3) Promote dialogue, collaboration and action and 4) Develop goals and objectives and ensure their transition into our lives.



Since the Earth Charter aims to explore sustainability and ESD she appealed to all to look at the Earth Charter as an instrument for intersection between sustainability and ESD.

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, who could not be present at the event had sent a message which was read by A Parsuramen, Director, UNESCO Delhi.

The message stated that this conference has set an example of organizing a Civil Society Initiative with wide international support. For UNESCO this conference was symbolic due to the given reasons :

- a) Ahmedabad, the venue for EC conference in 2010 was same as that of ICEE in year 2007 where UNESCO with CEE celebrated 30 years of Environmental Education (EE) since the first EE conference held at Tbilisi.
- b) CEE is the institution which has pioneered in translating the principles of ESD in school education and environmental awareness initiatives.
- c) The conference to celebrate 10 years of Earth Charter coincided with UN's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD).

The message from Ms. Bokova emphasized on critical and innovative thinking as foundation of a sustainably developed society. According to her, teacher training is an integral part of ESD. Media also



has to play a vital role in spreading awareness about issues of concerns like climate change, global warming, disappearing and extinction of biodiversity, through means of non formal education. UNESCO advocates the transition of today's world to a green developed world with innovations of science & technology along with policies of development by countries. In her address it was pointed out that the focus during the second half of the DESD would be on : a) Enhancing synergy on the common world platform b) Education c) Capacity Building d) Strengthening base of SD. New forms of partnerships among institutions would need to be initialized to mobilize the development process. She expressed her appreciation that Earth Charter International and CEE had created a platform for such a process through this conference by focusing on Capacity building, information and knowledge sharing with respect to education and awareness.

A. Parsuramen, Director, UNESCO-New Delhi, also addressed the audience in his capacity as UNESCO Delhi, Director. He said that people need to inculcate the change in attitude, changing the ways of thinking and integrating values and ethics of Sustainable Development in all walks of life. Only by practicing such development policies will people be able to attain sense of global unity. Earth Charter's common goal of renovating and rebuilding the ethics and values, answers the question of how to attain that common world. Reorienting education and putting together the good practice around the world will act as guide book for those preaching the idea of sustainability. Mr. Parsuramen quoted Mahatma Gandhi's word "Be the change you want to see in the world" as consciousness beginning at home. Mr. Parsuramen thanked Mr. Kartikeya V. Sarabhai for his remarkable efforts in the field of Environment Education and rallying the whole world along with CEE towards the cause by joining hands with Earth Charter initiative.



Ruud Lubbers, Earth Charter Commissioner, Former Prime Minister, Netherlands and Member of the Earth Charter Commission in his address gave a historical background on the drafting of the Earth Charter. Pointing out the major principles underlying the EC he stated; "1. We are now becoming aware that we are interconnected with a common destiny. We have common responsibilities for SD and can be thought as "intergenerational solidarity" 2. We are living in diverse conditions of culture and resources; we need to enjoy this diversity of life and not consider it as a problem. We need to have respect for the diversity ; 3. There is a need for complimentary governance. We have always considered politicians to govern and manage the common responsibilities and resources. However, the need is now to involve civil society into governance. The focus has to also include the people and ethical principles in addition to politicians and business sectors as major stakeholders in present governance. ; 4. We need to include Pneumo / Oxygen / Prana – i.e. spirituality. We have left common responsibilities to politicians but now realize that we should nourish ourselves with spirituality."



Her Excellency Dr. Smt Kamlaji, Governor of Gujarat in her Inaugural Address welcomed all the participants from all around the globe who were present in CEE to bridge the gap between ethical principles of development and their integration and acceptance in practice. Her Excellency threw light on harms caused to our immediate environment due to the prominent reason of increasing population pressure on the limited resources available to mankind. She said that any development process is

affected by the environment and vice versa and as an informed and educated society we should aim at a development process that can be sustained. Research and technology can be oriented towards attaining sustainability. Development policy should be such which should take care of innovative technologies for development, creating employment opportunities for masses and planning remedial action for what has gone wrong with the environment due to faulty development process in past. Her Excellency quoted Mahatma Gandhi that "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed". She emphasized on rediscovering development process for natural conservation. She said that the aim should be at transition from a polluted and degraded development pattern to the one leading to perfectly balanced world with harmony among man and nature. Her Excellency Dr. Smt Kamlaji said that her expectations from the Conference was such that it be a discussion forum for ethically developing the framework for development and that the concepts of sustainability and ethics of Earth Charter discussed in Ahmedabad reach out to the world.



## Plenary 2 Earth Charter

Steven Rockefeller, Chair, Earth Charter International Council, giving the Key Note Address on : Challenges and Opportunities facing the Earth Charter Initiative shared some reflections on the issues, challenges and opportunities in his address.

He said, EC remains profoundly relevant to educate global citizens to build a sustainable world community. He said that humanity has the potential to build a well ordered world, community and to create a promising future, but to realize that possibility the world's peoples must come together and cooperate as never before and make the hard choices necessary to redirect the course of events.



He informed that no UN or civil society declaration has replaced the Earth Charter to date. However, he mentioned that some significant documents like UN Millennium Declaration, UN Global Compact, the Johannesburg Declaration 2002, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007, the Charter of Compassion have come into existence. He emphasized that documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Earth Charter are especially valuable as educational instruments. He said at the UN and intergovernmental meetings, there is a distinct but interrelated social, economic and environmental dimension of SD—often described as the three pillars of SD. There is a fourth Pillar—the global ethical and spiritual consciousness that is awakening in civil society around the world and finds expression in EC. He emphasized that this global ethical consciousness in truth should be the first pillar of a sustainable way of life.

The EC recognizes the ethical, spiritual as well as the environmental, social and economic dimensions of the SD challenge. There is a need to clarify what is meant by ethics and ethical values. Ethics...is marked by insightful ascent to human values, whereas moralism is blind obedience; ethics is transmitted with informed persuasion, rather than enforced with absolute interdicts. It is the ethical and spiritual vision in the Earth Charter that illuminates the deeper challenge inherent in the concept of sustainable human development as a guiding socio-economic ideal.



Describing about the text of the Earth Charter, he said the EC Commission has the sole authority over the text of the EC. The commission oversaw the drafting process, approved the final text of the EC and launched the Charter in 2000.

Sudarshan Iyengar, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapith in his vibrant speech discussion pointed out the “indulgent” nature of the present development path and said the key to SD was not be indulgent. He recalled the address made by Mahatma Gandhiji in 1916 while addressing the economists conference and humorously recollected the comments by Gandhiji on his knowledge on economics and how he relied on his inner conscience and the inner voice to guide him. He said that the topic of the conference – ethics cannot fundamentally be weighed or measured. Therefore, this scientific inquiry and research process must have a methodology to regulate itself and then to regulate others. This is where the Prana or Prayer has to come. The equation of 4 Ps has to change. He articulated that instead of Profit-Planet-People-Prana it should follow the sequence of Prana or Prayer – People – Planet – Profit which places Prayer as creating the fundamental attitude for people to care for the planet and in the end take whatever is remaining as their “profit”. This attitudinal change is required in the SD approach in order make it truly ethical. The ESD focus must be to train the heart, head, and hand. Then only can we experience education and transmit education.

Razeena Omar from Earth Charter International Council endorsed the viewpoints of the speakers and stressed on the need for collective responsibility. She mentioned that the Earth Charter provides us with a framework for a sustainable living.

### Plenary 3 Climate Change

Alexander Likhotal, President and CEO, Green Cross International chaired this plenary on Climate Change. He pointed out that the political system had lost its ability to address long term interests and hoped to arrive at new levels of thinking through the present discussion.

Prasad Menon, Managing Director, TATA Power highlighted the industrial perspective and ethical concerns for SD. He stated that the truths that humanity was facing was that of global warming; rapid depletion of Earth's natural resources and finding industry at the centre of being responsible for this situation. Elaborating further, he said that the industrialists now are facing immense pressure from environmentalists, public and civil society to conserve ecology. Energy, he stated, cannot be taken for granted and that the demand for energy has to be met through investments in renewable energy resources. New resources that would replace fossil fuel usage and dependence has to be discovered and promoted.

Mr. Menon stressed that TATA's have adopted “care” as central to their core values, because the value of taking care embodies the respect for ecosystem and also is an



embodiment of hope. Deliberating further, he informed that the real challenge was to convince the co-workers, industrialists and the business stakeholders on the profitability in investing in sustainability measures and approaches. There was a need to ensure that business community looked at sustainability as a “profitable sense”. He gave several examples of TATA initiatives with school education, carbon footprint awareness and GHG reduction strategies. Mr. Menon concluded by quoting Chief Seattle “human kind has not woven the web of life, but we are an integral thread. We are all connected.”

S.K.Nanda, Principal Secretary, Gujarat Forest and Environment Department, highlighted the need to urgently tap renewable energy sources like solar, wind and hydropower. Talking about the need for economic growth, he articulated about not taking short cuts for rapid progress, but rather leap frog using technologies and within the principles of SD. The idea was also to ensure equity and take stock of the status of environmental quality on a more frequent and periodic basis. He further stressed that business communities must consider CSR as not an activity but rather consider environmental protection as an integral mandate of the company. While pointing the role of CDMs for mitigating climate change impacts, he stated that CDMs are increasingly used as a business model to further economic gains, rather than understanding it as a tool for cleaner initiatives. The attitude of business stakeholders need to change to incorporate responsible corporate governance. He talked about allocating responsibilities for GHG emissions reductions, the need for promoting renewable technologies, environmental consciousness and development of an urge to live in harmony with nature.



Brendan Mackey, Professor, Australian National University reflected on the reasons for stalled negotiations on climate change amongst the governments across the globe. According to him, the negotiators were finding it difficult to avoid the ethically pressing questions in their negotiations and hence the Earth Charter proved as a useful tool for closely examining the climate change treaties and highlighting the ethical issues and addressing the most prominent ones. This, he hoped would bring out moral courage and ethical considerations for addressing the negotiators concerns. He focused on 5 main points highlighting what the EC brings to the climate change problem?



1. EC brings to focus the ethical dimension of the climate change problem. Prof. Mackay stated that the climate change problems are generally discussed in terms of its economic and political dimensions. The ethical dimension is often ignored. He felt that acting ethically meant to consider our moral responsibilities and duties to others – both individually and collectively.
2. EC speaks to the ethical imperative of universal responsibility – intergenerational equity. The current challenge is to take action to avoid major damages in the future. But the challenge is also to answer the question of why to take action, when the benefits of Climate Change action will accrue to those in the future? The argument that Climate Change science cannot predict with certainty future scenarios also remained a sign of concern. EC attempts to answer these questions
3. EC can be used to evaluate the ethics of policies and measures for mitigation and adaptation. There is a need to ensure that policies and measures agreed to and implemented for mitigation and



adaptation are themselves ethical and do not lead to new problems. The EC principles can form the basis of criteria for evaluating the ethics of mitigation and adaptation policies and measures. The burden of mitigation must fall on those most responsible to the problem.

4. Internalizing the environmental consciousness and utilizing EC for advancing jurisprudence. One should acknowledge that there is a price tag to biodiversity loss and environmental damage. Thus, the price tag must be inbuilt to consumer products, so that citizens can take decisions on choosing products that they feel are environmentally friendly and socially just. EC can serve as a para-legal principles for the necessary 'global ecological integrity' and the 'interdependence of the community of life'.
5. EC makes clear that climate change is a symptom of a larger problem which primarily reflects our limited understanding of the global climate and interconnectedness amongst the elements. One should delve on our common but differentiated responsibilities. One needs to factor in the environmental costs into the actions that are undertaken.

## Plenary 4 Education for Sustainable Development

Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair for Reorienting Teacher Education for Sustainability in his opening remarks expressed that Earth Charter and Education for Sustainable Development are vital, timely and needed. He was of the opinion that a lot of synergy exists between Earth Charter and ESD. He briefly described the events that led to the Drafting of Agenda 21 and how the importance of education, public awareness and training got in to it. With the development of the concept of SD, the practice of ESD was initiated. He touched upon the various events that happened in the Decade. He said that the Earth Charter gives scope from science based education to social education.



Ram Boojh Yadav, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Delhi explained the that the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development has just crossed the mid way point in 2009. While discussing the events which are planned in the rest of the Decade in the various parts of the World, he said that UNESCO recognizes that the Earth Charter is an important ethical framework for sustainable development. He also mentioned about the challenges faced during the DESD which included the need to keep the momentum alive and translate the commitments into tangible action and at the same establishing structures for ESD that can go beyond the Decade.

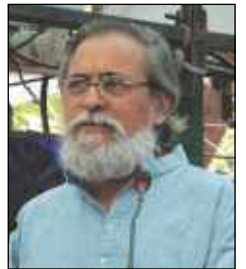


Rick Clugston, Earth Charter Scholarship Project, Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, Florida Gulf Coast University USA applauded that CEE is bringing life to education as it has done to this site on which CEE is now standing. He said CEE through its various programmes is guiding one to teach sustainability. In the course of his talk, he said there were numerous examples of universities that are reorienting the content and process of education by integrating the Earth Charter. He said the failure of the Copenhagen talks on Climate Change (COP15) throws up a major sustainability challenge where every one was concerned with



short term gains and no body was ready to take the potential additional costs and cut down high levels of consumption. He pointed out that the Earth Charter presents a deeper form of sustainability and guides us towards Sustainable Development.

Anil Gupta, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Coordinator SRISTI and Honey Bee Network in his interesting presentation brought out stories which set high moral standards. Remarking on the poster put up by youth at the entrance of CEE which read 'Enough Talk, We Want Action Now', he said sustainability should be in practice and not in books. Professor Gupta recounted about the practice of Chabutara, bird feeders. Communities, in the old and new parts of Ahmedabad still have the bird feeders and provide the birds the feed. These examples demonstrate the concern and respect that the cultures show towards other life forms. He felt that asking simple questions like how are vegetables being disposed at home will make students think about waste and its disposal. He said that Indian culture had people who set extraordinary standards to measure consciousness. The implication is that sustainability principles can be drawn from all cultures. He felt that the aspect of culture is not adequately incorporated into our education system. He mentioned how Honeybee network collected immense amount of knowledge from India. Education he said, must manifest to exchange of benefits. He was of the opinion that every three months, schools should stop teaching in the classrooms for two weeks and let the children simply walk around and observe. He called it the Shodh yatra or walk and observe. He said learning for them meant 'learning from within , learning from each other, learning from nature, learning from people'.



Nanditha Krishna, Director, C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) Foundation introduced the participants to the work of CPR Foundation and their experience in ESD. She quoted Gandhiji to explain about the need for ethical values in order to prevent environmental degradation. She stressed that the urgent need was for action since awareness had been covered quite adequately over the years. She cited examples of awareness interventions like environmental education integration into school curricula and production of educational materials. She stressed that Indian cultural values must be promoted and students oriented towards ethical thinking and moral value building.



James Hindson, Director, Sense and Sustainability, spoke about the challenges facing the world today. He felt that the world is facing a "total storm" or "tipping point" or "collapse", when looking at the key economic, social and ecological indicators. He quoted UK Minister of Education's statement "Children are in the frontline of the battle against climate change". He questioned why and what have our young people done to deserve this.

Since the world now is a better place and that people are much better fed, better sheltered, better protected against disease, and more likely to live to an old age than their ancestors the question was whether it will be better in future? He felt that the world will not continue as it is. This is the whole point of progress, the whole message of cultural evolution, the whole point of dynamic change. He drew attention to the fact that people aren't so good at predicting the future. He believes that the core value which we need to generate among young people is this idea





that the future can be better, they can innovate for the future even though they don't know what it is going to be like.

Vinod Raina, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, reflecting on the overall impact of the ESD and EC since its existence in the year 2000, stated that we are still struggling to understand the pedagogy and content of ESD, although there is certainly some positive contribution to the understanding of education leading to sustainable development. In his speech he questioned the concept of 'teaching' and how it is understood generally as transferring knowledge by the people who know to the people who know less. The focus is on cognitive and not on affective. This approach and attitude, he stated, would not suit to promote ESD, for the very reason that learning about SD requires a learner centred approach, where the learner is exposed to observe, analyze, realize to internalize values and practice ethically appropriate and environmentally friendly actions. Giving an example of Gandhiji's similar dilemma in 1937 on how to approach education for balancing economically unsustainable developmental pattern and to shift it to more sustainable ways; on the type of education that India needed; he suggested on the "Nayi Taleem" – the Wardha Scheme educational approach that considered value education as central to learning. Gandhiji considered an education that appealed to the 'Heart, Head and Hand' as being the driving force for ethical education and Education for SD. The question therefore posed was "How can people and earth live happily"? He pointed out that on an average about 1.8 global ha. was required by individuals across the globe for their comfort of living. Given this case, he challenged the citizens of US to try to live within the 1.8 global ha. The education required was to teach to live within the 1.8 global ha. Further, for Gross Happiness Index to emerge we must talk about Governance and Consumerism. He elaborated that education must talk about governance, local production along with Nayi Taleem. He concluded by requesting the educators not to target school students for ESD, instead teach adults about ESD.



## Plenary 5 Education for Sustainable Development

Razeena Omar, Earth Charter International Council chaired this session.

Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director, CEE explained with an anecdote how every action has its own logic and integrity which may differ from one's own. What one requires is patience to understand and not force others to follow the standard way that is practiced. He stated that ethics are embedded values which are obtained by listening and observing what adults do. Hence, the need to listen and respect voices. Drawing attention towards the CEE campus, he informed the participants that initially it was a barren sand dune. However by protecting and managing it with appropriate plantations, it was possible today to have greenery and the avian biodiversity. This was an illustration of how surroundings can become good teachers. Later, recalling his initial period at CEE, he briefly explained how Smt. Kamala Chaudhary was instrumental in his being associated with the Earth Charter; his meeting with Stephen Rockefeller and their discussion on the EC series



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called voices. He then went on to explain the value of partnerships and how education could be an enriching experience by drawing upon the learnings amongst the international, national and local partners. He appealed to the institutions, academicians, researchers, communities to partner for strengthening ESD initiatives. He pointed out that collective actions are required and there was a need to understand the contexts and perspectives amongst the people. The sari was an example of this which could be adopted and worn as per the local taste, but essentially the design remained the same. Similarly educational materials must be locally adaptable and the essence of the message carried forward. He mentioned that a process in a way, has been like a tapestry coming together with many threads with the ethical framework, which has come together because of EC.

Ryokichi Hirono, Professor Seikei University of Japan started with a quotation by Albert Schweitzer "Man has lost the capacity to foresee and to forestall. He will end by destroying the earth." Further, referring to the World Development Report, 2010 drawing attention the issue of poverty and climate change – he pointed out that these were the major concerns of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Prof. Hirono then gave an overview of the initiatives in Japan starting from the environmental education to the world summit on sustainable development. He listed the major global threats including the economic threats of excessive dependence on foreign markets and capital; high energy intensive machineries; social threats; incidence of unemployment, inequity, rapid urbanization, governance and environmental issues. Addressing the above issues required moral courage and Earth Charter (EC) helped to make us alert to actions that trigger the global threats. Therefore, the ESD initiatives in Japan are now consciously integrating the spirit of EC into its action. Such initiatives help in education for changing people's values, attitudes and priorities in favour of balanced, inclusive, sustainable and innovative global growth. Informing about Japanese interventions to promote ESD activities, he said Japan has established an inter-ministerial committee among others to launch a national guideline for ESD and provide financial support to those NGOs and CBOs engaged in partnership with other like-minded organizations at home and overseas, through various channels including the Japan Fund for Global Environment. Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) for ESD have been located within each region to cater to the diverse approaches of ESD and to meet the specific needs and requirements of different communities.



Bernard Holland, International Eco Schools introduced the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE) which is operating in over 5 continents and over 60 countries. Explaining the program, Mr. Holland said that the eco school project was to enable capacities of the schools to demonstrate and spread the message of ESD. He illustrated the various activities undertaken by the schools – like plantations, social work, local community level activities etc. that nurtured values in the students and also transmitted across the community. The students were placed in real life learning paradigms, which enabled them to imbibe EC principles and the ESD approach.

He concluded by stating the EC serves as a lens that could be fitted with any telescope in order to transmit and strengthen ESD objectives and outcomes. He encouraged the participants to create and promote eco school brands.





Manuel Obregon, Minister of Culture from Costa Rica informed the participants that their association with EC started 10 years ago and it has grown over the years. He referred to the musical event at CEE the previous day and felt that EC had a lot to do with culture and that culture would be instrumental in taking the ESD forward. Identifying linkages between culture, education and environment, he stated that societies come together because of their culture and in fact at a point of time one would not be able to differentiate between the environment and education, since culturally we would be integrated with everything around us. He felt close to music and sound of nature which he related to as vibrations celebrating life and translating as symbols of heritage. He probed the audience to reflect on culture, heritage and environment and how culture would always be the 'educational content' that would remain throughout our life and even beyond. He felt that the changes in culture reflected the changes in the thinking and attitude towards life. He said that the biggest challenge was to change our perceptions and enable ourselves to change the way we act and thereby influence the way others act. He gave his example of trying to influence the government in Costa Rica to think about sustainability and ethical responsibilities. He concluded stating that it is time to give the right value to culture and consider cultural education as a model for sustainable development.



## Plenary 6: Threads of Sustainability

The plenary session of Day 3 of the conference was held at the serene environment of the Sabarmati Ashram on the banks of river Sabarmati, from where Mahatma Gandhi had once orchestrated India's historic and unprecedented freedom struggle based on the principle of non-violence or Ahimsa. Tridip Suhrud welcomed everyone and explained the significance of Sabarmati Ashram. The morning prayers at Sabarmati Ashram were soothing and soulful. Bhajans of all faiths were melodiously sung by a group of singers from the Ashram. It is said that Gandhi derived inspiration from these bhajans. Set against the scenic backdrop of the Ashram with its river and lush greenery, the music was particularly enjoyable. Some of the participants hummed along and clapped to the tune of 'Raghupati Raghava Rajaram'. This moment was memorable for the sense of togetherness that everyone seemed to be experiencing, which also justified the spirit of the EC.

The plenary session was initiated by Rabbi Seotendorp who said that the key to unlock most challenges lay in dialogue. He handed out threads of handspun khadi to the dignitaries on the dais, asking each one to speak of their vision for future, pledge to do one thing for sustainability that they had not done before and then exchange the thread with someone at the conference with whom they had not as yet connected with.

Vishwaguru Paramhans Swami started by chanting the Shanti Mantra. He said the thread of sustainability was first received when we were in our mother's womb. We should all remember that we had this connection with Mother Earth too. Avatar's vision is that everybody should care for environment.

Mary Evelyn Tucker asked everyone to show reverence to all life forms, gratitude for living, and humility for honoring the place of humans in nature. She said Gandhi and his Ashram gave this message. Mary asked the audience to learn from Gandhiji's life, and understand the 'migratory wisdom' that is displayed by birds in nature such as the Red Night Sand Piper.

Sister Valerine Bernard narrating the story of her life said that it was important to take the inner journey of self contemplation. She said that nobody is bad at heart. They are only contaminated by negativity.

Emphasizing that nature is our wealth and that it was not right to harm nature, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar urged the audience to protect and care for it. He said that the Earth Charter shows us the way to do so. He said 'A heart without compassion and a mind without intuition is a life without satisfaction.' Pointing out that the day was auspicious on account of the Indian festival which celebrates prosperity, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar wished everybody a happy Dhanteras. He said abundance begets abundance and this can be understood in terms of caring for the earth. He mentioned he was very happy to be at the Ashram because of his deep personal connections with it through his grandparents. His grandfather had lived at the Gandhi Ashram for 20 years and his grandmother had donated her gold ornaments towards the freedom struggle.

Steven Rockefeller concluded by remembering Kamala Chaudhuri and her immense contribution towards drafting of the EC for a more sustainable world. It was generally acknowledged that there was much to learn from Gandhi and Nature. Thus the threads were symbolically exchanged along with the message to join hands to save the planet.

Micheal Slaby concluding the ceremony shared his vision stating that the message given in this ceremony may reach to all and may everyone contribute to this transition to sustainable ways of living. By quoting Thich Nhat Hanh a Zen Master "Buddha is not enough", he mentioned that we need a collective awakening process. We all have a lot to learn from Mahatma Gandhi in our quest for sustainable ways of living. May we take inspiration from his example of simplicity so that our life styles also become simple as his.



## Plenary 7 & 8- Future Vision

These two plenaries were set aside for Future Visioning. The plenary was chaired by Ruud Lubbers, Former Prime Minister of Netherlands and Earth Charter International Council members.

Mamta Pandya, Senior Programme Director, CEE and Jim Taylor, Director EE, WESSA, facilitated a process of each working group making three recommendations from their discussions. A separate set of recommendations was made by the youth participants.

The second part of this plenary included speeches on future directions by three speakers followed by closing comments.

Isabel Enst r m talked about the workshop that they had had before the conference, organized in collaboration with SWEDES - Swedish International Centre for Education for Sustainable



Development, CEE and WESSA. She said that the workshop was the initial starting point for the collaboration that will stretch over a longer period to developing a joint program to strengthen the ESD programmes of the three organizations by sharing each others experiences and finding ways to meet the similar challenges faced. The program named ESSA – Ecosystem Services, Strong Sustainability and Agency - Learning for change is developed based on a discussion about ecosystem services and how important these basic systems are that provide livelihoods, fresh air to breathe etc. She mentioned that a time has come now when one has to move across the threshold of proactive acting and actually work for strong sustainability. She said that we have only one planet, shared resources for which we must all care for and the proposed programme developed by the three partners discussed how to do this and how to take action since what ESD challenges is that one cannot simply transfer knowledge from one head to another, rather incorporate it into ones being.



She emphasized on the need for a transformation of society to move into more sustainable practices through Education. Since the challenges faced by Education are the same in spite of different systems as found out by the participants at the workshop where similar programmes were shared from India, South Africa and Sweden. What was being proposed was a programme based on shared experiences and a strengthening of this with the Earth Charter as a framework for the Ethics of the work.

Pushpa Bhargava, began by narrating a personal experience to illustrate that caste creed, religion, status, sect is immaterial when we are talking about the world of tomorrow. He said that one ultimate objective or goal of the Earth Charter is universal peace which means one livable habitable world where there is no discrimination based on considerations of caste, creed, language, religion or social status, where the attempt is to increase equity and not disparity, where basic human rights enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights are honoured, where children have right to question, where there are no dowry deaths as we have in our country, where every individual receives the respect that is his right as a citizen and as a human being, where there is only one common religion that is humanism, the religion that demands a few and that if child is drowning you save the child's life without asking what religion, caste, creed, class, nation the child belongs to. He further mentioned that second objective is to live in a sustainable world forever. To achieve both of these what is needed is to democratize and universalize education. However before that there is a need to define the kind of citizens the world wants to have because this only will define the contours of the minimum education that everyone around the world should have. And in these objectives there is a need to include ethics, which should be internalized. Compassion, integrity, and honesty needs to be brought in. He emphasized on the need to distinguish ethics, morality and law by presenting very specific examples from India in the field of Science and Technology, the Governance system, Lifestyles and the disparity between the rich and poor. He felt that the Earth Charter needs to be considered when one is dealing with these issues and especially with laws that are unethical in the world.



Sunita Narian in her powerful speech began by saying that she looks towards the Rio+20 as an opportunity to put the soul back into the intergovernmental discussions that would be taking place.

She said that it is important that the world's principles behind the negotiations are alive. She urged the need to see an opportunity to put the principles back into the negotiations that are happening at the global level because these principles are really about the ecological globalization that the world needs to see. Economic globalisation she said is happening because the world today is interdependent in terms of money and in commerce. But the world she said has still not recognized its interdependence in terms of the ecological space and the finiteness of that ecological space and that she felt is what needs to be put back.



She suggested two ways to infuse the principles again. – the first to recognize what is happening in countries like India where the environmental movement is in the millions of mutinies that are seen across the country by people who are fighting for their survival; who are fighting to protect their water bodies, fighting against a power station because it will pollute their land, fighting against mining because it will destroy their livelihoods. She felt it's very important for the Earth Charter community to understand the conscience of the environmental movement as it is being reborn in many parts of the poor world.

The other aspect she emphasised on was to build a new economic model for growth which she felt was beginning to take shape in the country with visible examples in the city of Ahmedabad. She mentioned the example of Ahmedabad which was asking for the right to a bus, a right to walk, because the road has to be divided on the basis of equity since in Indian cities 40% of the people take a bus and 20% are too poor to even take a bus and they have to walk to work. She felt that the Earth Charter can really have roots in this battle of achieving equity.

The concluding remarks of the plenary were made by Kartikeya Sarabhai and Mirian Vilela.

For Erna Witoelar, being in and working on both global commitments helped her to bring with her work on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) her background on the Earth Charter. This allowed her to think and do things in a holistic way. According to her the Earth Charter is more on universal values while the MDGs are more on measurable targets. But yet both are very much within a comprehensive and an holistic framework. From her years of work in MDGs it seems that the holistic approach is something very difficult for most people to implement. People are working in sectors, in disciplines, and in regions and not really being able to see or work in a holistic way.



This holistic approach is also something that is not being realized and materialized in facing climate change challenges. It's actually already here, all the disasters, all the miseries and yet people are still thinking of adaptation efforts separate from development efforts, or adaptation budget separate from the national budget. So it is very much thinking in boxes, working in a box which is exactly why many of us are not so optimistic that the MDGs will be achieved in the year 2015. If all the national and local leaders internalize the Earth Charter then there will be no MDGs goals unmet, maybe people will achieve even more than the targets of the MDGs.



## Youth at the Conference

A major focus of the conference was engaging youth and enabling them to share their experiences in applying the EC principles in their work. The South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN) played an important role in bringing together the youth from various regions to participate and bring in their perspectives to the overall conference and the various workshops. This was possible through support from the UNEP ROAP Asia Pacific office. Ms. Satwant Kaur, Regional Information Officer at UNEP ROAP in Bangkok participated in the pre-conference workshop at the conference.

Based on the learning's from the youth participation at the previous international conferences including the Fourth International Conference on Environment Education (ICEE), it had been decided that there would not be a separate workshop for youth. The SAYEN youth representatives would be a part of each of the 10 thematic workshops being organized for the conference and contribute to the proceedings.

Eighty two youth represented SAYEN at the conference including students and young development professionals from different backgrounds such as law, commerce, media, environmental planning and technology, biodiversity, climate change studies, human resource management, peace studies, academic research, information technology, arts, science etc. In addition, five students from the Symbiosis Institute of Mass Communication, Pune, interned with CEE during the Conference. They came from varied disciplines such as event management, journalism, mass communication, new media and ICT. They were placed with the Conference Secretariat to work on the conference website, virtual conference, the conference daily report, the planning of the plenaries and working with the youth team to gather support for youth participation at the conference.

A pre-conference workshop was organised by the SAYEN Secretariat on 31st October, 2010 at CEE towards strategizing the youth participation at the conference. This was attended by all the 82 participants.

As part of the workshop, all the participants were introduced to SAYEN, informed about the various activities of the network and the different activities that they could undertake as SAYEN associates in their own region. The introductory sessions facilitated by Ms. Madhavi Joshi (Programme Director, DESD and Youth Programmes) and Ms. Aparna Susarla (Programme Officer, Youth Programmes) gave an understanding to the youth participants about the conference, the role of youth



at the conference, detailed information about workshops, plenaries and other components of the conference.

Steven Rockefeller and Kartikeya V. Sarabhai set the tone for this workshop through an interactive session on the Earth Charter and its relevance in the world today. Satwant Kaur, Regional Information Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, helped facilitate the working group sessions. Based on their interests the youth representatives chose the workshop that they wanted to be a part of. It was ensured that there was an equal representation in every thematic workshop. This was followed by the working group session where all the youth participants discussed their reflections on the Earth Charter principles and their expectations from the 10 workshops. This session saw an energetic debate on various issues such as access to-versus the potential of ICTs, the need for consultative policy decision making, issues relating to understanding religion and spirituality and the idea of oneness.

Together, the youth decided that they would participate actively in the conference as workshop rapporteurs, plenary speakers, facilitators and volunteers

The expectations of youth from the thematic workshops were shared with the workshop coordinators. Hence the strategy was that all the youth would take part in the thematic workshops and meet at the end of the day to share their experiences and learnings. This would be facilitated by the youth themselves and the outcomes would be reported to the thematic workshops

Youth representatives were elected to speak at the different plenaries. The youth also divided themselves into groups to interact with the eminent personalities attending the conference and share their discussions with the other youth.

The Youth Corner set up at a prominent location, saw a good reaction from participants of all age groups who came forward to read and understand what the youth want, and also leave behind their encouraging messages. The youth got all the visitors to the Corner to put their thumbprint on a canvas that had a dying tree as a symbol of the present state of the environment, painted on it. The corner with the theme of Sustainable Lifestyles and Consumption where the youth had been working on conveying strong messages of how consumption choices can make a difference and help was buzzing with activity. Posters, Collages, Exhibit material and information on the related issues were displayed for the visitors.







The youth representatives attended thematic workshops as planned and shared their learnings with each other at the end of the day. The youth played an integral role in all the workshops and the plenary sessions; rapporteuring at the workshops, as participants accessing platforms for videoconferencing, helping with photography and the conference newsletter (Ceenario) while spreading good cheer and adding positive vibes and smiles to the conference.

The eagerness and enthusiasm of the young participants was reflected at the Virtual Conference that took place on the second day. This session was organised by the "Heart in Action" Enterprises. During this session, the youth interacted with other youth associated with EC from across the world, alumni volunteers and administrators of the Earth Charter Global Learning Opportunity (e-glo).

The youth had initiated a blog titled – Youth @ Conference to discuss their strategy before the conference, share their learnings and experiences from the thematic workshops during the conference and carry the discussions forward after the conference.

In plenary 3 Ms. Rini Dutta appealed that all the countries should collectively take up the accountability and must share the burden of climate change. Education and green technology can be used as tools to overcome problems. Mr. Hemant Sahal in plenary 5 mentioned that it is not difficult to do right things but it is difficult to know what is right. All that is required to be sustainable is to be more responsible in our actions and to sustain the efforts which we have already taken that helps the youth to stay committed to their efforts. He highlighted that it is important to continue moving towards sustainability by quoting "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to move forward".

In plenary 6 the youth were asked to share their vision of a better world with everyone. Ms. Neha Mehrotra mentioned that people should implant some basic virtues like compassion, tolerance, should engage in intercultural dialogue, and one should be more aware and sensitive to take any action. Mr. Sudeep Mehta's vision was to attain sustainability and to witness the day when we humans would live in harmony with nature. Mr. Belal Hossin representing youth mentioned that youth of nations are ready to do our part and already doing their part. Ms. Cheteisri Devi read out the recommendations from youth in last plenary session.

## Children's Participation

With view to reiterate the need to take the Earth Charter to School Children, a two-day event was organized during the Conference for students from five states namely Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. Twenty eight students and nineteen teachers from nineteen schools of these states participated. The schools invited were those featured in the 'Young in Green Action-Inspiring stories from the National Green Corps' – a publication developed to celebrate a decade of the National Green Corp (NGC) programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The two-day workshop had sessions for children on the Earth Charter, discussions about sustainability, visits to nearby places/institutions, an NGC exhibition showcasing Eco-club activities, painting session and provided them with ample opportunity to mingle with national and international delegates at the conference.

At the 'Understanding the Earth Charter' session the students read the Earth Charter in Marathi, Hindi, Gujarati. They discussed a presentation on a children's version of the Earth Charter principles. This was followed by a group discussion on the conflict between development and natural resource management.

The NGC exhibition of best cases of eco-club projects done by the schools was very popular amongst national and international conference attendees who visited the stalls in large numbers and appreciated the students' work.

'Explore Discover Think Act-The Paryavaran Mitra Publication', a publication developed and produced by CEE for the Paryavaran Mitra Programme- a climate change and sustainability project in 200,000 schools in India was launched during the Conference as a special event. The dignitaries at the launch were Mr. B.M.S. Rathore, Joint Secretary-Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt of India and Mr. Ritesh Sinha from ArcelorMittal.





Participants

Virtual Conference

The Conference brought together over 500 participants from all over the world. The Conference provided a forum for interactions and deliberations by civil society, NGOs, corporates, academics and the media. The participants represented different stakeholder groups including government officials and representatives of UN agencies. The international participants represented countries like Australia, Costa Rica, China, Japan, Mexico and many more. Participants included ESD practitioners as well as Earth Charter affiliates and partners who have been using the Earth Charter in their work. Participants from India were from diverse fields including environment, school and higher education, human rights, peace, gender, religion, citizenship, social justice and others. Most of the states of India were represented at the Conference, the participants coming from organizations, universities, schools etc.. from Maharashtra, Chhatisgarh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Assam, Kerala, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and so on.

Conference Participation- Countries Represented

AFRICA	ASIA	EUROPE	SOUTH AMERICA
Namibia	China	Austria	Brazil
Nigeria	Indonesia	Denmark	Bolivia
South Africa	Japan	Finland	CENTRAL AMERICA
EURASIA	Malaysia	France	Costa Rica
Russia	Nepal	Germany	
AUSTRALASIA	Pakistan	Ireland	
Australia	Philippines	Netherlands	
NORTH AMERICA	Singapore	Poland	
Canada	Srilanka	Sweden	
USA	Thailand	Switzerland	
Mexico	India	UK	

The Conference had live streaming of all plenaries during the three days of the conference. About 100 persons from over 20 countries participated in the Conference virtually. They interacted with the moderator of the Conference and expressed their viewpoint online. There was two way streaming during Plenary 1 when the participants had the opportunity to interact with Julia Martin Lefèvre, DG, IUCN and Ashok Khosla, President, IUCN who were at the Geneva headquarters.

Both Ashok Khosla and Julia Lefèvre explained their association with the Earth Charter. Ashok Khosla pointed out that people have acquired all kinds of thinking and this is not compatible with the kind of natural systems we have to live with. There is a need to rethink the very fundamental things. This is where the Earth Charter leads us in questioning things that have happened over the last two centuries. Julia Lefèvre mentioned about integration of the EC at various organizations Including IUCN. IUCN she said had integrated the EC principles in all activities. Some of the examples she mentioned were: The members of International Council for Science were brought in to the conversation of the Earth Charter movement; in the Leadership for Environment And Development (LEAD) programme the EC was used as the part of their principles of operation; in University for Peace the EC was an integral part of teaching. She mentioned that the ethical principles were used in the recent negotiation about the convention on biological diversity held at Nagoya in 2010, to design the protocol for access and benefit sharing. Later the two panelists responded to questions put up by the participants.

The virtual participants had the opportunity to watch the cultural programmes and get a feel of some of the other elements of the Conference. On the second day of the Conference, Heart in Action Enterprises (HIAE) with CEE hosted a live interactive youth session with the HIAE e-GLO young leaders connecting online participants from 15 countries over the live secured multimedia communication platform addressing UNMDG goals for ICT innovation and digital divide learning.









# Working Groups- Recommendations

## Workshop-1 | School Education and Teacher Training

Moderators: Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair on Reorienting Teacher Education for Sustainability and Kimberly Corrigan, US Affiliate, Earth Charter International  
CEE Coordinators: Dr. MJ Ravindranath and Preeti Rawat

### Recommendations

#### EC as a tool

1. The Earth Charter should serve as a framework or overarching theme for teachers, students, communities, faith groups to promote values – encompassing many themes, concerns and issues of sustainability.
2. It should be integrated into the curriculum and pedagogy at school and teacher education levels.
3. It should help to bring in locally specific and culturally relevant context of sustainability to the classrooms.



#### Vision for the next decade

4. The EC should not become just an intellectual discourse/communication in the classrooms; rather it should become holistic and inform the whole child - head, heart and hand.
5. The EC principles should be infused into national curriculum and teacher education.
6. The EC must inform business, trade and production systems.

#### Strengthening Partnerships:

7. Partnerships should be built on following lines:
  - A network of schools within and outside the country active in implementing the EC should be developed.
  - Issue based networks and component programmes of EC should be promoted.
  - NGOs, academics, teacher-professional institutions/associations promoting sustainability values should be encouraged.
8. ICT and other media should be used to facilitate networks.
9. Virtual networks should be created for larger sharing of ideas/opinions about innovations.

#### EC in DESD and RIO +20

10. There should be more emphasis on joyful, playful, festive oriented celebrations to promote EC principles.
11. The EC should be much more holistic in approach rather than reductionistic, giving focus for activities, projects and programmes with community involvement.
12. The EC should focus on more conferences for youth with access to experts in business, health, community issues, etc.





## Workshop-2 | Higher Education: Towards a Responsible Future

Moderators: Jim Taylor, Director EE, WESSA and Alicia Jimenez, ECI Secretariat  
CEE Coordinators: Simanta Kalita and Ishwar Poojar

### Recommendations

#### Earth Charter as a tool

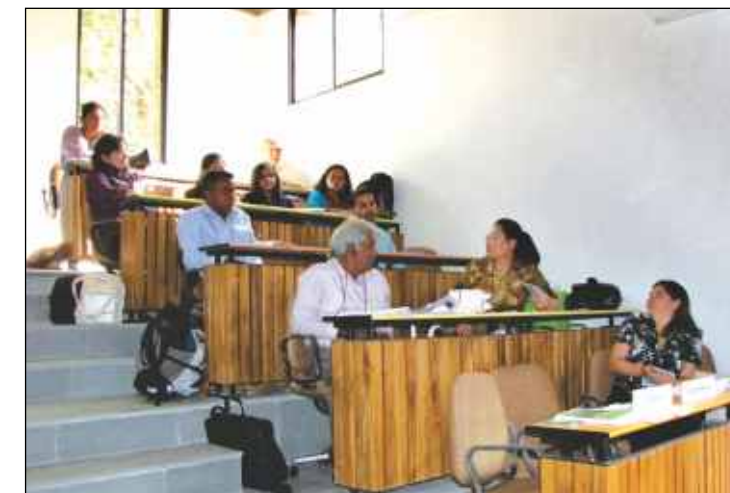
1. There is a need to initiate a decade of the Earth Charter (EC) so that it gets adequate importance and its principles can be imbibed in the formal systems of Education.
2. The Earth Charter principles can be taken as the base tool to develop practical courses at higher education (HE) level so that ethics could be taught practically rather than only theory. The EC Principles have been used by the University of Peace, Costa Rica to develop a course plan titled 'Sustainability principles through the lenses of the Earth Charter'. It can be used by other Universities as a source course to develop similar courses at higher education level.
3. The EC principles have been used by the Banaras Hindu University, India to develop a Value Promotion Policy and an Environment Policy for the University. Similar policies may be developed by other higher education Institutions.



4. The EC is a good ethical framework for education for sustainable development (ESD) and it can be used as a fundamental critic of the capitalistic system.
5. EC-Assess is an ethics-based assessment tool developed based on Earth Charter by Earth Charter International. This can be adapted for developing similar tools by other institutions.

#### Vision for the next decade

6. The road map of EC to the next decade should be based on the experiences so far of the EC and the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD).
7. Conditioning of the minds of the higher education decision makers is important to implement the principles of EC. Thus, awareness and motivation of the decision makers should be emphasized.
8. The EC principles should be incorporated in the formal higher education system in the learning process of student, research and campus management. But, it should be left to the individual countries and institutions to adopt or adapt the relevant principles of EC.
9. EC and SD courses should especially be given to those students, who have the potential to be future leaders, who can shape the nations through the EC principles.
10. The EC principles should be taught through integrating them in existing curricula without introducing a separate subject and without increasing curricular load.
11. To achieve true sustainable development, it is important to understand and address the interconnectedness of development, environment, peace, conflict and other social dimensions simultaneously. Thus, there is a need of a paradigm shift from mono-cultural to trans-disciplinary approach in higher education.
12. Higher Education Institutions should validate and recognise the importance of local approaches based on local knowledge systems to incorporate them in higher education.
13. Higher Education Curricula should have good case studies and examples that exemplify EC principles.





14. In the next decade, there should be adequate focus on strengthening research on ESD, developing materials, teacher trainings and developing curricula for universities and colleges.
15. All professional courses should be designed so that it can guide the students on the limits of growth, profitability and profiteering.
16. There should be indicators to monitor the integration of EC principles in the Higher Education institutions. Indicators can be developed to assess values. EC-Assess is such an ethics-based assessment tool developed based on Earth Charter.
17. Higher Education institutions should engage in dialogue with teachers and students from both rural and urban background in deciding the future course of action.
18. Youth, being a major stakeholder in any decision in Higher Education should have a role in the decision making.
19. There is limited access to higher education in many parts of the world due to investment constraints. An Open University model might be effective in this regard. This would help in cost effectiveness and drawing in experiences and expertise and will increase accessibility and bring in greater equality. Open Universities using ICT should emphasize on EC principles.
20. Quality of education largely depends on the leadership and capacity of the teachers. Thus, a separate portal of EC for teacher training and capacity building should be developed.
21. Campuses of the Higher Education institutions should be so designed that they send out a message to all. Green campuses, environmental policy, value promotion policy may be included as the integral component of evaluation and accreditation of institutions.
22. Higher education, through peace education, sociology etc. should contribute towards establishing greater North-South, North-North and South-South cooperation. EC principles may be useful in this regard.

#### Strengthening Partnerships

23. Civil Society is a driving force to help Higher Education institutions move towards sustainability. Earth Charter as a civil society should play an important role in this in the next decade.
24. Higher Education institutions should partner with civil society to share experiences, expertise and resources. Partnership of civil society in the governance of such institutions should be encouraged
25. It is important to find and get key decision makers as partners or participants in conferences like Ethical Framework for a Sustainable World.
26. Partnerships with the universities and colleges that are not fully affiliated by the government and having autonomy to decide their courses and management, may prove to be critical in promoting EC principles
27. A forum should be created for universities and other HE institutions to promote EC and ESD
28. The following networks should be explored for strengthening partnership for promoting the EC principles: Global University Network for Innovation; Copernicus Alliance; European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development; Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCE); ProsperNet of UNU

#### EC in DESD and RIO +20

29. EC getting a recognition in the UN-system is important. In Rio+20, Governments and UN agencies are going to participate. Thus, influencing the Rio+20 will be very crucial to get government endorsement for EC.
30. EC should engage in dialogue with the UN system to get formal entry in the Rio+20 event



- ① Approaches & Strategies to introduce ESD in HE inst., how the E Charter could help
- ② Role of DESD & Rio+20 to incorporate ESD in HE
- ③ What univ. networks could help on bringing sust. in HE
- ④ What role & how to involve gov & HE authorities in bringing sustainability into Univ.
  - Teaching
  - Research
  - Student life
  - Operation
  - Policies





## Workshop-3 | Non Formal Education

Moderators: Jaana Laitinen, ECI Secretariat  
CEE Coordinators: Abdhesh Gangwar, Rashmi Gangwar

### Recommendations

Vision for the next Earth Charter decade:

- A strong, united global civil society in harmony with nature
  - People's ambition and vision are in accord with the Earth Charter
  - All children should get closer to nature, also adults.
1. Develop and use all forms of cultural arts to teach EC principles, in ways that reach the millions who are not in school-both adults and children. These methods include internet but we must also develop strategies for reaching those on the other side of the digital divide and use radio, television, one-to-one communication, youth clubs and discussion from events.



2. Scaling up strategies are divided into three parts:
  - How to reach the millions we want to reach.
  - How to develop the program/project's sustainability which includes indicators, case studies so that they are less dependent on external support, and can grow and reach more people?
  - How to enrich our existing programs to include enjoyable learning, cultural arts, nature, optimistic approaches, language learning, dialogue, skills and values such as compassion and respect, and infrastructure as part of the learning environment.
3. The EC Initiative should create synergy between EC and local self governing institutions, learning from and working with local people and with nature. At same time, the EC Initiative should be able to dialogue with government, industry, religious and political leaders with good results for society and for nature.
4. Non Formal Education should create partnerships as well as volunteer networks and coordinating systems.
5. The EC Initiative should promote the development of projects that support people in conflict zones and in post-disaster situations.





## Workshop-4 | Reviewing, Rethinking, and Reorienting Information and Communication Technologies for Education for Sustainable Development

Moderators: Fernanda Baumhardt,  
Earth Charter Global Communities Task force  
CEE Coordinators: Shivani Jain, Anoop Mohan

### Recommendations

1. Information Communication Technologies (ICT) have a great potential and should be used to promote the spirit of the Earth Charter to people globally. The EC however needs to be adapted to the different geographical and social contexts.
2. ICT has been instrumental in reaching the masses but in the case of the Earth Charter this has been slow. The Earth Charter Initiative needs to have a media plan to conduct a communication campaign which incorporates the technologies of broadcasting and social media.
3. The mobile phone technology has the potential to break social barriers of different kinds be it caste, religion, literacy and gender. The EC should promote the use of mobile phone technology for customized access to knowledge and facilitate action for natural resource management.



## Workshop-5 | Business & CSR in a Green Economy

Moderators: Cristina Moreno, Earth Charter Brazil and Alide Roerink,  
The National Committee for International Cooperation and  
Sustainable Development (NCDO)  
CEE Coordinators: R. Gopichandran and Praveen Prakash

### Recommendations

1. The Earth Charter should be used as an inspirational document when reviewing the vision, mission and strategic objectives of business, incorporating its principles into the organization's values.
2. True CSR, includes transparency, accountability, no corruption. Codes for CSR needs to be developed based on the EC principles
3. Business should create capacities: build human capital based on knowledge sustainable development in all direction.
4. The Annual Sustainable Report must show hard data including parameters about a better salary distribution.
5. There should be a dialogue among stakeholders lined on the four principles of the Earth Charter.





## Workshop-6 | The Earth Charter and Religion, Spirituality and Ethics

Moderators: Rick Clugston, Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University, Earth Charter Scholarship Project and Michael Slaby, Programme Manager, Soetendorp Institute  
CEE Coordinator: Kiran Chhokar

### Recommendations

1. There is the need to promote inter-regional, intercultural and intergenerational dialogues using the Earth Charter, particularly emphasizing appreciation of diversity and the oneness and interconnectedness of all.
2. It is essential to identify and develop existing Earth Charter resources, e.g., statements and writings on the Earth Charter and Religion, Spirituality and Ethics. Best cases of how religion and spiritual groups are using the Earth Charter: as listings of books, articles, etc on the websites should be promoted.
3. There should be a focus on sustainable and mindful consumption and the ethics of climate change.
4. There is a need for development of a strong statement by religious and spiritual leaders—aimed at preparations for Rio+20—of the importance of spirituality and ethics a central pillar (the fourth P) for sustainable development.
5. The Task Force on Religion, Spirituality and Ethics needs to be strengthened. .



## Workshop-7 | Cities, Communities & Urbanisation

Moderators: Neelkanth Chhaya, Dean, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology  
CEE Coordinators: Sanskriti Menon and Avinash Madhale

### Recommendations

1. There is a need to recognize that the urban and the rural contexts are inseparably bound in an integral system that affects all aspects related to their sustainability. At the same time, decentralized locally relevant approaches recognizing the diversity of view points, cultures and ways of life must be applied in order to achieve sustainable ways of living.
2. The global environment is greatly affected by the outlook and activities of the corporate profit-making ethic. This needs to be ethically questioned and politically addressed.
3. There is a need to frankly and openly acknowledge that there exists a politics of exclusion which affects large sections of urban populations; equity and participation of all segments of citizenship in the process of decision-making is vital to achieve sustainability.





## Workshop-8 | Ethical Development Practices for Sustainable Livelihoods - Issues and Concerns

CEE Coordinator: Prabhjot Sodhi

### Recommendations

1. Development practices must promote human values, mutual respect and dignity across the spectrum of society.
2. Sensitivity and awareness must be all-pervasive commencing with youth, schools and community institutions in a transparent way.
3. Ensure that Government policy towards sustainable development is inclusive and respects traditional wisdom
4. Active involvement of the vulnerable and under-privileged in decision making ensuring thereby equity and justice
5. Devote ourselves to Mother Earth with humility and accept collective responsibility



## Workshop-9 | Global Challenges and Global Governance

Moderators: Brendan Mackey, Professor, Australian National University, Canberra and Bharat H. Desai, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi  
CEE Coordinators: Sharad Gaur and Rixa Schwarz

### Recommendations

1. The EC values and principles should be integrated into the global governance process and it should be recognized that the principles are complementary in global governance. This is especially essential as global governance has a special role to play in inter governmental negotiation.
2. There is a need to engage in the preparatory process to Rio + 20, a dialogue based on the EC principles so that these values and principles are a part of the process and are implemented as part of the deliberations 18 months later.
3. There is the need to look at the official recognition of the EC by the UN system. The EC was born out of the Rio summit and is an important civil society contribution in the ethical framework for sustainable development so at Rio + 20 it is essential for that this recognition is sought. Along with this it is recommended that a commitment by the United Nations General Assembly Members and governments to negotiate a new intergovernmental ethical deliberation based on the EC is made.
4. The role of Ethics in global governance and sustainable development needs to be recognized by the UN General Assembly
5. A tool kit on the guidelines, checklist and processes which will help link the EC principles to Sustainable Development needs to be developed.





## Workshop-10 | Biodiversity & Ethics

Moderator: Razeena Omar, Earth Charter Council Member  
CEE Coordinators: Atul Pandya and Ramesh Savalia

### Recommendations

1. The diversity of life as a value in itself and the strengthening of actions that show respect towards all life forms and ecosystems, to maintain their integrity needs to be acknowledged.
2. To respect the traditional and indigenous ways of life, recognizing the fact that these are dynamic is essential.
3. Equity as an important value and looking primarily at the ethical concern regarding access and benefit sharing (ABS) needs to be acknowledged. Documenting the learning's from ABS case studies towards mainstreaming them by way of planning processes is essential.



## Recommendations from Youth

### Recommendations

- 1 Strengthen the existing networks and partnerships that bridge the gap between formal and non formal education. Incorporate the principles of the Earth Charter at every stage of learning in childhood, youth and in young adults who can be a voice to their parents, peers, friends so that the gap between formal and non formal education can be bridged.
- 2 Involve spiritual leaders with their higher learning in a discourse with youth in a simplified and more contemporary way to generate their participation and have a better understanding about larger issues.
- 3 Continue to instill the Earth Charter principles in Business and CSR.
- 4 If the Earth Charter is about including all voices, youngsters should have the opportunity to have a dialogue with the people behind the scenes in the next Conferences in the local language so that awareness on the Earth Charter is generated for everybody in the campus rather than just the conference delegates
- 5 Every youth at the Conference will look at the database of civil society organizations and choose the area of work they want to be involved in. Each youth will think of a simple next step coming out of here and not a long term vision or a short term vision or a goal or objective.





## Exhibitions, Special Events and Launches

Two exhibitions - "The Seeds of Hope" and "Our Living Culture" were put up during the Conference

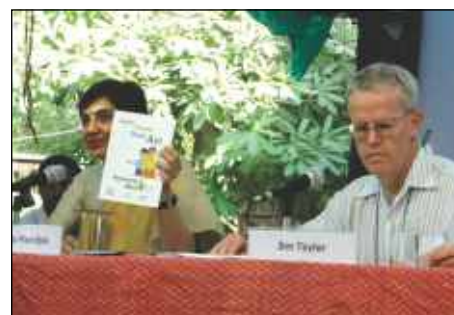
The Seeds of Hope, a joint initiative of the Soka Gakkai International and Earth Charter International was on the positive vision for sustainable living expressed in the Earth Charter, and gave examples of eight individuals and groups who have successfully taken action for change, from Africa to the Arctic and Eastern Europe. It had 24 panels, including one left blank with a simple tree design so viewers can attach their own statement of what they will do towards sustainability.

The exhibition "Our Living Culture" was an display of 60 award-winning photographs on "Living Heritage" that aims to develop an understanding and respect for different cultures and traditions.

Special events at the different plenaries of the Conference were organized for the launch of the following publications:

- Gandhi and the Earth Charter – Towards A Sustainable World
- Explore Discover Think Act- the Paryavaran Mitra Publication
- Multilateral Agreements: Legal Status of Secretariats.

A special edition of CEE's ESD journal dedicated to the Earth Charter was launched at the ESD plenary of the Conference. A music album " Life Alert" inspired by the Earth Charter was also launched as part of Conference special events.



## Cultural Events

Cultural programmes every evening during the conference days brought in an element of festivity to the Conference. The Symbiosis Concert by Manuel Obregon, Costa Rican Minister of Culture was a unique experience where the minister played the piano to match the visuals of nature in the background. On the second night of the Conference there was a performance by Mallika Sarabhai and Artists of Darpana. 'Yatra Gurjar', directed and choreographed by her was a dance drama depicting the history, culture and costumes of Ahmedabad and much appreciated by both the international and Indian participants. The last evening was when everyone let their hair down and danced to the beats of the garba music and matched steps with each other.





## Feedback

"I am writing to send heartfelt thanks for a memorable week in Ahmedabad. The Conference on the CEE Campus was one of the very best Earth Charter events ever. It was beautifully organized and orchestrated, and you and the CEE staff were wonderful hosts. Putting together an event of this kind requires a great deal of time and thought and your leadership is deeply appreciated.

The *Earth Charter & Gandhi* booklet that you and your colleagues prepared and published is an important addition to the growing collection of Earth Charter educational resources. I am so glad that you undertook this project. The Plenary Session held at the Gandhi Ashram was, of course, an especially meaningful moment for all of us involved in the conference.

The accommodations at the Pride Hotel could not have been more comfortable, and I want to thank you for arranging for the ECI Council to meet there on Thursday and Friday following the Conference."

*Steven Rockefeller*

"I marvel at what you and your colleagues are able to accomplish every time. I think I have seen a great deal of the world and I believe there would be few parallels"

*P M Bhargava*

" Thank you for yet another wonderful and productive experience at CEE and the Earth Charter + 10. As before your boundless energy, hospitality and commitment for the planet was evident throughout all proceedings. Of most importance was the friendliness, enthusiasm and flexibility that was evident in all of you"

*Jim Taylor*

"The conference was splendid and an outstanding success. I very much look forward to reading the report of recommendations and viewing the multimedia documentation on the web site"

*Brendan Mackay*

"So good that the conference website is already - and will be even more - such a rich source of information and documentation. I am very grateful to you and the CEE team for all the energy and devotion you invested in this historic event. The quality of the discussions in the workshops, of the participants and of the plenary sessions was very high and it all energized us to take the next steps in our common endeavor"

*Alide Roerink*

"I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to you for your excellent stewardship in organizing and guiding so well our plenary and workshop sessions on the role of Earth Charter in dealing with multi-dimensional challenges facing us under globalization, such as climate change, biodiversity protection, poverty reduction and other issues of MDGs. I am delighted have learnt that you had found my talk at the plenary session worthwhile. To me, the meeting was intellectually stimulating and socially enjoyable, meeting so many concerned people from all over the world and with very impressive music and dances depicting the thousands of years of history of Ahmedabad ..... I learnt a great deal from participants' active discussion during those three days at CEE"

*Riyokichi Hirono*

"Now that I have finally returned to Geneva I would like to belatedly express my heartfelt thank you for the great event you have put together with Mirian. It certainly sets high level for any activities to follow and I am very grateful to you and your colleagues for taking such a great care of all the participants" "For me as it was my first trip to India it was also a big eye opener, and I hope to visit your beautiful country again"

*Alexander Likhotal*



# Responsibilities

S.No	Plenary Sessions Coordination		
1	Plenary Coordination and Stage Management	Archana Pannicker, Niraj Pal , Toral Joshi, Rajeshwari Gorana, Shailaja Ravindranath Mamata Pandya	
2	Coordination with Rapporteurs		
3	Recommendations Committee		
S.No	Workshop	Internal Coordination	Rapporteur
1	School Education and Teacher Training	M.J. Ravindranath Preeti Rawat	Carol D'souza and Sanjay Tiwari
2	Higher Education: Towards a Responsible Future	Simanta Kalita Ishwar Poojar	Bijoy Goswami, Gundula Haage, Rengalaxmi, Sajal Sthapit, Sajeewa Jasinghe
3	Non Formal Education	Abdhesh Gangwar Rashmi Gangwar	Amit Shah, Parthesh Pandya, Rahul Goswami, Sunita Chauhan, Sophia Hildebrandt
4	Reviewing, Rethinking, and Reorienting Information and Communication Technologies for Education for Sustainable Development.	Shivani Jain Anoop Mohan	Shefali Atrey Shraddha Gangwani
5	Business & CSR in a Green Economy	R. Gopichandran Praveen Prakash	N . Ramjee, Shekar Kanagali
6	The Earth Charter and Religion, Spirituality and Ethics	Kiran Chhokar	Ashotosh Dwivedi. Karin Schaettle
7	Cities, Communities & Urbanisation	Sanskriti Menon Avinash Madhale	Jyoti Gopinathan Karan Shah
8	Ethical Development Practices for Sustainable Livelihoods - Issues and Concerns	Prabhjot Sodhi	Chetali Kapoor Navjot Randhawa
9	Global Challenges and Global Governance	Sharad Gaur Rixa Schwarz	Poornima Tripathy, Snigdha kar, Darpan Vaishnav, Prajwal Baral
10	Biodiversity & Ethics	Ramesh Savalia Atul Pandya	Mithika D'cruz Janki Shah
11	Workshop Overall Coordination	Madhavi Joshi, Purvi Vyas	

# Responsibilities

S.No	Task	Team
01	Site, Electricity, Security, Campus, Aeshetics, Water and Sanitation	Suresh Babu, Abhilash Sarasia, Babu Kori, Dilip Bhadusia, Dipendra Hasora, Kanu S Rathore, K V Suryanarayanan, P Krishnachandran, P Karanjia, Prarthana Borah, Raji Vamadevan, Raman Chavda, Ramdev Pandey, Sarju, Shalin Shah, Teja Bharwad, Vinod Solanki
02	Registration Team	Hiral Pandya, Ayub Sarasia, M R Babu, Radha Rajeev, Sarla Menon.
03	Accommodation	Darshan Kaur, Manisha Sanghani, Priya Nair
04	Accommodation for CEE Staff	Abhilash Sarasia, Radha Rajiv
05	Transport and Reception	Snehal Bhatt, Anil Kumar, Gyandendra Dixit, Kanal Dave, Kunal Dholakia, Manish Mishram, Nandankumar Menon, Narayan Patel
06	IT Support	Vipul Sanghani, Jogendra Rajora , Niraj Mistry
07	Media Coordination	Raji Vamadevan, Ramakrishna Bhatta,
08	Cultural Program	Manisha Sanghani, Raji Vamadevan
09	Tours	Rajendra Jadeja
11	Special Events, Exhibits, Shops, Banners, Exhibition, Signages Coordination	Shalin Shah
12	Food	Raji Vamadevan, Biji Nair, Leena Bhatt, Neela Pandit, Suresh Babu
13	Videography Coordination	Prarthana Borah
14	Photography	Mahendra Khalas, Nimisha Misra, Sangeeta Rane.
15	Virtual Conference	Prarthana Borah, Niraj Mistry, Raji Vamadevan, Srikeit Tadapali.
16	Online Daily News letter Editing:	Prithi Nambiar, Meena Nareshwar, Aparna Nahar, Biji Nair, Chehek Bilgi, Geetarthi Sharma, Ishwar Poojar, Jogendra Singh Rajora, Kiran Chhokar, Mamta Pandya, Mahendra Khalas, MJ Ravindranath, Nimisha Misra Praveen Prakash, Preeti Rawat, Rajeshwari Gorana, R. Gopichandran ,Sangeeta Rane, Shailaja Ravindranath , Shekhar Kanagali, Shriji Kurup, Shraddha Ganwani, Simanta Kalita



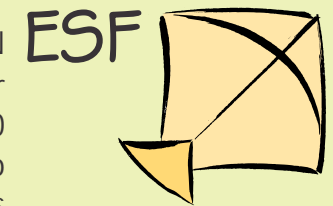
## Responsibilities

17	Submitted Paper Selection	Prithi Nambiar, Kiran Chhokar, Ashotosh Dwivedi, Amishal Modi
18	Website Development & Updating	Niraj Mistry, Prarthana Borah
19	Final Report	Prarthana Borah, Mukesh Panchal, Hardik Raval, Hiral Pandya, Mahendra Dadhania, Meena Nareshwar, Purvi Vyas
20	Help Desk	Sumega Khan
21	Stores	Basiel Mathew, P J Joseph
22	Purchase	K.V. Suryanarayanan, Rethi Menon
23	Graphic Design Team	Balamani, Hardik Raval, Hemal Solanki; Hitesh Vaza, Mahendra Dadhania, Mukesh Panchal, Pratik Gajjar, Shailesh Bhalani
24	Exhibit Design Team	Hemal Shah, Kalpesh Dave, Praful Bilgi
25	Workshop Team	Amrut S Thakore, Ashok Vaghela, Chandubhai Gajjar, Deependra Harsora, Fatehsinh Thakore, Jayanti B Patel, Madhusinh Chauhan, Manilal Shudra Manubhai Thakore, Vipul Parmar
26	Studio Coordination	Baldev D Thakore, Krishna Chandran, Rajesh Rathod
27	Travel Reimbursement & Accounts	Abdul Salam Munshi, Ashish Desai, Chetan Dave, Dilip Vora, Kiran Parikh, Lalit Joshi, Niranjana Patel, Preetha Nair, Rasik Thakore
28	Invitations and coordination with key speakers	Archana Gehlot, Madhavi Joshi, Prarthana Borah, Pravin Prakash
29	Special assistance to Foreign Delegates	Hiral Pandya, Sudhir Sinha, T.K. Balappan
30	Conference Secretariat	Prarthana Borah, Hiral Pandya, Niraj Mistry, Raji Vamadevan
31	Overall Coordination	Kartikeya Sarabhai

## CEE's International Conferences

### Education for a Sustainable Future' (ESF), 18-20 January

2005, at CEE, Ahmedabad, was the first international event to mark the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). It brought together close to 800 learners, practitioners, academics and activists from over 50 countries. The three-day event not only discussed what the Decade can do to re-orient the vision of development, and how educators can facilitate this process, but also laid out roadmaps for ESD action in 20 sectors through separate workshops.



A key task that the participants took up was to carefully study the UN DESD Draft International Implementation Scheme (October 2004), in order to give inputs to enrich and strengthen it. An important output of the Conference was the Ahmedabad Declaration unanimously adopted by the participants. Various stakeholders were to develop their own strategies and action plans for the Decade based on the Conference outputs.

The stated objectives of Education for a Sustainable Future had been to

- Share the understanding, current status and needs of ESD.
- Showcase best practices for ESD from different parts of the world.
- Strengthen networking and active participation of all stakeholders for ESD for the next decade.
- Develop a strategy and a blueprint of action for the Decade, including India's strategy and its role in the Decade.
- Work towards developing guiding principles, roadmaps and priorities for Education for Sustainable Development in the Decade

### The 4th International Conference on Environment Education was held from

from 24 to 28 November, 2007. The Conference was organized by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) & Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India with UNESCO and UNEP as co-sponsors. CEE was the nodal and host agency. The Conference titled "Environmental Education towards a Sustainable Future- Partners for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development was the fourth international conference in the journey of EE since Tbilisi. It was held to help set the roadmap for progress through DESD.



The Conference looked at understanding what has emerged out of the discipline of EE since Tbilisi and the role of EE within ESD. Specifically the Conference sought to define how EE can support ESD and establish linkages. The deliberations at the Conference also help set the roadmap for progress through the DESD.

The workshops were structured into twenty major themes, reflecting the EE and ESD concerns and issues that have evolved in the areas over the last 30 years since Tbilisi. Every workshop took stock of their specific area in the context of ESD and also identified the role of EE within this.



Ethical Framework for A Sustainable World was held at CEE in Ahmedabad from 1 to 3 November, 2010. The Conference was held in partnership with the Earth Charter International. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India was a co host at the Conference. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, United Nations Educational, Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) were partners in the Conference.

The Conference was organized to meet the need to bring together the policy makers, practitioners, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, academics and religious thinkers that work with the Earth Charter and in Education for Sustainable Development onto a common forum towards discussing synergies between the two and defining ways of the EC from principles to practice. The Conference was specifically held with a view to do the following

- Strengthen efforts at making ESD central to education practice and training
- Clarify the role the EC can play in education
- Share experiences on the use of EC in education
- Strengthen partnerships with the EC
- Capture the spirit of the events related to EC +10 and to use the ideas to discuss and launch the vision for the EC for the next decade (2011-2020)

The Conference looked at the effective translation of the Earth Charter from principles to practice. Specifically the Conference sought to review and strengthen ways by which these principles and values can find resonance in different areas of life and work across different sectors from international organizations and business enterprises to formal education.

## Behind the Scenes

