

Annual Report 2020



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

A Letter from Our President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Six years ago, we launched the SDG Academy to help prepare this generation and the coming generations to achieve sustainable development. From the beginning, the SDG Academy has been unique in its use of digital technology to reach a critical global mass of learners on the SDGs. The need to educate our citizens about sustainable development has become even more urgent in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, a global crisis that highlights the global urgency of sustainable development, the intimate relationship among all SDGs, and the vital need for science-literate and collaborative leadership.

The SDG Academy has a crucial role to drive these priorities forward and to help amplify the critical work of expert sustainable development researchers and practitioners by providing them with a global platform to reach a global audience. I'm thrilled to see the great progress that the SDG Academy has achieved over just a few years, as well as its very exciting and dynamic plans going forward. From delivering a robust repository of new and compelling high-quality content covering all the SDGs to convening a vibrant community of educators committed to teaching sustainable development in classrooms and beyond, the SDG Academy has important work ahead to help realize education for sustainable development as a key promoter of the SDGs and of the future we want.

It is my pleasure as the President of Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and as a faculty member of several SDG Academy courses, to congratulate the SDG Academy on its great progress and flourishing. I also thank the wonderful SDG Academy team that leads these pivotal efforts. We all have a responsibility to be part of global problem solving, and quality education is essential to overcome the current crisis and build a better world together. SDG Academy alumni are well-positioned to take action and to empower others to lead positive change for a sustainable future. My colleagues and I are immensely grateful for the generous support and leadership of Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, as well as our remarkable faculty and committed partners. Most of all, I want to thank our learners, who are advancing the mission to achieve a sustainable, just and inclusive future for all.



Jeffrey D. Sachs



A Letter from Our Director

Dear Friends,

Six Januaries ago, SDSN launched The Age of Sustainable Development, our first online course, taught by SDSN Director and Columbia University Professor Jeffrey Sachs. It was an experiment to test an audacious idea: bringing together educators and experts to teach people around the world of the great challenges and even greater opportunities that we, humanity, can explore to achieve sustainable development. We chose technology as our pedagogical channel, and aimed to make our educational content free of charge, available to anyone who wanted to learn. Our hope was to break institutional, geographic, and demographic barriers, and to help create a global community of aware and motivated practitioners for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Fast forward to 2020: the SDG Academy has close to half a million learners from practically every country in the world, with more than 30 courses on offer, created with the involvement of over 150 extraordinary faculty members. We have reached students, professionals, politicians, grassroots workers, retirees, and teachers. This diverse and dynamic community of learners has kept us on our toes, continuously asking for more, teaching us to do more, and do it better.

Along the way, we have been honored and grateful for the support we have received: our partners EdCast and Karl Mehta, in particular, without whose vision we would not have got going; Kontentreal, which remains our primary production partner, and its indefatigable leader, Karena Albers, who produces our beautiful content with skill and heart; edX and its leaders Anant Agarwal and Lee Rubenstein, who have helped us expand our reach to a global pool of learners. But most of all, we owe our success to the vision of Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, for unstinting and ongoing support.

2020 has been a year of unexpected events. In many ways, it has been a year of heartbreak. However, despite the challenges of Covid-19, it has also been a year of discovery and reinvention. For the SDG Academy, 2020 has heightened our responsibility to our learners in several ways: first, we moved to document and share our formidable experience in online pedagogy and learning with our 1,200+ SDSN university partners. Second, we brought together expertise from around the world on emerging lessons from the pandemic and how to deal with it, adding immediately to our collective knowledge. Third, we are pivoting to remote filming and production to ensure that we do not break our

stream of content creation. At a time when the attention of the world has turned online, it is incumbent upon us to help equip learners with the ability to not just make sense of a changing world, but to arm themselves with the tools, solutions, and capacity to make it better.

This report will walk you through a brief background of the SDG Academy and the milestones that got us to where we are today. It will present facts and figures of what we have achieved in this past year. I hope it also illustrates the richness and depth of our work in creating new and compelling content, sharing that content in innovative ways, constantly reaching new audiences, and responding to learner needs as they emerge. In all of this, what is as important is that we hold on to our primary mission: creating and curating the best educational materials on the SDGs, and making them available free of cost.

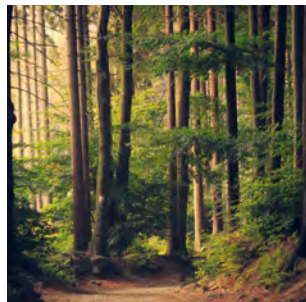
Our parent organization, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), is unique in its ability to bring together experts from around the world to solve some of the most complex problems of our generation. Dr. Jeffrey D. Sachs leads from the front, not just inspiring us to do more, but also teaching hundreds of thousands of people through his courses. My colleagues at SDSN, including Lauren Barredo, Elena Crete, Rachel McBeth, Maria Cortes-Puch, Rebecca Sopchik, Emma Torres, Guido Schmidt-Traub, and Wing Woo have made invaluable contributions to the SDG Academy. We are very fortunate to have an outstanding Academic Advisory Committee that has guided our work throughout the year. I am grateful to them all.

But I am most privileged in the extraordinary team that runs the SDG Academy, a small group of dedicated and competent professionals that has created a body of work that would be hard for a team twice our size to pull off. The many successes you will read about in this report are a testament to my colleagues, current and past.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the SDG Academy and sharing in our collective belief in the power of education for a better future, and join us in our mission of teaching sustainable development to everyone, everywhere.



Chandrika Bahadur



Pioneering Education for a Sustainable Future — At Scale

As human activity continues to push Earth past its planetary boundaries, the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are more urgent than ever. The environmental, economic, and social challenges of our world affect us all, from how we eat to how we work, how we communicate, and how we learn. We firmly believe that education is the first step towards achieving the SDGs. The SDG Academy's content raises awareness and improves understanding of the science and policies behind sustainable development, and allows policy-makers, researchers, practitioners, and citizens to make informed decisions about how to be more sustainable. By delivering courses covering all the SDGs,

including topics such as health, development, climate change, agriculture, human rights, and sustainable investment, our team and partners work every day to create and curate educational resources as a public good for a diverse global audience. The SDG Academy is unique in its ability to pull together leading experts across geographies and institutions, giving learners free and quality access to the foundational tools and resources needed to take action in their local communities and globally. In everything that the SDG Academy does, we are guided by our commitment to providing quality education as an essential tool for achieving a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future.

We firmly believe that education is the first step towards achieving the SDGs.



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Our Story: Get to Know Us

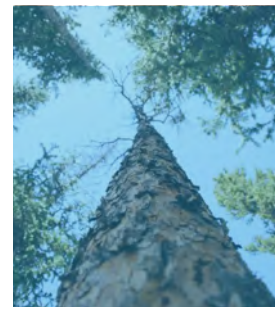
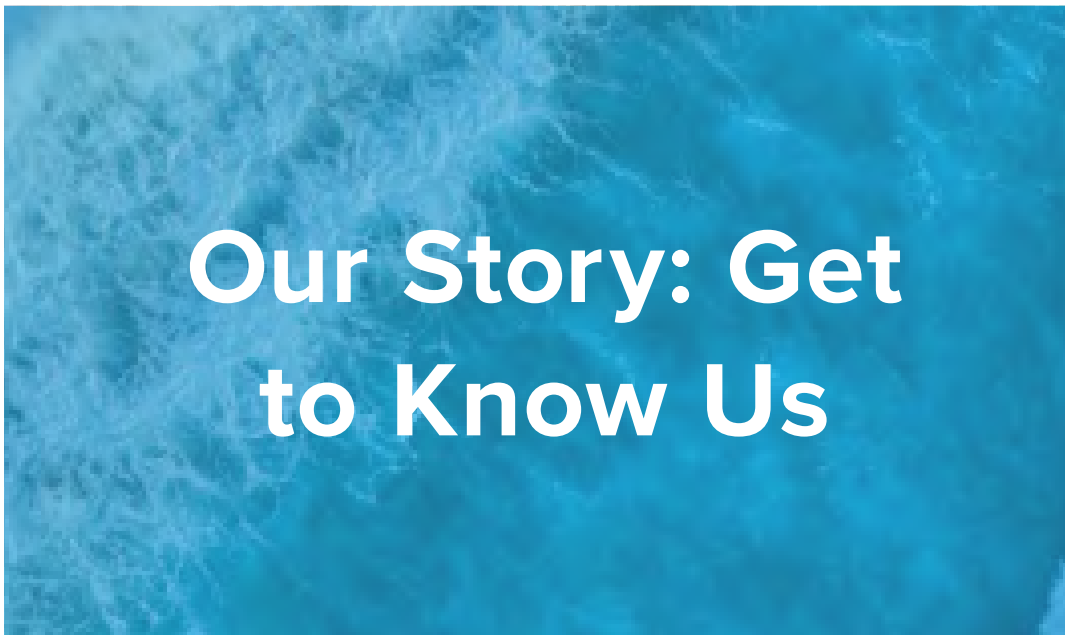
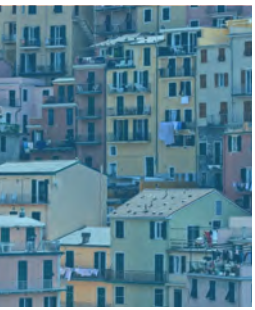
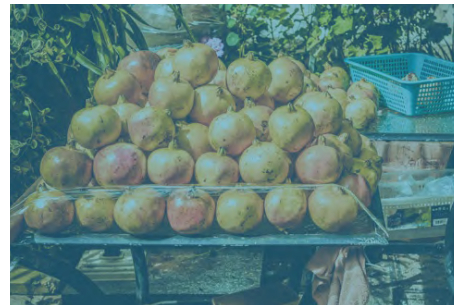
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Part 1



Advancing the SDGs Through Education



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The **SDG Academy** is the flagship educational initiative of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). The SDG Academy creates and curates online learning content on sustainable development and makes it available at scale, for free, as a global public good.

Our initiative serves a diverse audience with our self-paced massive open online courses (MOOCs) and multimedia resources crafted into a global online curriculum in the context of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

Our learners include students and young professionals, researchers, policymakers, organizations, and other changemakers interested in expanding their knowledge, shifting their behaviors, and

connecting with like-minded practitioners to take an active role in addressing the world's most pressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

The SDG Academy engages a community of institutions, as well as individual learners, offering educational content and opportunities for peer learning and engagement to advance sustainable development.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

The **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** was established in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General to mobilize global academic and scientific expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Our Vision and Mission

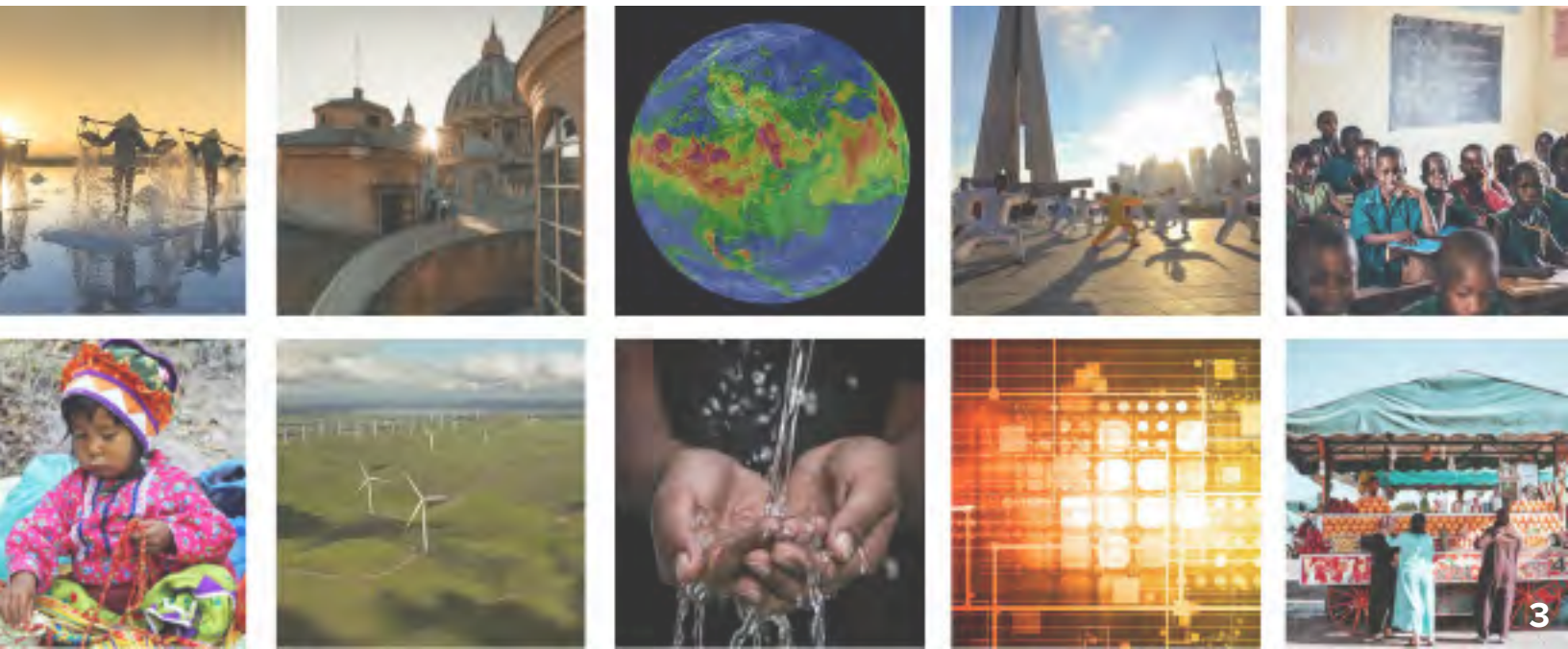


Our Vision:

A world in which the SDGs are achieved through the efforts of the next generation of educators, practitioners, and citizens that has access to relevant educational content and partnerships to advance sustainable development everywhere.

Our Mission:

To create and curate relevant content on the SDGs, made available on a global scale, to prepare the current and next generations of leaders and practitioners to achieve the SDGs.



Our Approach

Our approach merges substantive expertise with grassroots movements, putting SDG knowledge in the hands of people who need it most. Resources are designed to combine the best scientific knowledge, global and local perspectives, and a pedagogical approach that is thought-provoking and transformative.



580,223+
Enrollments
across multiple platforms



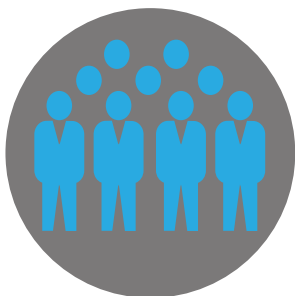
193
Countries



32
Courses
Created through partnerships



~150
Faculty members
globally



Available
at scale



Free for
everyone



Global
public good

Educational resources from the world's leading experts on sustainable development

Our Courses



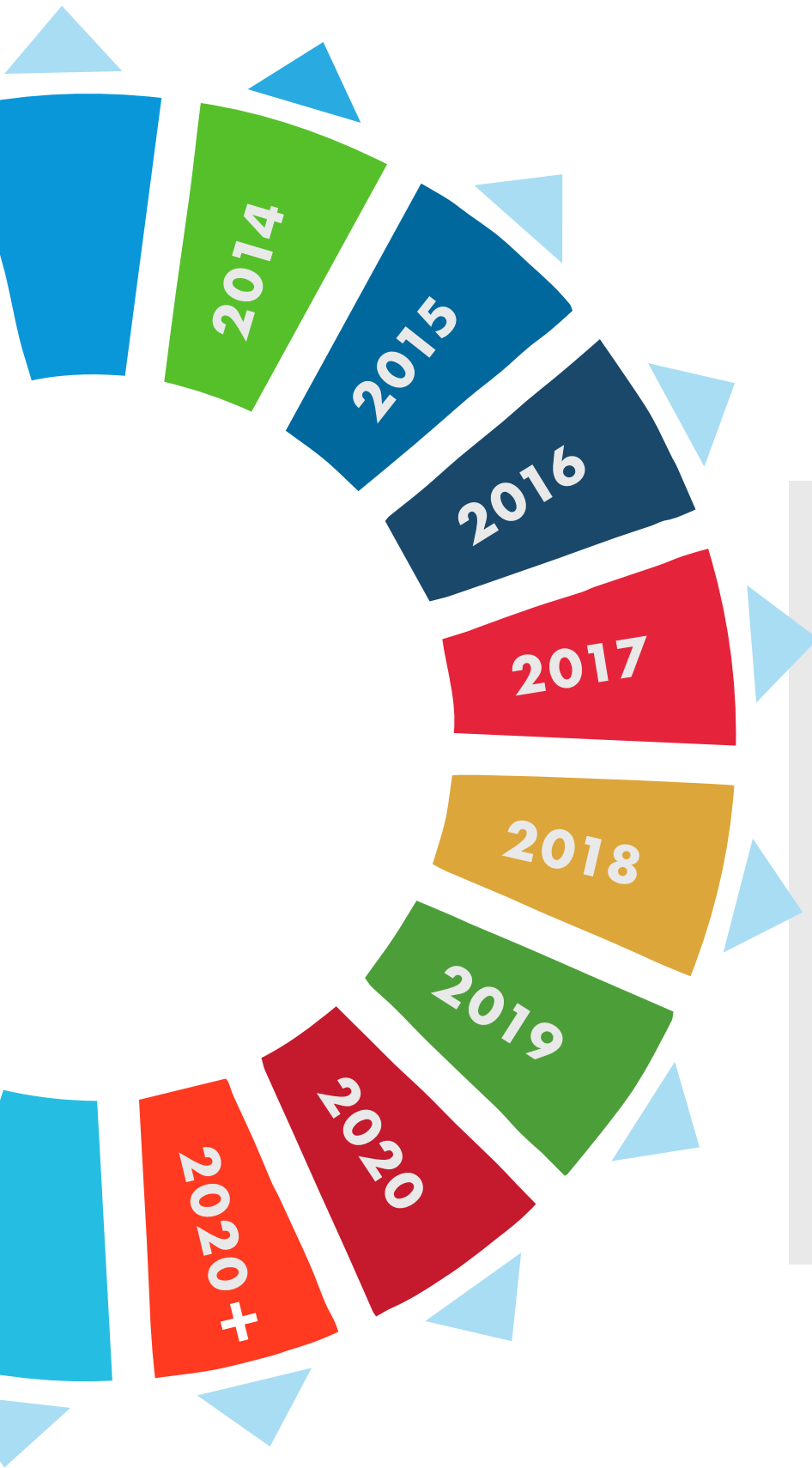
Nearly all **SDG Academy MOOCs** on **edX** are available self-paced, meaning that learners can access and complete the content at a time and on a schedule that is convenient for them. Our courses comprise documentary-quality video lectures from leading experts in the field, readings, assessments, activities, and discussion forums, and often feature live Q&As or webinars with course faculty or other experts.



Self-paced courses can be completed at anytime, anywhere.



Our Timeline



Learn more about the SDG Academy's milestones and what we have planned.

SDSNedu is established as the flagship education initiative of SDSN with the launch of [The Age of Sustainable Development](#).

Partnership with [EdCast](#) secured to host SDSNedu courses on a dedicated site.

Other Courses released in 2014

- » Climate Change Science and Negotiations
- » Planetary Boundaries and Human Opportunities
- » The Age of Sustainable Development

Our Timeline

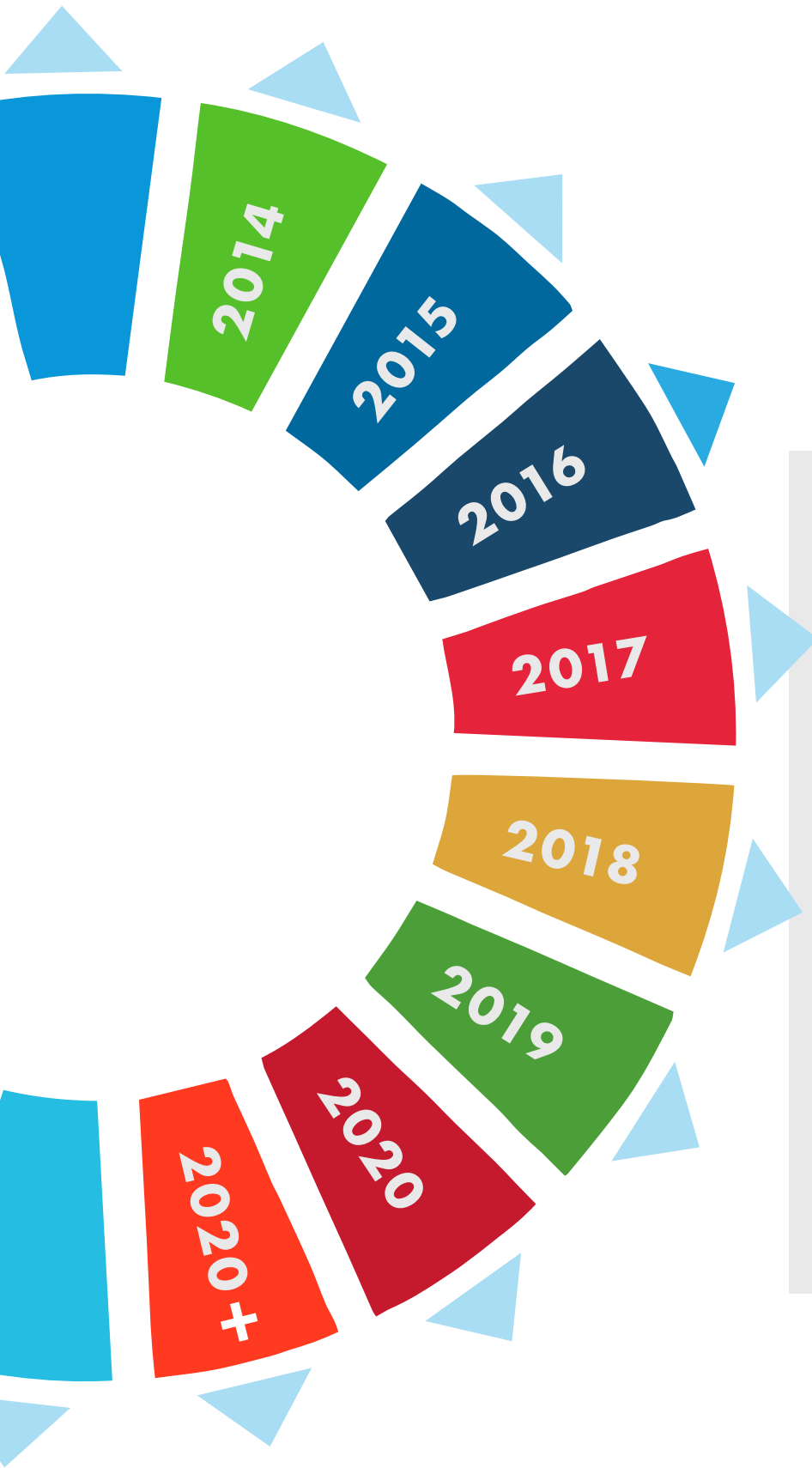
Learn more about the SDG Academy's milestones and what we have planned.



Courses released in 2015

- » Cities and the Challenge of Sustainable Development
- » Global Public Health
- » Laudato Si'
- » Transforming Our World

Our Timeline



Learn more about the SDG Academy's milestones and what we have planned.

Formal rebranding and launch of the SDG Academy in partnership with the [Jeffrey Cheah Foundation](#).

Courses released in 2016

- » Human Rights, Human Wrongs: Challenging Poverty, Vulnerability and Social Exclusion
- » Natural Resources for Sustainable Development
- » One Planet, One Ocean
- » Sustainable Cities
- » The Best Start in Life: Early Childhood Development for Sustainable Development

Our Timeline

Learn more about the SDG Academy's milestones and what we have planned.

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2020+

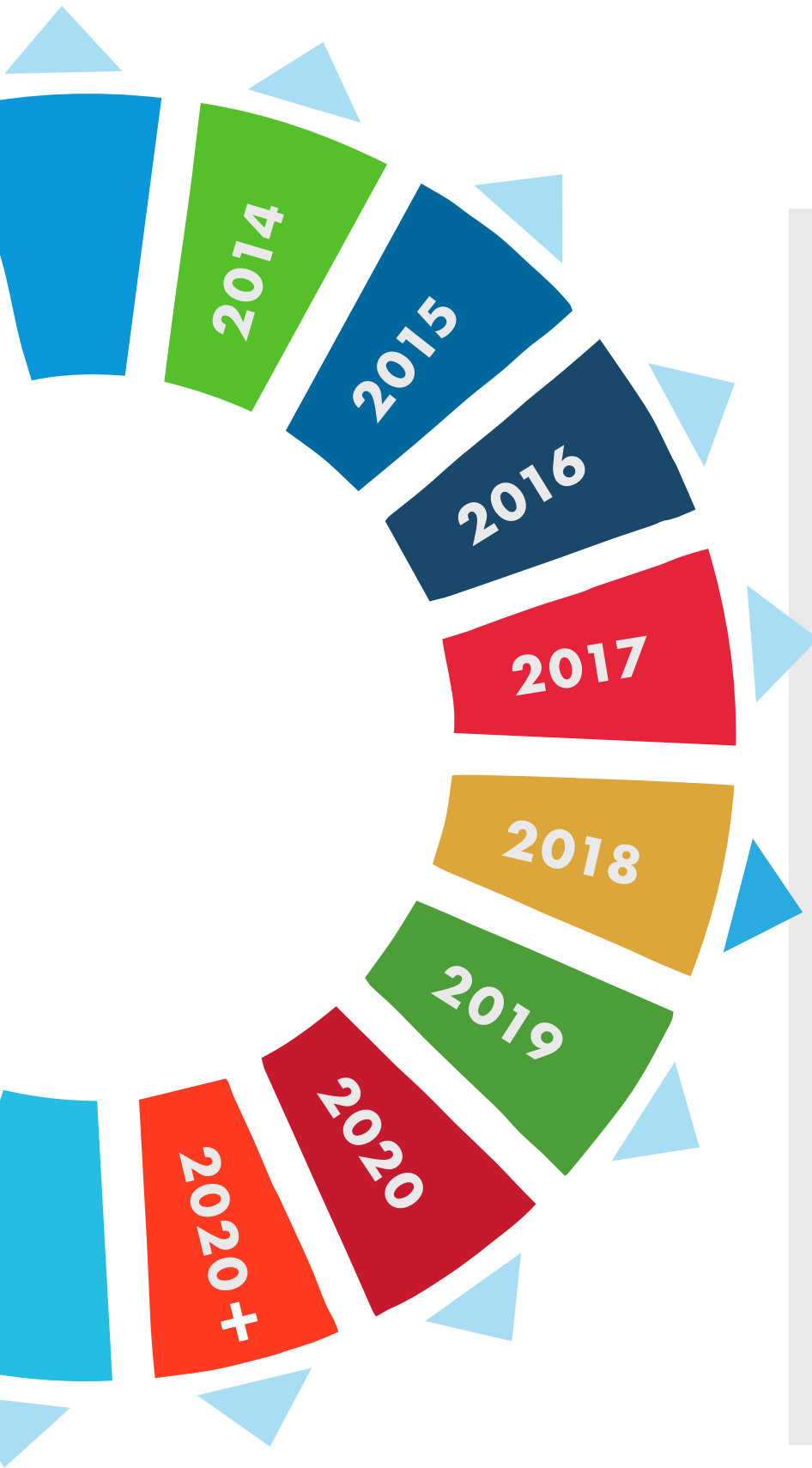
Launch of the University Partnership Program.

The SDG Academy and EdCast receive an **Excellence in Learning Gold Award** from the Brandon Hall Group for innovative learning and development.

Courses released in 2017

- » Climate Action: Solutions for a Changing Planet
- » Feeding a Hungry Planet: Agriculture, Nutrition and Sustainability
- » Globalization: Past and Future
- » Macroeconomics for a Sustainable Planet

Our Timeline



Learn more about the SDG Academy's milestones and what we have planned.

Partnership with [edX](#) to expand scale and reach.

Launch of [sdgacademy.org](#).

Curation of external courses begins. Partnership with [XuetangX](#) begins. Partnership with [Emirates Diplomatic Academy](#) begins.

Courses released in 2018

- » Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace
- » From the Ground Up: Managing and Preserving our Terrestrial Ecosystems
- » How to Achieve the SDGs
- » Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective
- » Tech for Good: The Role of ICT in Achieving the SDGs
- » The Korean Story: Secrets of an Economic Miracle
- » Transforming Development: The Science and Practice of Resilience

Our Timeline



Launch of the **SDG Academy Library**.

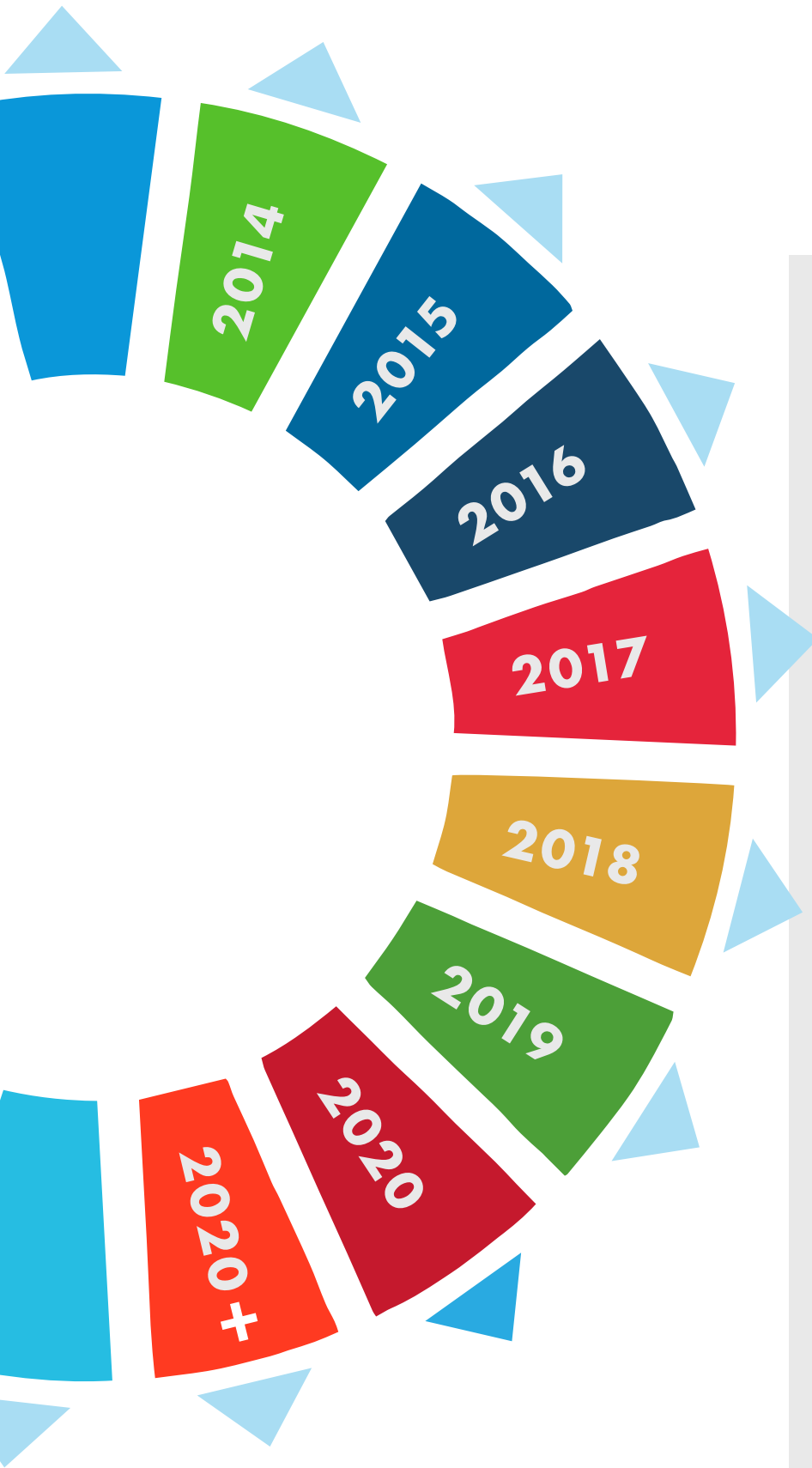
Partnerships with **Edraak** and **UN SDG:Learn** platforms, the **Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens**, **IDB**, **Club de Madrid**, **UN Academic Impact**, and **EFMD**.

The Secretariat of the **Global Association of Master's in Development Practice Programs** joins the **SDG Academy**.

Courses released in 2019

- » Alianzas: un vehículo para lograr el desarrollo sostenible
- » Climate Change: The Science and Global Impact
- » Ethics in Action
- » Industrial Policy in the 21st Century: The Challenge for Africa
- » Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in the Middle East and North Africa
- » Sector Extractivo: sostenibilidad y desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe
- » Sustainable Development: The Post Capitalist Order
- » Water: Addressing the Global Crisis

Our Timeline



Learn more about the SDG Academy's milestones and what we have planned.

(January–June)

Partnership with **IDEP** to contextualize and create courses.

Launch of the new **Community of Practice** as successor to the University Partnership Program.

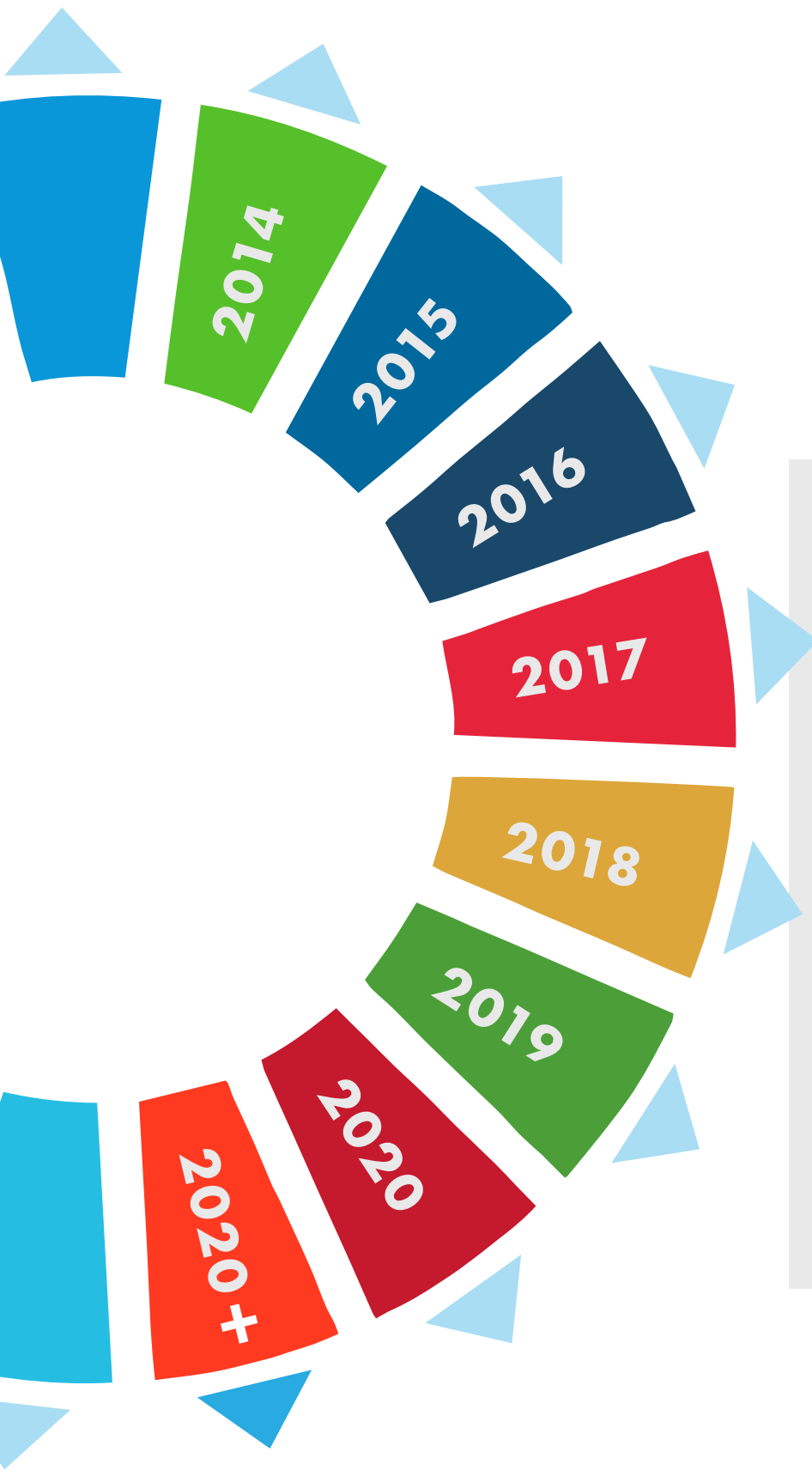
Responded to the COVID pandemic by hosting expert webinars and providing educators with **resources** for remote teaching.

Head of Program and Partnerships Florencia Librizzi co-chairs the **Higher Education for Sustainability Initiative**.

Courses released in 2020

- » Conversations with Global Leaders: Leading on Sustainable Development
- » Measuring Sustainable Development
- » Work and Employment for a Sustainable Future

Our Timeline



Learn more about the SDG Academy's milestones and what we have planned.

(July–December)

Launch of the [Online Master's Program in Sustainable Development](#), in partnership with University College Dublin, Ireland, and Sunway University, Malaysia.

Launch of the inaugural Community of Practice cohort of Partners.

Courses currently in production include:

- » Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security
- » Poverty and Inequality: The Global Challenge

Our Partners

We work with partners from around the world who help to amplify the work of the SDG Academy.



Our Faculty

The **SDG Academy's** global faculty comprises leading experts in sustainable development who believe in the power of knowledge sharing to improve the lives of everyone.

As an initiative of the SDSN, the SDG Academy is able to leverage a unique access to leading experts from top universities, research institutions, think tanks, development agencies, and the UN System to create our content.



"Rewarding on all counts! That's how we would summarize the entire process of development, broadcast and learning around our Ocean MOOC. As academics, we had a unique opportunity to engage with global learners and sustainability practitioners. We learned that scientific content was as important as inspiration, context and reflection. Delivery of our MOOC within the SDG Academy was critical in this experience, as we could place the ocean in the context of sustainable development and access thousands of global learners through their network."

*- Prof. Martin Visbeck and Dr. Avan Anita,
Kiel University, Germany*



"As a climate scientist and science communicator, I believe that public understanding of the science behind climate change can facilitate our collective efforts to address the climate crisis. By partnering with the SDG Academy, I have been able to reach more than 15,000 new learners in less than a year. Our efforts have helped citizens all over the world gain the knowledge needed to advocate for climate action."

*- Michael Mann, Distinguished Professor of
Atmospheric Science, Penn State University, USA*



Our Learners on edX



The Average Learner

Female
 35.5 Years Old
 Bachelor Level Education
 From North America
 English as First Language



The SDG Academy transitioned to **edX** in Sept 2018



From Sept 2018—June 2019:

25

Running Courses

Instructor-paced
 Self-paced



7,700

Highest Enrollment Overall
(Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace)

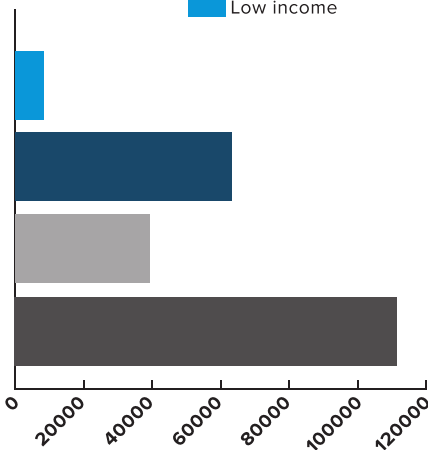
3.25%
 Average % Verified Learners (instructor-paced course)

2.16%
 Average % Verified Learners (self-paced course)

Profile of Our Community

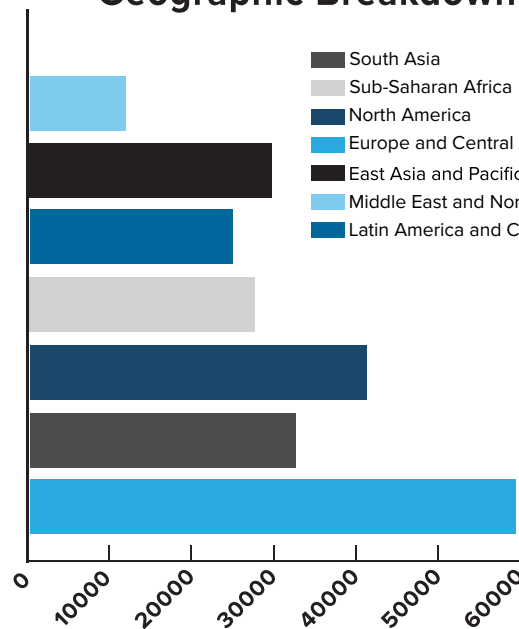
Income Classification of Learner Countries

- High income
- Upper-middle income
- Lower-middle income
- Low income



Geographic Breakdown

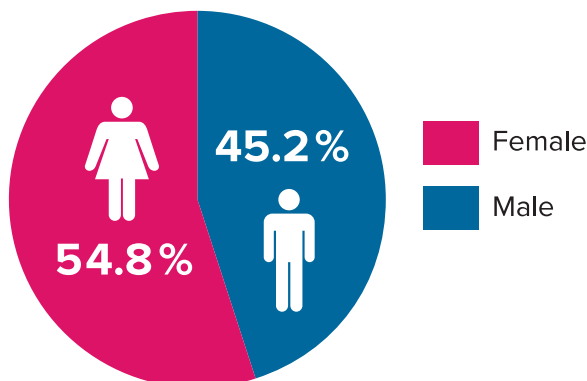
- South Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- North America
- Europe and Central Asia
- East Asia and Pacific
- Middle East and North Africa
- Latin America and Caribbean



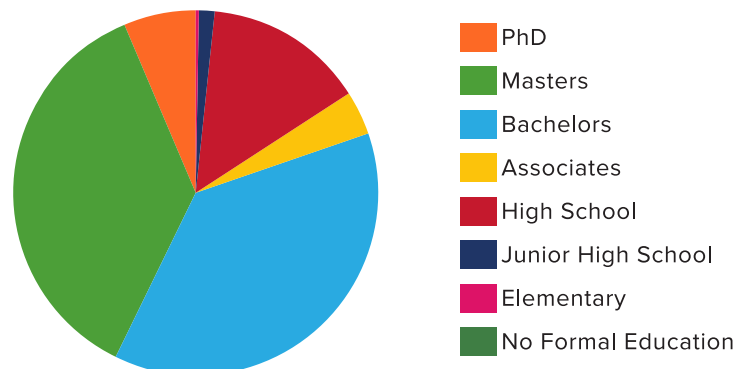
Most Common Native Language of Learners on edX

- English
- Spanish
- French
- Danish
- Portuguese
- Malayalam

Gender Breakdown

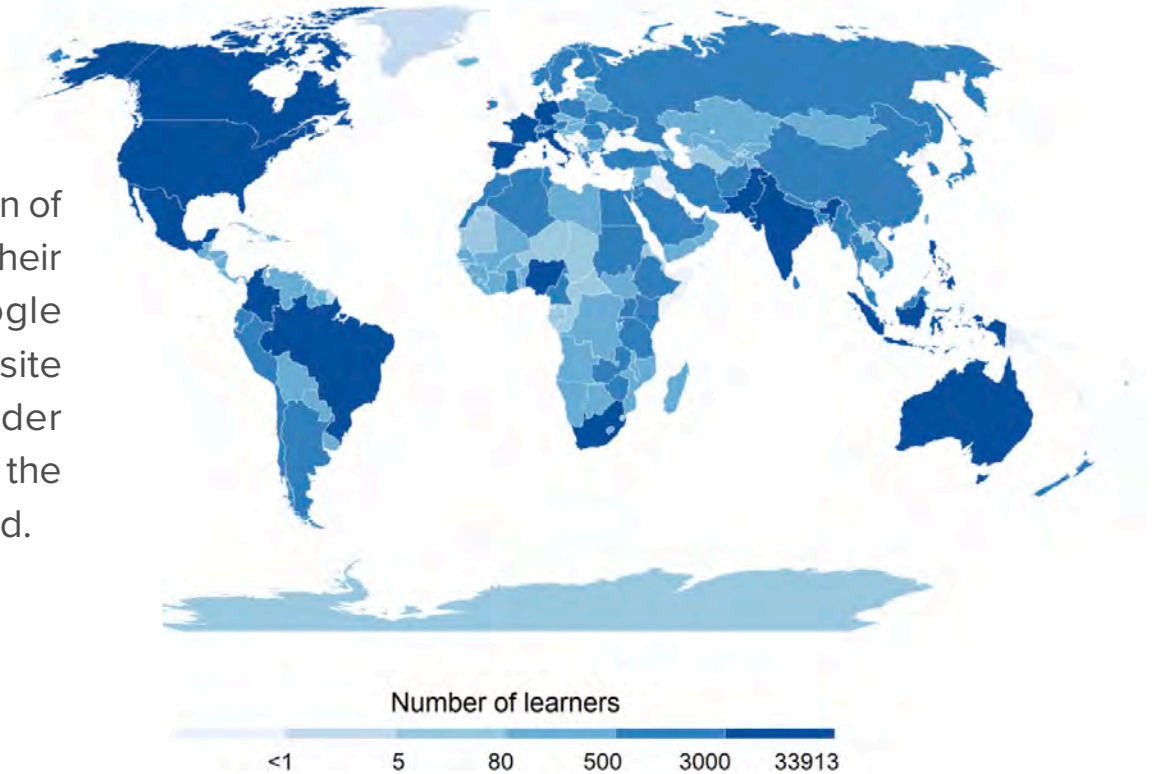


Education Level



Our Reach

Because only a fraction of edX users self-report their demographics, Google Analytics of our website show a much broader picture of the reach of the SDG Academy's brand.



Website Users

Pageviews

12,070,817



Sessions

3,555,592



Users

1,019,223



Languages of Users Engaging with SDGAcademy.org

	Users	% Users
i. English (US)	553,340	53.71%
ii. English (UK)	131,228	12.74%
iii. Brazilian Portuguese	32,297	3.13%
iv. Spain Spanish	27,280	2.65%
v. General Spanish	25,798	2.50%
vi. General French	22,883	2.22%
vii. France French	20,624	2.00%
viii. General English	14,296	1.39%
ix. Italy Italian	13,476	1.31%
x. Latin American Spanish	13,384	1.30%



28.2%

New Visitors

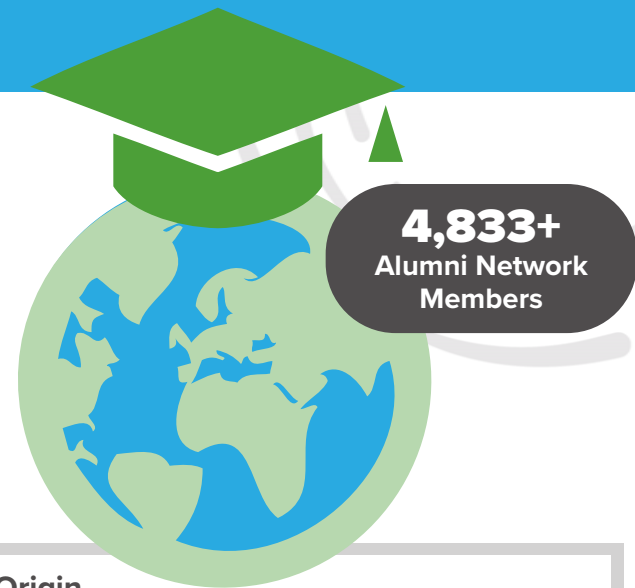


71.8%

Returning Visits

Our Alumni Network

Created in 2018, the [SDG Academy Alumni Network Facebook Group](#) provides nearly 5,000 SDG Academy course alumni with a platform to discuss the topics they learned in the courses; share stories, articles, and opportunities; and interact with the SDG Academy through polls, contests, and calls for engagement.



Top 10 Alumni Countries of Origin



“As a science teacher, when I first started taking SDG Academy courses, I thought I had a good grasp on the concepts of sustainability. However, I never expected to learn so much, or for the courses to lead me on a path where I am now: pursuing a Master’s in Sustainable Development through SOAS University of London. I first started looking into sustainability from an environmental point of view. However, it turns out to be much more complicated than I initially thought. And, as a consequence, the courses have shifted my attention toward the importance of education and poverty eradication.”

- *Becky Fox, New Zealand*



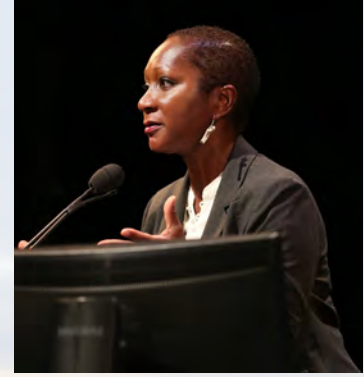
Our Team



Chandrika Bahadur
Director



Florencia Librizzi
Head of Program and
Partnerships



Lucia Rodriguez
Director, Master's in
Development Practice
Program



Shannon Kobran
Education Manager



Meredith Storey
Education Manager



Kayla Colyard
Education Coordinator



Amber Webb
Former Head of Program
and Partnerships



Chiteisri Devi
Former Education Manager



Neha Sharma
Former Education Manager

Our Academic Advisory Committee

The SDG Academy is supported by the Academic Advisory Committee, which provides strategic guidance and pedagogical input.



Padraig Carmody
Associate Professor, Trinity College Dublin



Ramu Damodaran
Chief, United Nations Academic Impact



May East
Chief Executive, Gaia Education



Dan Groody
Director, Kellogg Global Leadership Program



Alexander Leicht
Chief, Section of Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO



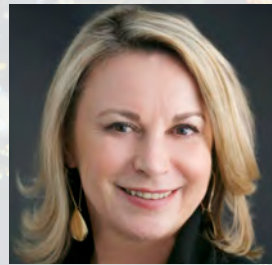
Marcia McKenzie
Director, Sustainability Education Research Institute, University of Saskatchewan



Olanrewaju Olaniyan
Director, Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Ibadan



Labode Popoola
Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University, & Co-Chair, SDSN Nigeria



Joanna Rubinstein
CEO, World Childhood Foundation



Lisa Sachs
Director, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment



Antonia Samur
Project Coordinator, Earth Institute



David Smith
Director, Centre for Environmental Management, University of the West Indies



Rocky Tuan
Vice-Chancellor, Chinese University of Hong Kong, & Co-Chair, SDSN Hong Kong

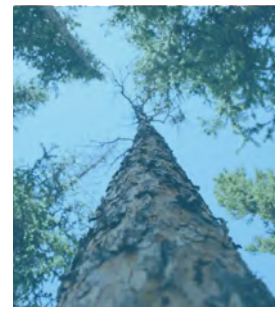
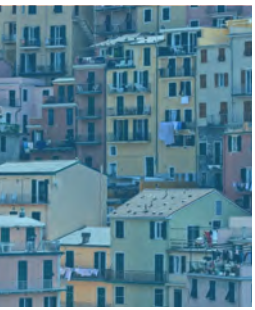
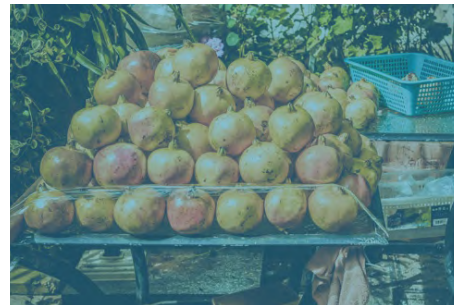


Patrick Paul Walsh
Chair, International Development Studies, University College Dublin



Shireen Yacoub
Chief Executive Officer, Edraak

Part 2



New Courses



Climate Change: The Science and Global Impact
(Sep 2019)

Click to view trailers



Ethics in Action
(Sep 2019)



Conversations with Global Leaders: Leading on Sustainable Development
(Jan 2020)

Click to enroll



First self-paced run of Natural Resources for Sustainable Development
(Feb 2020)



The Best Start in Life (revised)
(Mar 2020)



Work and Employment for a Sustainable Future
(May 2020)



Global Public Health (revised)
(May 2020)



Measuring Sustainable Development
(June 2020)

New Courses



Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in the Middle East and North Africa
(Aug 2019; created with Edraak)

Click to view trailers



Industrial Policy in the 21st Century: The Challenge for Africa
(Sep 2019; created with UNU-WIDER)

Click to enroll



Alianzas: un vehículo para lograr el desarrollo sostenible
(Oct 2019; created with IDB and SDSN Networks team)



Sector Extractivo: sostenibilidad y desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe
(Oct 2019; created with IDB)

These courses were developed in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Edraak, and UNU-WIDER.

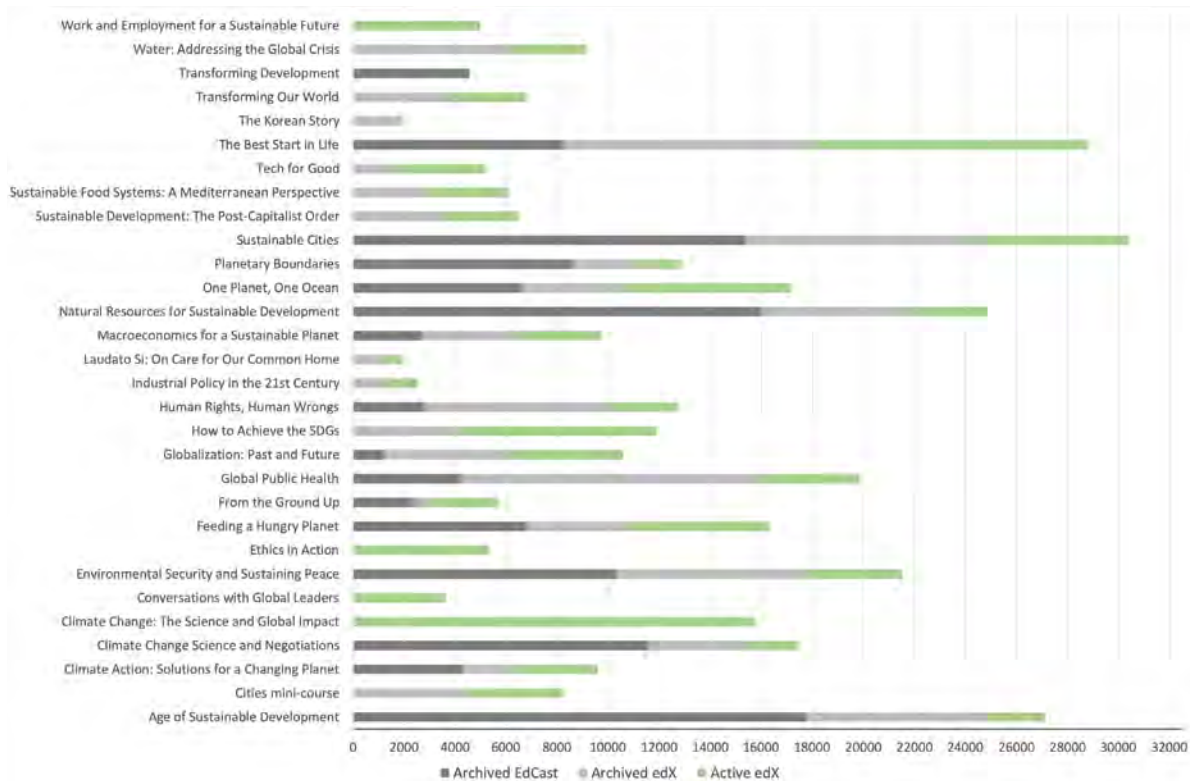


“Partnerships have long been a part of our DNA at the Inter-American Development Bank. That’s why, when we began designing a course on how to collaborate in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, we knew identifying a partner that shared our vision would be essential. Fortunately, we quickly found this partner in SDSN. Through its SDG Academy and other initiatives, SDSN has generated unparalleled knowledge and dialogue about how the international community can build a brighter future. And thanks to their partnership, more than 17,000 course registrants are now able to leverage our joint expertise to build fruitful collaborations of their own.”

-Bernardo Guillamon, Manager of the Office of Outreach and Partnerships, IDB, USA

Course Enrollments

Total Enrollments by Course



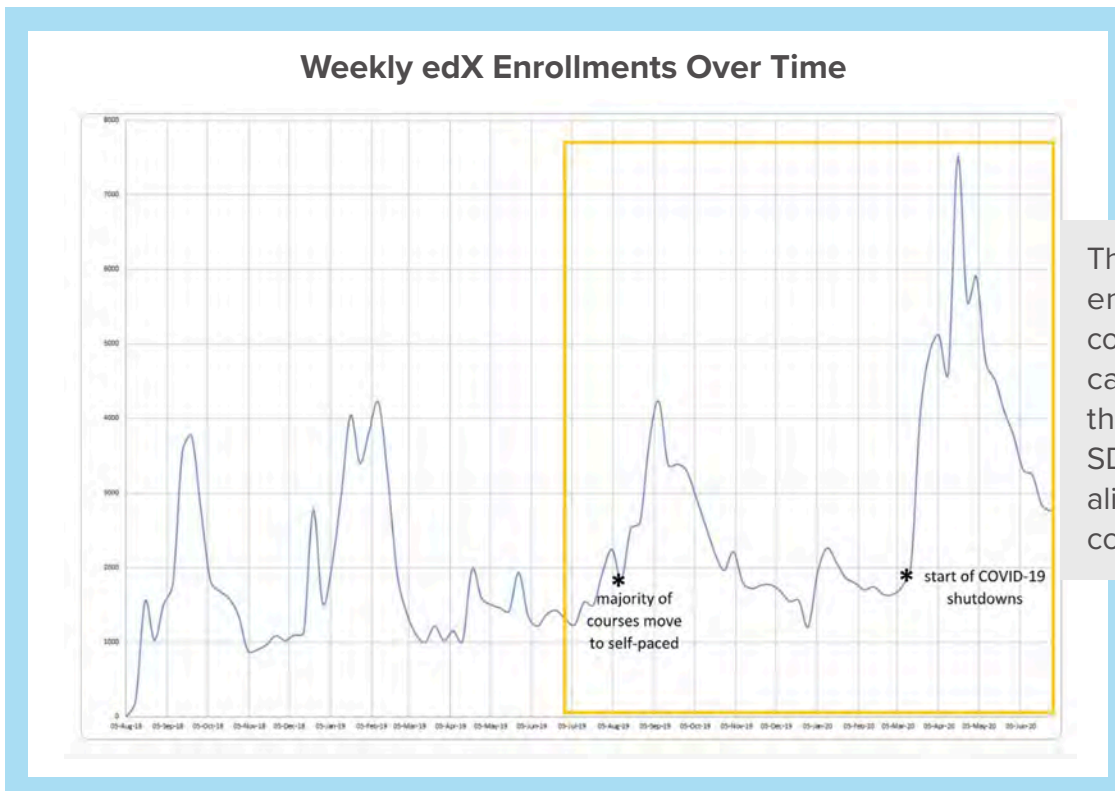
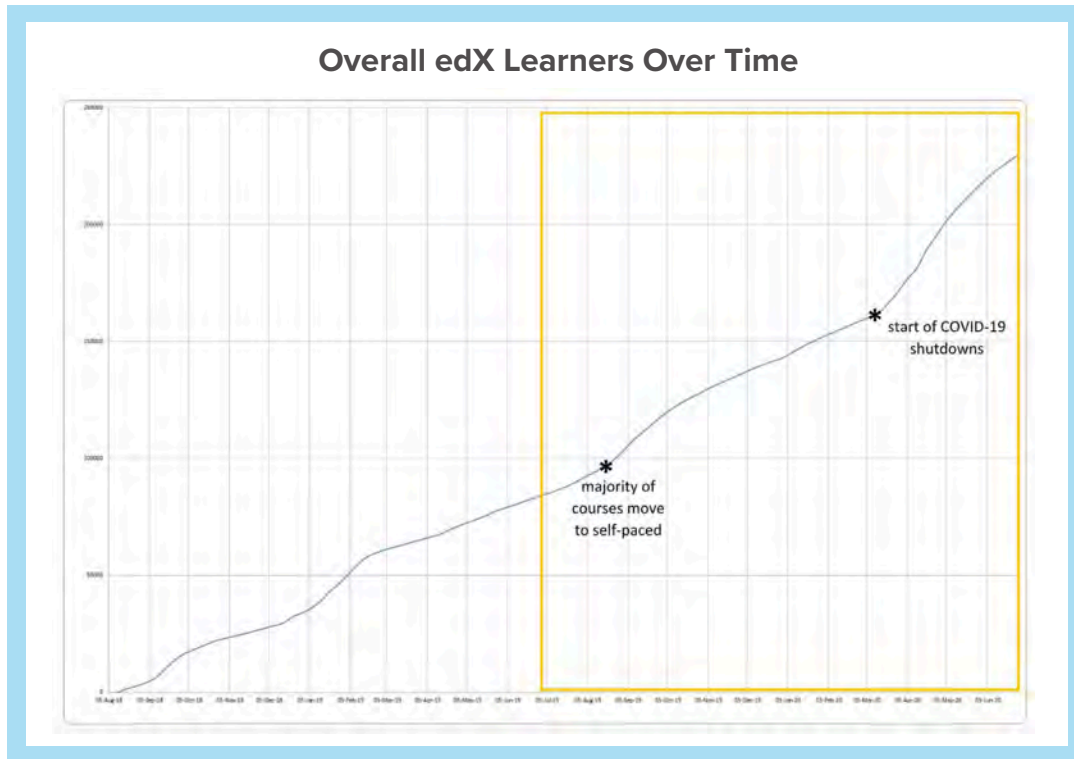
*Data includes core platforms only (EdCast and edX)

Full List of Courses

- » [The Age of Sustainable Development](#)
- » [Alianzas: un vehículo para lograr el desarrollo sostenible](#)
- » [The Best Start in Life: Early Childhood Development for Sustainable Development](#)
- » [Cities and the Challenge of Sustainable Development](#)
- » [Climate Action: Solutions for a Changing Planet](#)
- » [Climate Change: The Science and Global Impact](#)
- » [Climate Change Science and Negotiations](#)
- » [Conversations with Global Leaders: Leading on Sustainable Development](#)
- » [Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace](#)
- » [Ethics in Action](#)
- » [Feeding a Hungry Planet: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Sustainability](#)
- » [From the Ground Up: Managing and Preserving Our Terrestrial Ecosystems](#)
- » [Global Public Health](#)
- » [Globalization: Past and Future](#)
- » [How to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- » [Human Rights, Human Wrongs: Challenging Poverty, Vulnerability, and Social Exclusion](#)
- » [Industrial Policy in the 21st Century: The Challenge for Africa](#)
- » [The Korean Story: Secrets of an Economic Miracle](#)
- » [Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home](#)
- » [Macroeconomics for a Sustainable Planet](#)
- » [Measuring Sustainable Development](#)
- » [Natural Resources for Sustainable Development](#)
(The course has also been regionalized for Latin America and Caribbean, and for the Middle East/North Africa region).
- » [One Planet, One Ocean](#)
- » [Planetary Boundaries](#)
- » [Sustainable Cities](#)
- » [Sustainable Development: The Post-Capitalist Order](#)
- » [Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective](#)
- » [Tech for Good: Role of ICT in Achieving the SDGs](#)
- » [Transforming Development: The Science and Practice of Resilience Thinking](#)
- » [Transforming Our World: Achieving the SDGs](#)
- » [Water: Addressing the Global Crisis](#)
- » [Work and Employment for a Sustainable Future](#)

Measuring Success

In 2019, we made the shift from instructor-led to self-paced courses across most of our SDG Academy offerings. This shift has certainly been fruitful as over time we have more than 173,685 learners enrolled in self-paced modalities. Historically, there is a 2.705% growth between self-paced learners and those who were enrolling only in instructor-led courses.



The graph shows cyclical enrollment trends that coincide with the academic calendar. This suggests that learners enroll in SDG Academy courses to align with or imitate formal coursework.

Measuring Success

From Learner Engagement to Learner Investment

Enrollment in SDG Academy courses has grown tremendously in the last year, indicating an increased interest in our content and its message.

The even greater increase in learners pursuing a Verified Certificate shows that learners are willing to invest in their SDG Academy education.



**72%
Increase**

In overall learners
from FY2019-
FY2020

**105.82%
Increase**

In new learners
pursuing a
certificate

**18.83%
Increase**

In the ratio of the
learner population
pursuing verified
certificate



The SDG Academy Library

Launched in 2019, the SDG Academy Library is a searchable repository of educational videos on the sustainable development curated from our courses, SDG Academy and SDSN webinars, and select content partners.

1,200+
Educational
Videos



FEATURED CONTENT: EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE >



“For me, wide and open access to knowledge is one of the most important drivers for sustainable development. People, and the younger generations in particular, are the key drivers and agents of change. The SDG Academy has created a fantastic new knowledge sharing platform for that.”

- Achim Dobermann, Chief Scientist, International Fertilizer Association (IFA), France

The SDG Academy Library

July 2019 – June 30, 2020



33,254

Player impressions
(Number of times people looked at a player)



10,171
Plays



73,861
Minutes
of content viewed

Top countries engaging with SDG Academy Library content from Jul 2019–Jun 30, 2020

Top Countries

Plays

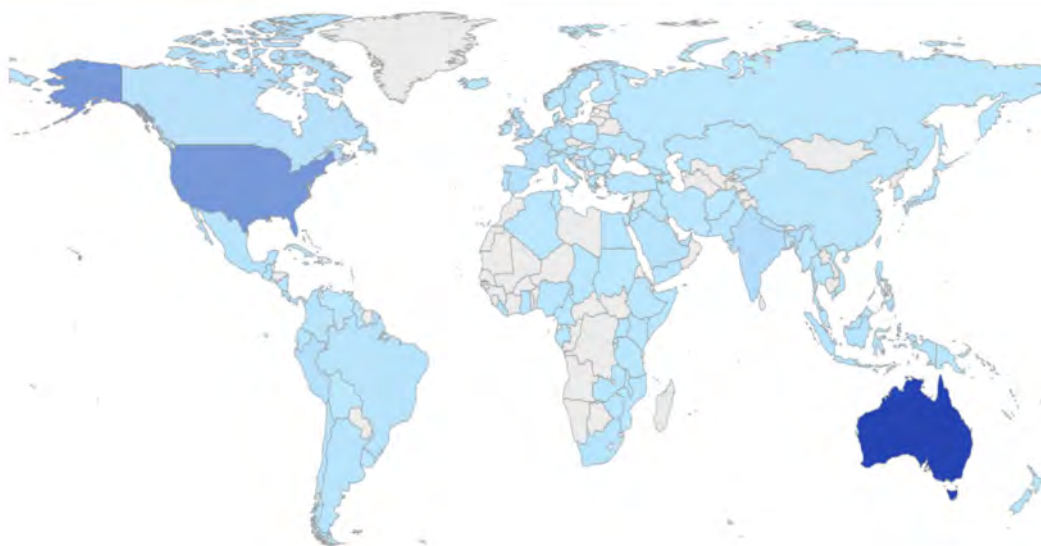
2,439

Unique Viewers [?]

3

Avg. Drop Off Rate [?]

53%



Top devices used to access content from Jul 2019–Jun 30 2020



Desktop **50%**



Mobile **16.7%**



Tablet **16.7%**



Other **16.7%**

Top videos

	Plays	Avg. Completion Rate
1	The Ages of Globalization ▶ 435	29.8%
2	Getting to Know the SDGs ▶ 195	54.1%
3	Introducing Sustainable Development ▶ 281	43.6%
4	The Role of Business in the SDGs ▶ 175	52.7%
5	Social-Ecological Systems ▶ 211	31.4%

Our COVID-19 Response



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Shift to Online Learning

As schools and universities around the world moved lessons online in response to COVID-19, many educators struggled to adapt to remote learning and find innovative ways to keep their students engaged in this new environment.

With high-quality online content covering a wide range of subjects related to the field of sustainable development, the SDG Academy has been well-positioned to help educators create engaging, multimodal online learning experiences in a variety of disciplines, and took an active role in supporting the global education community from the beginning of the pandemic.

Activities

- » Joined collaborative efforts such as the [edX Remote Access and Open Campus Programs](#), which distribute vouchers for free upgrades to pursue edX Verified Certificates in our courses, and the [UNESCO Global Education Coalition](#) for COVID-19.
- » [Compiled and shared resources and best practices](#) for transitioning to remote learning and made these available to educators around the world.
- » Hosted expert webinars on issues related to COVID-19.

Trends in Metrics

90,138

New learners during COVID-19



3.2x Enrollment increase from Mar 17-Jun 30, 2020



Ethics In Action saw a drastic increase in enrollment, from 2,681 to 5,211.

“We are confident that humanity’s collective spirit of compassion and inventiveness will triumph over this pandemic; we are committed to presenting the knowledge and tools that can make sure that we build a more sustainable world during and in its aftermath.”

-Chandrika Bahadur, Director

Webinars

Engaging Online: Teaching and Learning with the SDG Academy

March 2020
365 views



The Epidemiology and Economics of Coronavirus

March 2020
9,277 views



Implications of COVID-19 for Public Health and the SDGs

April 2020
2,708 views



The Ages of Globalization

19 June 2020
13:00 - 14:00 UTC

A Global Virtual Conference
with Jeffrey D. Sachs

The Ages of Globalization with Jeffrey Sachs

June 2020
1,031 views



Ethics for Troubled Times

June 2020
172 views



Our Commitment to Generating and Sustaining Collaboration

When it comes to education for sustainable development, community is just as important as content. Since the beginning, the SDG Academy has been committed to using its content to bring together learners and educators to advance SDG learning.

The University Partnership Program

In 2017, the SDG Academy launched the first cohort of its University Partnership Program (UPP), an initiative designed to increase universities' capacity to teach about sustainable development by integrating SDG Academy content into new or existing academic programs. Throughout its three years, UPP worked with 33 universities across 20 countries. It ended in 2020, and was succeeded by the Community of Practice.

"At Kepler, we decided to use SDG Academy courses for our students to benefit from the content and get an opportunity to connect the learning with the SDGs. We tried to adapt the content to our teaching model to help students internalize the learning. So far, more than 100 students have taken the content of the *Global Public Health and Human Rights, Human Wrongs* courses in different cycles. Students witnessed how well the resources provided were beneficial to them. 'We were given materials that gave us factual and helpful information that we can use for a lifetime,' one student said."

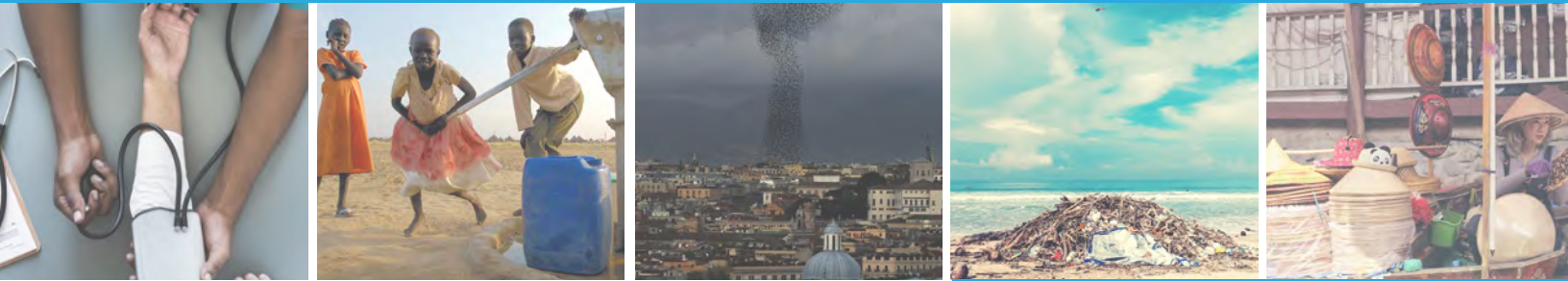
- Landouard Habiyaremye,
Associate Director for Academic Support, Kepler, Rwanda

"The SDG Academy courses empower and enable us to take action. The course on *Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace* presented with StoryMaps is perfect for private, government and community stakeholders affected by the extractive industries who want to change the narrative in pursuit of sustainability. The *Natural Resources for Sustainable Development* is a great follow up course which highlights how geology is at the core of so many of our world's challenges. The courses highlight the need for boundary workers and communicators to get involved in resource management and governance by bridging the gaps between technical and non-technical disciplines."

- Rosanele Romero, Senior Basin Researcher, IHS Markit, Malaysia



Community of Practice



Nurturing a Community for Peer Exchange and Learning

Launched in March 2020, the SDG Academy [Community of Practice](#) invites global higher education institutions, NGOs, businesses, and relevant government entities to join a diverse community dedicated to advancing education for sustainable development through peer learning and the sharing of best practices, customized resource development, and opportunities for research and thought leadership.



Key features include:



Valuable Content



Community-Driven



Customizable Platform



Collaborative Opportunities

New Partnerships

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



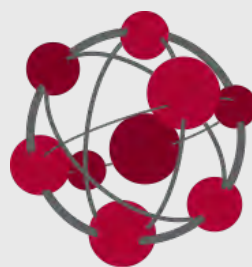
**Strong
international
cooperation**
is needed now
more than ever
to ensure
that
countries have
the means
to achieve
the SDGs



BAN KI-MOON CENTRE
for Global Citizens



HESI



EFMD



Partnership Moments

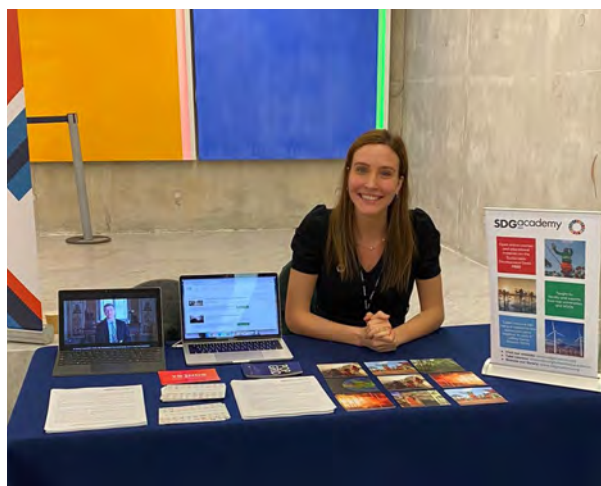


July 2019: Highlights from the HLPF include the launch of [UN SDG:Learn](#), a platform developed by [UNITAR](#) and the [UNSSC](#) to ensure that SDG learning—including the SDG Academy courses—from across the UN System and key partners is easily available to broad audiences. As a proud partner in this initiative, Florescia Librizzi expressed her hope that UN SDG:Learn “can and will become a valued contribution to learners to effectively scale up positive impact for our world.”

September 2019: During the UNGA, Florescia Librizzi joined the [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative \(HESI\)](#), [SAP](#), and [UNEP](#) to discuss how higher education institutions are championing leadership on the 2030 Agenda and how these institutions can become an engine for action in meeting the SDGs.



February 2020: Meredith Storey, PhD., attended [EFMD's Conference for Deans and Directors](#). Under the theme, “Managing Impact,” attendees were urged to use the Agenda 2030 framework to create a better world for business schools, universities, and the future generation of learners. As the SDGs were a strong focus, the SDG Academy was well-positioned to offer advice and resources for advancing management education for social impact.



April 2020: The SDG Academy hosted the panel “[Happy Learning! Education for a Sustainable and Happy World](#)” as part of the SDSN’s 24-hour webinar on “[Happiness & Sustainability Around the Earth](#),” in celebration of Earth Day. The panel included Monika Froehler from the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens; Alexander Leicht from UNESCO; and Oren Pizmony-Levy from Teachers College, Columbia University. Combined total attendance for the 24-hour webinar was 3,392 unique viewers.



Engaging Our Alumni

In April 2020, the SDG Academy launched Learners' Perspectives, a new blog feature designed to showcase the experience and insight of SDG Academy course alumni in their own words. The first entry came from Atula Owade, a young agricultural engineer from Kenya whose participation in our course Feeding a Hungry Planet inspired him both personally and professionally.

"As a recent graduate, I have very little experience in the real world, and hence need guidance as I start practicing. The seven modules cover an array of topics that provide the guidance I was looking for...Although I was already familiar with most of the concepts, the instructors opened my eyes to new approaches in the sustainable intensification of agricultural systems...My experience with the course has been great, and I would encourage anyone seeking an online program in sustainable food and agriculture to consider signing up for the SDG Academy's Feeding a Hungry Planet. I have a feeling that it may help you achieve your professional or hobbyist goals, wherever you are in the world."



Atula Owade

Future Plans

Future plans for SDG Academy alumni include an Advocates program, where dedicated alumni will be trained and empowered to drive interaction on the Facebook group, recruit blog contributors, support marketing and communication campaigns, and increase the capacity of the SDG Academy overall to engage this important audience.

The Master's in Development Practice Program



GLOBAL ASSOCIATION
Master's in Development Practice

In July 2019, the Secretariat of the Global Association of MDP programs joined the SDG Academy—a fitting home, as the MDP Secretariat has worked closely with SDSN over the past several years.

Launched in 2008, the [Master's in Development Practice \(MDP\)](#) is a graduate-level program designed to train aspiring practitioners to understand, design, and manage integrated approaches to sustainable development challenges. MDP programs generally consist of two years of coursework in four intersecting disciplines—health, natural, social, and management sciences—combined with cross-sectoral field training.



The Master's in Development Practice Program

Under the umbrella of the SDG Academy, the Global Association continues to expand its global reach, adding new institutions to its consortium in the 2019-2020 period. The Secretariat has also been working to integrate more with other SDG Academy programs by offering the SDG Academy's educational content to its member institutions both informally and through the SDG Academy's UPP and Community of Practice.



MDP schools who joined UPP for the 2019 - 2020 cohort



國立臺灣大學
National Taiwan University

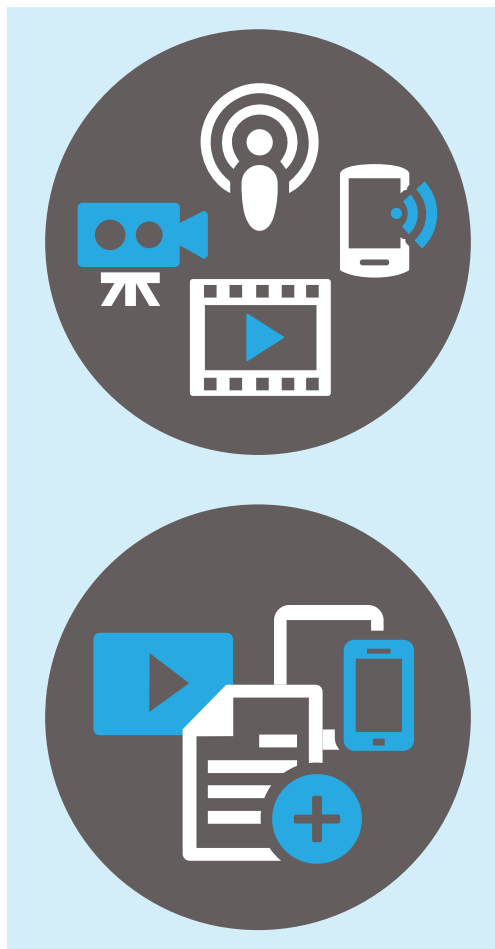


UNIVERSITY
OF IBADAN

Click on the map below to view partner MDP Institutions



DECADE OF ACTION



As we begin the Decade of Action, we face major disruptions that threaten our path towards a sustainable future. In this context, we believe that the SDG Academy's work is more relevant than ever, and we are committed to delivering a robust repository of new and compelling content, as well as a vibrant community that advances education for sustainable development everywhere. Going forward, our priorities focus on improving our content and expanding our community.

Expanding Our Content

- » Build Mission 4.7 to support education for sustainable development at all levels of education, from schools to universities to lifelong learning, as envisioned by SDG Target 4.7
- » Expand our content by creating and curating new courses
- » Amplify the work of SDSN member university faculty by giving them a global platform and enhancing regional content through a new Spotlight video series
- » Adopt a Creative Commons license to make our work more easily available as an open educational resource
- » Launch two new Online Master's programs with University College Dublin and Sunway University
- » Add content to the SDG Academy Library
- » Explore new formats, such as podcasts and video series



**LEAVE NO ONE
BEHIND**

Future Direction

Growing Our Community

- » Grow our Alumni Network and actively empower our alumni to support and amplify our work
- » Engage the Community of Practice and global MDP network to nurture a vibrant community dedicated to advancing education for sustainable development through peer learning and sharing of best practices, customized resource development, research and thought leadership
- » Support SDSN member universities in teaching the SDGs
- » Build partnerships to expand our reach, co-create new content, and promote learning for the SDGs



The Online Master's Programs in Sustainable Development

Two new [Online Master's Programs](#) will launch in the Fall to prepare students with the tools, skills, and knowledge to build a fulfilling career tackling the world's biggest challenges. Applicants have a choice of pursuing their degree from either [Sunway University](#) or [University College Dublin](#). Both programs offer rigorous, comprehensive curricula focusing on the pressing issues of our time; and the collaboration with the SDG Academy gives them access to a carefully curated set of online materials and global leaders from the worlds of science, policy, academia, the United Nations, civil society, and business. The programs are accessible from anywhere in the world, and give students the flexibility of learning from home without compromising on the quality of the academic experience, all at an affordable price.

SUNWAY
UNIVERSITY



University College Dublin

Get Involved

We look forward to working closely with you and joining forces to realize education for sustainable development as the vehicle to create a better world for all.

Learn more about the Academy at sdgacademy.org

Explore our courses edx.org/school/sdgacademyx

Browse the SDG Academy Library sdgacademylibrary.mediaspace.kaltura.com

Join the Community of Practice unsdsn.org/sdg-academy/community-of-practice

Read our blog sdgacademy.org/blog

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Learn more about MDP at: www.mdpglobal.org



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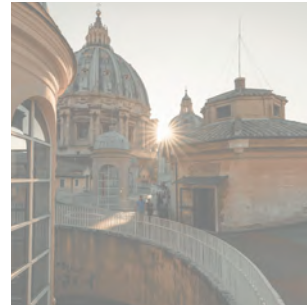
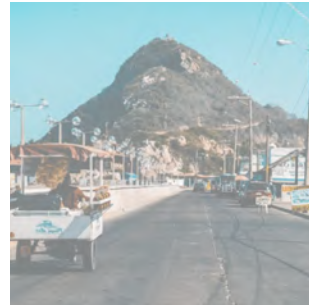
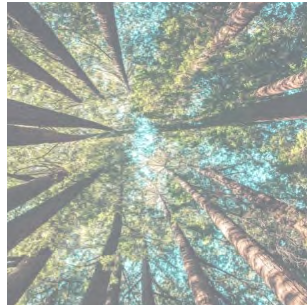
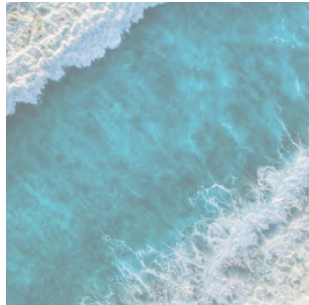
[Master's in Development Practice Global Student Network](https://www.facebook.com/MDPGlobal)



[@mdpglobal](https://www.instagram.com/mdpglobal)

SDGacademy

An Initiative of the Sustainable
Development Solutions Network



Produced by the SDG Academy
Designed by Kristina Markman
kmarkartdesign@gmail.com