

Xavier University, Bhubaneswar Sustainability Summit 2018

November 17th, 2018

Education for Sustainable Development is education for the future. It helps in building a better and fairer world for the 21st century.

Taking forward the Jesuit values of environmental justice and peace, School of Sustainability, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar is organising its 4th sustainability summit with the theme “Mainstreaming Sustainability: Role of Education and Reporting”.

There are three themes: Plenary 1: Mainstreaming Sustainability Education

Plenary 2: Careers in Sustainability

Plenary 3: SDGs and Reporting

The summit was held in partnership with Wipro and Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). The summit invites eminent panellists who would be leading Industry experts, academicians and alumni associated with Sustainability education.

About 4th Annual- Xavier University, Bhubaneswar Sustainability Summit – 2018

The Sustainability Summit is an annual event organized by the Xavier School of Sustainability. This year, the 4th annual Xavier University, Bhubaneswar Sustainability Summit - 2018 was held at XUB Xavier City Jatni campus, on November 17th, 2018. The theme of this year's summit was Mainstreaming Sustainability: Role of Education and Reporting. The core agenda of the summit was to emphasize the need to mainstream sustainability in management education and esp. within the academic fraternity, cement XUB's role as a change agent and leader in context of the highly relevant theme. The summit also focused on accomplishing goals by identifying materialities and practice the most consequential instrumentality- Reporting. Global think tanks have quoted “Sustainability reporting appears to be reaching a “tipping point,” as it moves beyond the realm of the innovators and early adopters and into the mainstream”.

The summit also holds importance in the background of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015 by the United Nations' General Assembly, where the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly reflects this vision of the importance of an appropriate educational response. Education is explicitly formulated as a stand-alone goal – the SDG 4 of Quality Education; defining education to be the means, and not the end.

With 19 speakers and delegates, the 4th Annual Sustainability Summit 2018 was inaugurated on 17th November, 2018 at Xavier University, Bhubaneswar by Father. E.A Augustine (Registrar, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar), Dr. S. Peppin (Dean, School of Sustainability), Mr. Anirban Ghosh (Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra), Mr. P S Narayan (Vice president and Head Sustainability, Wipro. Ltd). The other distinguished speakers from diverse fields that graced the occasion were Mr. Vishal Bhavsar (Ultratech/Aditya Birla), Mr. Gaurav Sarup (Vedanta/ Cairn India), Mr. Debanjan Bandhopadhyay (ERM), Mr. Saunak Saha (Ernst & Young), Ms. Richa Pant (LTFS), Ms. Kiran (DNV-GL), Mr. Gyanesh Pathak (Bennett & Coleman/ Times Group), Mr. Pratyush Panda (Lafarge ACC), Mr. Christu Das (ESAF), Mr. Pradeep Mehta (CHINAR).

Fr. E.A. Augustine in his inaugural speech said “Sustainability lies not only in the way we define it but also practice it.” Prof. Dean S. Peppin addressed the guests and highlighted on the importance of Sustainability education and Global Reporting Initiative which is helping address the new indices and indicators that are being developed around 17 Sustainable Development Goals. According to Mr. Anirban Ghosh Sustainability is about the endurance of business while enriching the environment and

increase the profits for stakeholders. He quoted that Sustainability is not only about making profits but also, “Enabling people to live extraordinary lives and be the light to the world”. Mr. P.S. Narayan through his words inspired us to have deep conviction and belief to take the road less travelled which is the path of sustainability. Followed by inauguration, there was a book release by our esteemed guests.

The first half of the summit was neatly divided into three plenaries. The first of which was a panel discussion on “Careers in Sustainability.” The second panel discussion comprised of young practitioners who through the topic “Mainstreaming Sustainability Education” emphasized on the critical role of education which has been re-confirmed recently in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development. The world is in a constant flux. We need to acknowledge this, and structure our educational as well as business fundamentals accordingly. We need blueprint to understand the dynamic trends shaping tomorrow, today. Our third panel discussion revolves around this ideology. The second half was taken by Ms. Pallavi Atre. With an experience of over twelve years in the field of Sustainability, Ms. Atre introduced the importance of corporate reporting for Sustainable Development Goals. She emphasized on the mission and vision of Global Reporting Initiative and its focus on mainstreaming sustainability and transparency alongside rapid economic growth. With the vote of thanks to our guests, we came to an end of yet another successful summit of School of Sustainability, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar.

Pictures from the summit



1: Inaugural Ceremony



2: Unravelling the GRI Reference Material



3: Plenary 3: Mainly focusing on the role of Reporting and SDGs



4: School of Sustainability Fraternity with Pallavi Atre



5: Industry Stalwart discussing on mainstreaming sustainability education



6: Young practitioners discussing on careers in Sustainability



7: Launch of the book