

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**SDG**academy

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# LETTER FROM SDSN'S PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the 2023-2024 Annual Report from the SDG Academy. This year marks a momentous occasion for the educational work of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network: a decade of excellence from the SDG Academy.

Over the course of the last ten years, the Academy has grown their catalog of courses, become a global leader in online higher education, and advocated for expanded access to Education for Sustainable Development in classrooms and lecture halls everywhere. The SDG Academy has expanded their reach to the realm of thought leadership by publishing special issue journals, policy papers, and articles about the SDGs and Education for Sustainable Development.

The SDG Academy continues to provide high-quality open educational resources, exemplified by their latest course intended to enrich the United Nations Summit of the Future (SOTF) in September 2024. This course will prepare stakeholders for the SOTF by offering modules about each of the five Chapters of the Pact for the Future.

A significant milestone was reached with the official launch of the UNESCO-SDSN Joint Committee on Open Educational Resources (OER) at the UN General Assembly last September. This Committee's mission is to advance the goals set forth in the UNESCO 2019 Recommendation on OER, which was unanimously adopted by the UNESCO General Conference. The Recommendation aims to foster the growth of inclusive knowledge societies. To implement these commitments, the Joint Committee has initiated a work plan to create an innovative platform and repository of OERs to support the SDGs and to enhance advocacy for this critical topic.

The successes detailed in this report are a reflection of the dedication and hard work of our team, partners, and stakeholders. I extend my deepest gratitude to all who have contributed to our mission. Your support and collaboration have been instrumental in driving our achievements and inspiring hope for the future.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey D. Sachs  
President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network



# LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

The SDG Academy 2024 Annual Report celebrates a decade of the SDG Academy. Not only are we excited to share highlights from this year, but we will also be sharing key reflections from the past ten years of work dedicated to promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). We are delighted to have maintained many key partnerships from the early days of our establishment, and to have expanded into several new collaborations as time has gone on.

At the end of my second year as Director of the SDG Academy and Vice President of Education at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), I can confidently say that the SDG Academy has come to hold a unique place within the sustainable development community. Our close ties to the UN and vast network of experts have situated us to be leaders in education and training, which are key drivers of the pathways to success in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the past year, we have advocated for Open Education Resources in a number of UN meetings and stakeholder events. During the UN SDG Action Weekend, unfolding just prior to the SDG Summit and the opening of the UN General Assembly, we partnered with UNESCO to launch the Joint Committee on Open Educational Resources. The Joint Committee aims to enhance the availability of open educational resources (OERs) for sustainable development.

We co-organized the Science and Academia segment of UN Mobilization Day, in which we reiterated the need to provide open educational resources and accessible scientific findings to the public, policymakers, and other stakeholders to build capacity for informed decision-making and trust. In addition, we recommended building institutional capacity and skills among decision-makers while fostering collaborative efforts across sectors to address sustainability challenges.

We also engaged in the consultative process for the development of the UN Pact for the Future, a proclamation aimed to reaffirm commitments to multilateralism. The Pact for the Future comprises of five Chapters: Sustainable development and financing for development (FfD); International peace and security; Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; Youth and future generations; and Transforming global governance. At the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, we were invited to make recommendations about Chapter 3. Our recommendations were threefold: first, enhance multilateral governance of dangerous technologies with meaningful input from multi-stakeholders; second, the public sector can and should run and own digital public infrastructures, software and content to deliver public services; and third, the public sector must invest human capital and capacity to manage our global digital public infrastructures, software, and content to deliver public services and goods.

We are thrilled to have been invited to speak at conferences and panels around the world, from the edX Global Summit, to an awards ceremony for archivists developing new ways of improving open access to educational resources. We grew our collaborations with the BuildSkills Academy, in partnership with the European Commission, and launched a new initiative alongside Mission 4.7 in Malaysia that offers training about education for sustainable development to primary and secondary school teachers in the country.

We were excited to partner with UNU-WIDER, the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, and the Science Panel for the Amazon to launch three new courses. We also relaunched two successful courses that had been archived for several years: “Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace” and “Transforming Development: The Science and Practice of Resilience Thinking.”

The elements of our work highlighted in this report are made possible by the wonderful SDG Academy staff in our New York, Dublin, Paris, and Kuala Lumpur offices, who work around the clock given our time zone coverage. In 2024, we also welcomed new staff members Dawn Adrian, Education Manager, to the Kuala Lumpur office, and Isabela Carrozza Joia, Program Associate, to the Paris office of the SDG Academy team.

The SDG Academy was able to continue to expand its broad range of activities thanks to the leadership and generous support of Tan Sri Sir Jeffrey Cheah and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

Lastly, we are deeply grateful to the dedicated learners and alumni of our e-learning platforms, degree programs at University College Dublin and Sunway University, and Professional Certificate Programs on edX. Your hard work for peace, justice, and sustainable development around the world inspires us to rise each day and commit ourselves to the mission of the SDG Academy.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Paul Walsh  
Director of the SDG Academy



# FUTURE OUTLOOKS

Over the last ten years, the SDG Academy is proud to have built such an impactful portfolio of resources and projects to advance our collective mission for sustainable development. Since the establishment of SDSN's education division in 2014, we have created a vast library of expert content, advocated for open educational resources and practice, and stirred critical dialogue on the value of education for global development. Our work has been part of an essential movement to provoke change and we are honored to continue our efforts into a new era.

In the next year and beyond, we endeavor to more deeply embrace and support the notion of education as a global public good. Education is a key component to healthy, peaceful, and just societies. It is vital for human flourishing and a right that should be afforded to all. To this end, the SDG Academy will continue to nurture advocacy through leadership and engagement in committees, such as the UNESCO-SDSN Joint Committee for Open Educational Resources. The Joint Committee has become a global facilitator of open access to educational material and aims to strengthen ESD practice by mobilizing important building blocks for knowledge production. Outcomes of this work strengthen the foundations of global development.

To supply critical thought leadership to ground our advocacy, we will continue to partner with renowned experts and scholars to produce insightful reports, briefs, articles, and position papers. To align with the overall mission of SDSN, efforts will unfold to transition such knowledge products into fruitful and enriching policy. Particularly, we look forward to the UN Summit of the Future where we can connect critical discourses with policy action.

We remain committed to our roots in content creation and resource development. We have several new massive open online courses slated for this year, along with fresh offerings for professional training and development. As always, our content will be freely and openly accessible to all. Many exciting projects to come!

The SDG Academy is grateful to our wonderful community of partners and supporters for the last decade of progress. We look forward to carrying on our work as we march ever closer to achieving our global goals.

Sincerely,  
Amber Webb  
Managing Director of the SDG Academy



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Webb', written in a cursive style.

Mission: The SDG Academy represents the education and training division of the SDSN, with the mandate of promoting transformative education through the creation and curation of high-quality content on sustainable development, sharing of innovative pedagogies and training models, and providing open access to learning resources for a global audience.

Vision: A world in which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved through the efforts of multiple generations of educators, policymakers, practitioners, and citizens. By providing avenues of learning, collaboration, and partnerships, the SDG Academy mobilizes a truly global movement aimed at advancing sustainable development everywhere.

## 10 YEARS OF THE SDG ACADEMY

This year marks a decade of growth and innovation for the SDG Academy. Following the founding of SDSN in 2012, whose mission has sought to develop integrated approaches to achieving the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement, the SDG Academy (initially SDSN.edu) was established in 2014 to promote an essential avenue for progress – education for sustainable development (ESD).

In our initial years, we aimed to educate and mobilize a global cadre of sustainable development practitioners. With a target of reaching over a million learners whose knowledge and actions would reverberate across society, we embarked on an ambitious path. Our initial efforts established a vast open-access repository of content intended to enrich various fields linked to sustainable development. To reach learners at the pace and ambition of the SDG timeline, we became early adopters of digital innovations such as massive open online courses (MOOCs) and other digital learning methods. Our content is now hosted on premier MOOC platforms such as edX, Edraak, and XuetangX. It is also hosted in the SDG Academy Library and other open access repositories around the world. **We are delighted to announce that, in 2024, we have exceeded our goal of 1 million learners.**

Although the development of learning resources has been at the heart of our efforts, over time we recognized the wider demands of the movement to share SDG knowledge via credentialed degree programs, professional training, thought leadership, and support for communities of practice. To address the evolving needs in the field of ESD and expedite progress for the SDGs, we branched into new program strategies and policy fora.

In 2020, at a time when the world was stricken by a global pandemic that isolated much of humanity and inhibited education in nearly every region of the world, the SDG Academy was an established and recognized leader in building innovative and resilient solutions. Specifically, our portfolio of work highlighted the potential for high-quality online education. With a goal to break down barriers such as geography and financial limitations, the SDG Academy partnered with esteemed universities to offer students the possibility to gain accredited degrees entirely online. Our initial partnerships with University College Dublin and Sunway University have produced hundreds of graduates in just four short years, with more matriculating.

New university partners are on the horizon as we seek to ensure access to quality degree programs throughout the world. We have also introduced a “Master’s Pathway” to accommodate working professionals transitioning back into graduate education.

Along with the demand for accredited degree programs, we also confronted the need for more enriching and widescale professional training. The establishment of professional certificates, inclusion of training content on highly-used platforms such as LinkedIn Learning, and sector-specific partnerships have laid the foundation of our work in this area.

Lastly, our quest to establish relevant and impactful learning material for students and professionals has made visible the need for greater advocacy and policy action to advance quality education for sustainable development. To this end, the SDG Academy has ensured important perspectives are shared via representation at major UN summits, the COPs, and other global gatherings. Knowledge products such as position papers, policy briefs, and journal publications have also been developed and disseminated to strengthen our efforts towards meeting the global goals.

Since 2014, the SDG Academy has been a proud leader in the movement to achieve the SDGs. We remain steadfast in our commitments and look forward to another decade of innovation and growth. We are grateful to our partners, collaborators, staff, and global cohort of learners for advancing this critical work.

## OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS

### 2014

- SDSN.edu launches in August 2014 with “The Age of Sustainable Development” as a foundational course taught by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs
- Partnership announced with EdCast to host additional courses including, “Climate Change Science and Negotiations” with Prof. Jeffrey Sachs and “Planetary Boundaries” with Prof. Johan Rockström

### 2015

- In September at the UN General Assembly, Member States adopt the SDGs
- Four new courses are added to the MOOC platform, serving over 100,000 learners

### 2016

- SDSN’s education division is rebranded from “SDSN.edu” to the “SDG Academy”
- The SDG Academy and UN Systems Staff College enter into official partnership

### 2017

- The University Partnership Program (UPP) launches with 12 institutions
- The SDG Academy and EdCast receive an Excellence in Learning Gold Award from the Brandon Hall Group for innovative learning and development

## 2018

- Six new courses launch in partnership with UN agencies, renowned universities, and respected public institutions
- Launch of courses on edX to expand scale and reach. Expansion to MOOC platforms targeting specific regions, including XuetaangX in China and Edraak in Jordan

## 2019

- Launch of the [SDG Academy Library](#)
- New partnerships with UN SDG:Learn, the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, IDB, Club de Madrid, and UN Academic Impact
- The Secretariat of the Global Association of Master's in Development Practice (MDP) Programs joins the SDG Academy

## 2020

- Launch of two Online Master's programs at University College Dublin, Ireland, and Sunway University, Malaysia
- Mission 4.7 launches in December at the Vatican Youth Symposium with former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, with the support of His Holiness Pope Francis

## 2021

- Launch of the Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs
- The SDG Academy establishes an office in Kuala Lumpur

## 2022

- The SDG Academy participates in the UN Transforming Education Summit
- The SDG Academy leads a cohort of students to the World Travel & Tourism Global Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

## 2023

- Launch the UNESCO-SDSN Joint Committee for OER at SDG Action Weekend
- Launch of professional training initiatives: BuildSkills Academy, three Professional Certificates on edX, content partnerships with LinkedIn Learning and SEEK Asia, and custom training for private and public sector upskilling for sustainable development

## 2024

- The SDG Academy joins the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, Kenya
- The SDG Academy establishes an office in Paris





**Jeffrey Sachs**



**Patrick Paul Walsh**



**Amber Webb**

**MEET OUR TALENTED,  
DRIVEN TEAM  
FUELING THE FIRE OF  
THE ACADEMY**

**SDG Academy staff work  
hybridly across New York,  
Kuala Lumpur, Dublin, and  
Paris**



**Lucia Rodriguez**



**Dawn Adrian**



**Kayla Colyard**



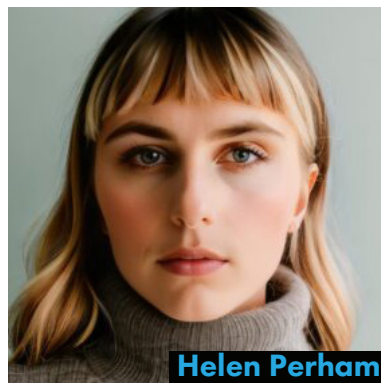
**Shannon Kobran**



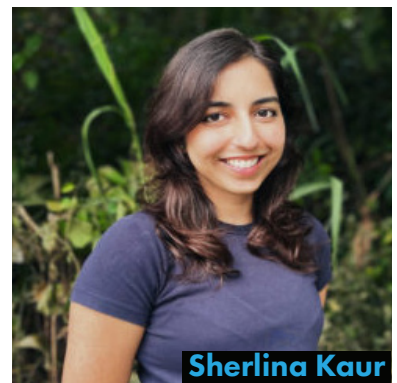
**Isabela Carrozza Joia**



**Jessica Crist**



**Helen Perham**



**Sherlina Kaur**

# HIGH LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The High Level Advisory Council (HLAC) provides strategic advice and guidance to the SDG Academy on our core mission, as well as feedback related to our annual work plan, flagship programs, and partnerships. The HLAC has an important mission to increase the visibility of education for sustainable development globally. HLAC members come from five areas of expertise: Higher Education, Library Sciences, Non-governmental Organizations, Inter-governmental Organizations, Education Technology, and Professional Training.

## **Current HLAC Members:**

Mohammed Al Rizeiqi  
Brad Beecher  
Niamh Brennan  
Carolynn Chalmers  
Jit Ern Chen  
Tsung Ping Chung  
Ramu Damodaran  
May East  
Thanos Giannakopoulos  
Dan Groody  
Lorcan Hall  
Narimane Hadj Hamou  
Charles Hopkins  
William Hynes  
Yuma Inzolia  
Radhika Iyengar  
Trine Jensen  
Abel Kinyondo  
Katrin Kohl  
Elizabeth Lee  
Enda Murphy  
Emmanuel Ola-Olowoyo  
Oláńrewájú Oláníyan  
Zheng Qian  
Michael Richey  
Niki Rodousakis  
Joanna Rubinstein  
Lisa Sachs  
John Schwartz  
David Smith  
Kristen Stebbins  
Rocky Tuan  
Zeynep Varoglu  
Stephen Wyber  
Raquel Xalabarder  
Stefano Zamagni

**CONTENT**

**PEDAGOGY & TRAINING**

**COMMUNITY**

**THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

# COURSES

The SDG Academy continues to produce a wide range of new content for our catalog. We were delighted to collaborate once again with UNU-WIDER on a new course, “[Decent Work and Economic Growth: Achieving SDG 8](#),” and with the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment on “[Mining and Minerals for Sustainable Development Transformations](#).” We also worked with the Science Panel for the Amazon to share the many important lessons of their 2021 Assessment Report through our course “[The Living Amazon: Science, Cultures and Sustainability in Practice](#).”

This year also marked the relaunch of two of exciting courses: “[Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace](#),” created with the UN Environment Programme and the Environmental Law Institute; and “[Transforming Development: The Science and Practice of Resilience Thinking](#),” created with the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

## THE LIVING AMAZON: SCIENCE, CULTURES AND SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE



The Amazon, the world’s largest rainforest and river system, is crucial for global climate stability and maintaining biodiversity. The region is home to 47 million people, including over two million Indigenous people. However, it faces unprecedented challenges like deforestation, degradation, and criminal activity, risking reaching a tipping point. This 8-week course, created in collaboration between the Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and the World Bank, available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, offers insights into the Amazon’s ecosystems, covering current trends, threats, and impacts.

## MINING AND MATERIALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TRANSFORMATIONS



“Mining and Materials for Sustainable Development Transformations” marks the third course collaboration between the SDG Academy and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment. The course examines the role of mining and materials at the heart of the transformations needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, bringing together 26 faculty members from the field with expertise ranging from the circular economy to human rights to energy transitions.

## DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH: ACHIEVING SDG 8



First launched as an instructor-paced course in October 2023 and re-opened as a self-paced course in early 2024, “Decent Work” presents UNU-WIDER’s research on SDG 8 to understand the drivers of informality and structural transformation, the movement of workers, and changes in inequality during economic development. Faculty members include experts from UNU-WIDER, the Harvard Graduate School of Design, King’s College London, Cornell University, and the Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU).

## ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND SUSTAINING PEACE



One of our more popular courses since it first launched in 2019, the course relaunched in October 2023 and ran instructor-paced through December 2023. The course provided an in-depth introduction to the multiple roles that natural resources and the environment play in the onset, escalation, and resolution of, and recovery from, violent conflicts. Many of the considerations and approaches in this course are also relevant to understanding and addressing social conflicts around natural resources and the environment.

## TRANSFORMING DEVELOPMENT: THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF RESILIENCE THINKING



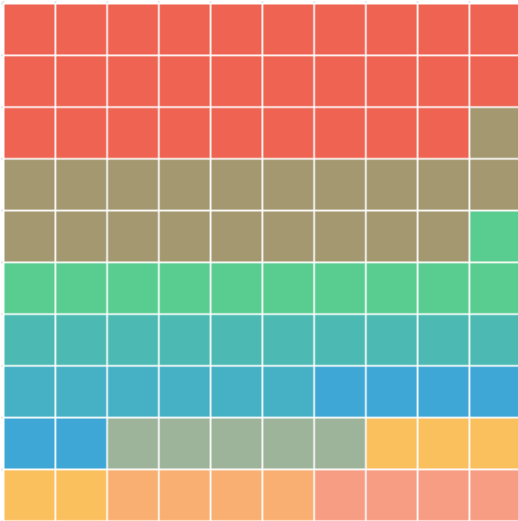
Thanks to our continued work and partnership with the Stockholm Resilience Centre, this popular course is now available on edX. The course delves into how the concepts from resilience can reshape current development practices, addressing poverty, injustice and inequality as some of the challenges of the 21st century. It includes the building of an understanding and taking of action in a complex world that is deeply interconnected and ever-changing.

### TOP 5 COURSES\* (Jul. 2023 - Jun. 2024)

<a href="#">Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience</a>	23,369 learners
<a href="#">Measuring Sustainable Development</a>	8,808 learners
<a href="#">The Living Amazon: Science, Cultures and Sustainability in Practice</a>	5,535 learners
<a href="#">Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Working with nature to adapt to a changing climate</a>	4,774 learners
<a href="#">Transforming Our World: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals</a>	4,406 learners

### WHERE ARE OUR LEARNERS?

- 1 India 25,003 learners
- 2 USA 17,371 learners
- 3 Nigeria 9,532 learners
- 4 UK 8,533 learners
- 5 Kenya 5,366 learners
- 6 Canada 5,330 learners
- 7 Germany 4,374 learners
- 8 Brazil 4,152 learners
- 9 Pakistan 3,915 learners
- 10 Indonesia 3,861 learners



\*byedXenrollment

# BOOK CLUB WITH JEFFREY SACHS

In 2021, the SDG Academy recognized the immense potential of podcasting as a dynamic platform with a vast and ever-expanding audience. With this in mind, we embarked on our own podcast journey, featuring Professor Jeffrey Sachs as the host. Our mission was clear: to amplify our community of learners by delivering captivating insights from the literary community directly to their fingertips.

Since its inception, the podcast has become a beacon of knowledge, showcasing compelling episodes with distinguished authors such as [John Mearsheimer](#), [Kim Stanley Robinson](#), [Mariana Mazzucato](#), [Heather Cox Richardson](#), and a multitude of other writers spanning diverse fields. Through these conversations, we have sparked curiosity, fostered learning, and broadened perspectives, enriching the minds of our listeners worldwide.

Now in its 3rd season, the *Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs* podcast continues to provide thought-provoking discussions to its listeners across 9,826 cities and 218 countries and territories. In truly eye-opening conversations, Professor Sachs and his guests — leading experts in the fields of journalism, political science, philosophy, and more — prove there is always more to be learned on the wide array of topics they unpack. Discussions of covert regime change, a multicultural approach to philosophical inquiry, and various voices weighing in on the actions of historical and contemporary leaders are just some of the themes from this season. With a topnotch 4.8 star rating, the podcast continues to leave listeners eager to continue learning beyond each monthly episode.

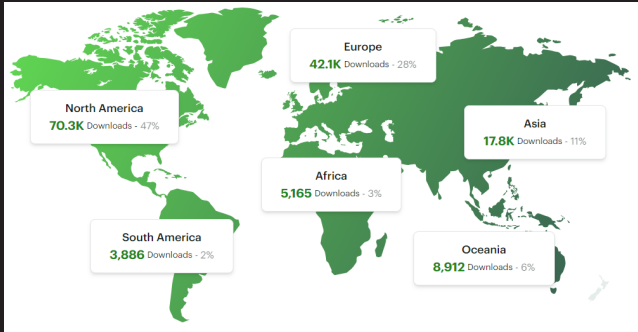
From July 2023 to June 2024, it witnessed a continuous surge in popularity, steadily climbing upward, with downloads doubling annually. Don't miss a moment of the action – join us at our [website](#) or tune in to “Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs” on your preferred podcast platform to immerse yourself in every compelling episode!

## TOP 3 EPISODES

<p><b>S3, E1: 7,824 downloads</b></p>	<p><b>S2, E11: 5,676 downloads</b></p>	<p><b>S2, E8: 5,494 downloads</b></p>

## HIGHLIGHTS

**139,500 ALL TIME DOWNLOADS OVER 3 SEASONS**



# SDG ACADEMY LIBRARY

The [SDG Academy Library](#) has enjoyed a successful year while continuing to grow its vast knowledge base for sustainable development. The SDG Academy Library now has nearly 2,000 videos featuring over 370 expert lecturers. Its most viewed video this year was “Introduction to Sustainable Development” with lecturer Jeffrey Sachs. Malaysia continues to lead the world in SDG Academy Library video viewership, with over 23,000 views, more than double the next leading country (USA).

## MOST POPULAR VIDEOS (JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024)

<a href="#">Introducing Sustainable Development</a>	2,489 plays
<a href="#">Why Sustainable Development is Important: Happiness and Wellbeing</a>	2,352 plays
<a href="#">Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship</a>	1,648 plays
<a href="#">The Moral Basis for Business Activity</a>	1,565 plays
<a href="#">What is Climate Change?</a>	1,300 plays

## TOP COUNTRIES



## ALL TIME HIGHLIGHTS

1,977 videos  
372 experts  
1,959,948 minutes viewed

**CONTENT**  
**PEDAGOGY & TRAINING**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**



# ONLINE MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Achievements over the last year include the SDG Academy continuing its strong relationships with Sunway University in Malaysia and University College Dublin in Ireland, partnering on their respective Online Master's degrees in Sustainable Development.

## SUNWAY UNIVERSITY

At Sunway University, host of the SDG Academy's team in Kuala Lumpur, the online [Masters in Sustainable Development Management \(MSDM\)](#) graduated 12—bringing the total number of graduates to 40 since the program's launch—and enrolled 24 new students. The program's unique blend of management topics and sustainable development issues attracts a wide range of professionals from across Malaysia and beyond.

## TESTIMONIALS



### LIM Zhen Jian

The online experience of the MSDM program has been incredibly enriching and flexible. The blended mode of delivery, combining in-person classes with fully online instruction, allowed me to engage with the curriculum at my own pace. I also appreciated the opportunity to connect with a diverse cohort of students from various backgrounds. One of the highlights of the program was the lectures delivered by distinguished professors and industry experts on sustainable development. Their insights and expertise greatly enhanced the learning experience, providing me with a deeper understanding of the subject matter. The online format facilitated a seamless integration of learning into my daily life, making it a highly convenient and effective way to pursue my studies in sustainable development management.



### LOK Rikhai

The MSDM program has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of sustainable development, including fundamental management principles, innovative sustainability strategies, and practical applications through real-world case studies. The curriculum is exceptionally well-structured, blending theoretical knowledge with practical insights, significantly enhancing my ability to implement sustainable practices in my professional role. The flexibility of the Online Distance Learning (ODL) mode has also allowed me to effectively balance my studies with my demanding work and travel schedule.

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

The [MSc in Sustainable Development at University College Dublin](#) enrolled an impressive 125 new full-time and part-time students in FY 24, with 40 new graduates. The program continues to benefit from its interdisciplinary structure and creative use of SDG Academy educational resources to offer a robust, flexible, and impactful experience.

## TESTIMONIALS



**Hugh O'Sullivan**

I have thoroughly enjoyed completing the MSc in Sustainable Development in UCD. It has provided me with a broad education in a subject area I am very passionate about, while also allowing me to select specific modules which suited my particular interests. I have completed the master's on a part-time basis over 18 months. This part-time option, as well as the fact that the programme is delivered fully online, was a huge pull factor for me due to my significant day-to-day training and playing commitments. This provided me with the flexibility to engage with this master's material on a schedule that suited me. There was a wide variety of module choice provided, giving the individual freedom to select modules in areas they had particular interest in, whether it be environmental, economic, social or governance-focused modules.



**Sofia Teles**

As a graduate of the Sustainable Development MSc program at UCD, I can confidently say that this unique online program has equipped me with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively change my career into making a positive impact to people and planet. The program draws on the expertise, credibility, and global network of UCD, making it an excellent choice for anyone passionate about sustainability.

Throughout my studies, I had the privilege of learning from global thought leaders, engaging in multi-disciplinary discussions, and gaining practical insights. Whether you aspire to work in the private sector, government, or NGOs, UCD's MSc in Sustainable Development provides a solid foundation for a purpose-driven career.

## MASTER'S PATHWAY

In the past year, SDG Academy also saw an important development in the SDG Academy's partnership with UCD: the launch of the Master's Pathway in Foundations of Sustainable Development in July 2023. The Master's Pathway is an innovative program for learners who want a flexible, accredited pathway to further education in the field of sustainable development. To meet the demand of working professionals, the Master's Pathway provides an enriching self-paced option as the starting point for their advanced degrees.

Students can start with the SDG Academy's Master's Pathway Professional Certificate on edX and then continue on to UCD's accredited online Professional Diploma in Foundations of Sustainable Development. Once they complete the Diploma, students can continue into UCD's MSc. in Sustainable Development—offsetting 20 academic credits and providing a flexible pathway for learners with nontraditional academic backgrounds.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

In 2023, the SDG Academy embarked on a new chapter by expanding into professional development and training programs. Leveraging our expertise in education and the SDGs, we took on the challenge of upskilling the workforce to align with the desire to bring sustainability into organizational structures. Over the past year, our strategy has enabled us to launch several successful initiatives, with further expansion planned for 2025 and beyond.

Our professional training portfolio has flourished, with initiatives tailored for a diverse range of professionals across various industries. We've broadened our reach by partnering with online learning platforms such as edX, LinkedIn Learning, and seekMAX, to offer courses and certificates. We've worked more closely with SDSN Networks to meet the demands of their members and communities by supporting their upskilling needs. Additionally, we've developed customized content for private sector partners and municipal governments, empowering organizations like the BuildSkills Academy in Europe, Sunway Group in Malaysia, and the government of Valencia in Spain to enhance their workforce capabilities with our accessible and high-quality educational materials. As we continue to grow, our commitment to fostering professional development remains unwavering, driving us toward a future where every individual is equipped to contribute to sustainable change.

# LINKEDIN LEARNING

In July 2023, we launched five courses on LinkedIn Learning's platform, which hosts over 18,000 courses and a vibrant community connecting learners with peers and experts. It enables professional development across various domains, including sustainable development, tailored to individual interests and roles. Programs are geared toward diverse entities like employers, libraries, and educational institutions, promoting skill development and employee engagement. For students and job-seekers, LinkedIn Learning supplements education and aids in job placement. By hosting content on this platform, the SDG Academy further promotes SDG4, fostering inclusive education and lifelong learning for sustainable development practitioners, emphasizing the importance of skills beyond traditional classrooms.

Have a LinkedIn Learning subscription?  
Click [here](#) to join the 26,000+ members already enrolled in our courses!

## HIGHLIGHTS

“Sustainable Development and Wellbeing” has an average of 4.7/5 stars. The course has been taken by 10,190 learners.

*“This is an amazing and inspiring way to understand how sustainability is connected with wellbeing and how one can help reach the other and make our planet a better place.” - Joao Fonseca, Portugal*

“Principles of Sustainable Development” has average of 4.7 stars and has been taken by 9,621 learners.

*“Amazing course. Not only informative but also engaging and inspiring. I even went to check on the sustainable development report for different countries. I wish this course were longer.” - Valeriya Mayer, Norway*

# REDS-SDSN SPAIN

In partnership with REDS-SDSN Spain, the SDG Academy designed and executed two self-training courses for the National Institute of Public Administration about targets and indicators, and two for the Valencian Institute of Public Administration on decarbonization and how to integrate the SDGs into public policy. These courses were launched in late 2023 and early 2024 and will be used to upskill public workers in Spain.

# SDSN CANADA

In November 2023, the SDG Academy and SDSN Canada launched the Youth Leadership Certificate for the SDGs. This new online program was created to support university students across Canada in developing the expertise and skills needed to take action on the SDGs. There were over 2,000 applications to the program, which ran over a 12-week period.

*“The Youth Leadership Certificate for the SDGs helped over 200 students across Canada gain knowledge and skills to operationalize the 2030 Agenda. Through participation in SDG Academy courses as well as skills building sessions, students were able to deepen their understanding of the SDGs and begin to develop critical sustainability skills like grant writing and systems thinking.”*  
- Ceileigh McAllister, SDSN Canada

# PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

This year, the SDG Academy launched a new edX Professional Certificate on [Sustainable Cities and Urban Development](#) in partnership with **the Indian** Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS). In addition to this new certificate, the SDG Academy offers Professional Certificates in Fundamentals of Sustainable Development and Sustainable Water Management. In the last year alone, over 200 learners have completed professional certifications through our edX programs.



## BUILDSKILLS ACADEMY

The BuildSkills Academy, launched in June 2023, aims to create a pan-European framework and certification scheme for the construction sector. Alongside 17 other partners, the SDG Academy will support Vocational Educational and Training (VET) providers to meet the “twin” transition (green and digital) needs by implementing this certification.



The project Academy for Transitional Skills in the Build Environment is co-funded by the European Union, ERASMUS+ Programme under Grant Agreement number: 101104419

It aims to promote the upgrading of knowledge and skills of the built environment and meet the demands of the evolving labor market in the EU. As an educational partner, the SDG Academy will play a role in disseminating the results and knowledge, as it becomes ready to pilot across six EU countries. The project is currently at the stage of design and verification of the certification methodology. Identification of skills gaps and the project’s baseline development has been established with inputs from all partners, including the SDG Academy.

The SDG Academy also continues to be instrumental in promotion and outreach for the project. In this past year, Director Patrick Paul Walsh and colleagues have participated in several events to feature the work of the BuildSkills Academy as a policy-driven project, made possible through partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

The BuildSkills Academy project has garnered positive reactions for being exemplary in addressing the recurring theme of upskilling professionals, as well as youth, to be part of a progressive and sustainable workforce.

### HIGHLIGHTS

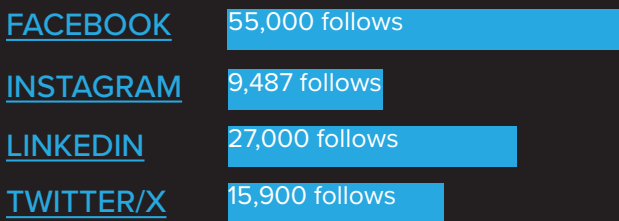
- Our High-Level Political Forum side event (19th July 2023) reached 100 virtual participants.
- Our edX Global Conference event (2nd October 2023) saw approx. 50 in-person participants.
- Our UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum (30th January 2024), co-hosted with Cleantech Bulgaria, saw approx. 50 virtual participants.
- Policy Forum 2024 (17th April 2024) had a reach of 130 virtual participants, co-hosted with Cleantech Bulgaria

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**COMMUNITY**  
**THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

# SOCIAL & ALUMNI NETWORKS

The SDG Academy continues to build connections with learners across the globe through our online presence. Notably, the SDG Academy saw a 14% growth in Instagram followers in 2023-2024 and a 200% increase in visits to our Facebook page. The SDG Academy website has visitors from across the globe, with residents of the United States and India leading engagement. Our courses continue to bring the most traffic to our website, led by “Transforming Our World,” which has seen almost 10,000 page visits.

## IN THE PAST YEAR.....



## TOP 5 COUNTRIES FOR WEB VIEWS FY 23-24

- United States: 16k
- India: 13k
- United Kingdom: 5.6k
- Canada: 3.8k
- Netherlands: 3.2k

## ALUMNI PAGES

Our Alumni communities are growing. Our LinkedIn Alumni group has grown by 800 in the past year, and our Facebook Alumni Network has grown by 500. 61.5% of our monthly newsletter subscribers have reported taking one or more of our courses.

## NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

71,923 monthly subscribers

### HIGHLIGHTS

In January, we launched a membership drive for the Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) Association, which had an enormous response. [Subscribe](#) to our monthly newsletter to stay up to date.

# GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF MDP PROGRAMS



Over time, our MDP community has flourished into a vibrant hub of learning, connection, and growth. Our members continue to thrive in our regional meetings and the MDP Summit, fostering meaningful relationships and collaborative opportunities. Despite some setbacks, our network's resilience and adaptability have enabled us to pivot and create new opportunities, ensuring that our community remains dynamic, diverse, and full of possibility. We're grateful for the trust and commitment of our members, who continue to drive our collective progress and shape the future of our community.

As we look to the future, we're proud to report that our global network is growing stronger than ever. Today, we have 36 MDP programs operating across 26 countries, including partnerships with institutions such as Columbia University, USA; University of Los Andes, Colombia; and Tsinghua University, China. This growth has been a testament to the strength and resilience of our community, and we're excited to see what the future holds for our MDP programs.

In addition, the MDP Student and Alumni Advisory Council (SAAC) is an active organization composed of regional representatives from around the world.

Building on this foundation, the SAAC has also given rise to Development Practitioners Without Borders (DPWB), an organization that brings together the collective expertise of MDP-trained sustainable development consultants.

More importantly, as of 2024, our MDP program has proudly produced over 8,000 alumni worldwide, a testament to the program's enduring impact and influence in the development sector.

As we celebrate the 16-year milestone of the Global Association, it is fitting that the culmination of this remarkable MDP journey is being commemorated in a seminal Routledge Press book, *Transforming Education for Sustainable Development: Global Perspectives from Classroom to Practice*, which is to be published by the end of 2024. Some of the topics covered include the transformative power of the MDP program in helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the imperative of decolonization in higher education, and the interdisciplinary approach of the hands-on MDP field practicum.



Lucia Rodriguez, MDP Secretariat

## HIGHLIGHTS

The MDP Association has welcomed new partners from around the world, including **Tata Institute** from India, **Claribel College** from Jamaica, **Otuoke University** from Nigeria, and **Auburn University** from the USA.



Global Classroom, the MDP program’s flagship course, has achieved remarkable success, with its popularity and participant numbers consistently growing year after year. Over the 16-year period from 2008 to 2024, the synchronous hour’s weekly participant count experienced a remarkable growth. Initially, the course attracted a modest 25-50 participants; but thanks to the success of a targeted marketing campaign, which effectively promoted the course to a wider audience, the number of weekly participants increased significantly to a range of 150-200. The course’s free resources and recorded presentations increase its reach and value. It is a benchmark for excellence in academic institutions, both within and beyond the MDP community, providing a distinctive and captivating learning experience that has resonated with students globally.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

### MENA CLIMATE WEEK: RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

In 2023, the Sustainable Tourism Global Center (STGC) joined forces with the SDSN to unlock the potential of the world’s young leaders in shaping the future of sustainable tourism. As part of this partnership, the STGC empowered over 500 young individuals from around the world to participate in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Week 2023 in Saudi Arabia, held from October 8 to 12, 2023. This remarkable delegation of change-makers, comprising 60 outstanding individuals from diverse SDSN youth initiatives, brought fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the conference.



## MISSION 4.7

The SDG Academy continues to be an active partner in Mission 4.7, an initiative aimed to advance SDG Target 4.7. Particularly in Malaysia, SDSN colleagues in our Kuala Lumpur office are piloting a new training program to bring Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to Malaysian teachers.

The pilot, conducted in partnership with the Malaysian Ministry of Education, marks the latest phase of the Mission 4.7 Malaysia team's work to mainstream ESD into the Malaysian public education system. The curriculum consists of five sequential, highly-engaging modules, delivered in person to the entire school community. This unique structure encourages teachers to accumulate ESD knowledge and skills over time, and allows them to reflect on and test out new pedagogical approaches between training sessions. The structure is also designed to involve every teacher within a school environment, thereby fostering an interdisciplinary perspective and promoting a comprehensive, school-wide commitment to ESD.

The SDG Academy has been an active part of this project, supporting the team by translating lesson plans and materials from English to Malay, reviewing the draft curriculum, and supporting the trainings on-site. Findings from the pilot and the training curriculum itself will be presented to the Ministry of Education with recommendations to roll out to all of Malaysia's 418,000 teachers.

## UNESCO SDSN JOINT COMMITTEE ON OER

The Sustainable Development Open Education Resource (OER) Platform, spearheaded by the UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the SDG Academy, is designed to enhance global access to high-quality educational resources that align with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Building on UNESCO's 2019 Recommendation on OER and the 2022 UN Transforming Education Summit, the initiative focuses on creating a well-organized system for sharing peer-reviewed, openly licensed content. This project supports capacity building and global policy alignment, ensuring its scalability and sustainability. Managed by a three-tier governance structure, it includes monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure it effectively promotes lifelong learning and advances the SDGs worldwide. The OER platform is an official partnership with UNESCO which includes a joint committee of SDSN and UNESCO staff, as well as professors, librarians, and private sector employees.

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# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The SDG Academy has long been a leader in education for sustainable development, producing high-quality content on the SDGs and modeling principles of open access and educational development. Over the last ten years, our work has produced a vast library of resources that have served multitudes of people. As our reputation in the field has grown, we have used our voice to better advocate for educational change and highlight valuable thought leadership. We have worked to change the landscape of ESD and educational policy, and continue our leadership via a variety of projects aimed to advance advocacy, awareness, research, and policy formation.

## SPECIAL ISSUE JOURNAL

In 2023, the SDG Academy initiated several special issue journals in partnership with academic publishing companies around the world. To mobilize critical thought leadership in advance of major global summits, these special issues were designed to highlight the most innovative and insightful research and concepts prevalent in sustainable development related fields. As a follow-up to the UN's Transforming Education Summit in 2022 and in the lead-up to the SDG Summit in 2023, a special issue on the status and future of SDG 4 was launched, with more issues slated for 2024.

### “CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SDG4: PROGRESS, PROMISES, AND PITFALLS” WITH THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As the world nears the midpoint of the UN's 2030 Agenda, it is crucial to reassess the gaps in development planning that may not have been obvious in 2015 and to evaluate the progress made, or not made, towards the SDGs. Reflecting critically on these areas will guide the remaining years of the UN 2030 Agenda.

In this context, the SDG Academy collaborated with esteemed editors and experts to create a special issue on SDG 4, Quality Education. This special issue examined various critiques, best practices, and evaluation topics related to SDG 4, highlighting challenges and innovative solutions to inform the 2023 UN SDG Summit and subsequent events.

The issue's editors included Amber Webb, SDG Academy Managing Director and affiliated faculty at the University of Maryland; Niaz Asadullah, Professor of Development Economics at Monash University and GLO SE Asia Lead; and D. Brent Edwards, Jr., Professor and Graduate Chair, Department of Educational Foundations, University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

#### Most Cited Articles:

- 1) [The Sustainable Development Goals and education, achievements and opportunities](#), Fernando M. Reimers
- 2) [Still in need of confronting: Shadow education and its implications in the Sustainable Development Goals](#), Mark Bray
- 3) [The crosscutting impact of higher education on the Sustainable Development Goals](#), Tristan McCowan
- 4) [SDG 4 baselines, midpoints and targets: Faraway, so close?](#) Manos Antoninis

This special issue was published in the *International Journal of Educational Development* (IJED), which aims to report new insights and stimulate critical debate on education's role in development. Since its launch in early April of 2024, the special issue journal page on the SDG Academy website has had nearly 500 page visits, tweets from editors garnered thousands of views, and the articles were spread widely across our LinkedIn networks. In addition, the special issue was featured prominently on the Monash University School of Business [news page](#).

According to ScienceDirect, the Special Issue and its articles have received 24,744 views and downloads as of July 1, 2024. In addition, it has been cited 75 times since publication. We are excited by this momentum and look forward to making even more contributions to thought leadership in the future.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the Special Issue of IJED, SDG Academy staff members published various articles and blogs throughout the year.

First, the SDG Academy blog spotlighted the work and thoughts of SDG Academy staff members on a range of topics, including:

- [Climate Change, Migration, and the SDGs](#) by Jessica Crist
- [SDG Academy x LinkedIn Learning: Accelerating progress towards SDG 4.4](#) by Kayla Colyard
- [Building Resilience in Youth Vulnerable to Economic, Social and Environmental Shocks: how partnerships can lead to reimagining education programs](#) by Jessica Crist
- [Artificial Intelligence x Sustainable Development](#) by Helen Perham

The SDG Academy also participated in the SDSN's op-ed campaign in partnership with 360info:

- [Climate Change and Migration: Policy Must Change to Mitigate Displacement](#) by Jessica Crist
- [Paving the Way for a Greener Tourism Industry Through Education](#) by James Chabin
- [Why empowering teachers is key to a sustainable future](#) by Shannon Kobran (with Karen Chand)

We look forward to continuing to expand our thought leadership work through blog posts, op-eds, policy briefs, and other publications.

# EVENTS

## JULY



### Launch of seekMAX in Malaysia July 25, 2023

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SDG Academy Regional Team Lead for Asia, Shannon Kobran, joined the Malaysia launch of seekMAX, SEEK Asia’s professional learning content platform, at SEEK’s Kuala Lumpur office. The SDG Academy debuted in seekMAX with 75 videos spanning topics such as technology and the SDGs, macroeconomics, behavior change, climate change, and wellbeing. The videos are housed primarily under the “Industry Trends” category, which speaks to the growing recognition of the importance of sustainability among employers and job seekers alike.

## AUGUST



### Launch of Malaysia’s Sustainability Collaboration Alliance Network August 24, 2023

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The SDG Academy helped launch the Sustainability Collaboration Alliance Network (SCAN), a capacity-building collaboration for the Malaysian retail sector, in partnership with Sunway Malls, the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development (JSC) at Sunway University, the Malaysian Retailers Association (MRA), and the Malaysian Retail Chain Association (MRCA). The SDG Academy served as an advisor in the development of educational content and provided materials from its online catalog to give global context to the need for a sustainable retail industry.

## SEPTEMBER



### 7th Annual NYC Green School Conference September 15, 2023

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The SDG Academy participated in the New York City Green School Conference, which took place on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. The conference brought together a diverse set of stakeholders to discuss how global education can better integrate climate consciousness, inclusivity, and compassion into its curriculum and administration.



### SDG Action Weekend September 16 - 17, 2023

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A delegation of SDG Academy leadership and staff participated in robust discussions and collaboration with partners from the public, private, and NGO sectors at SDG Action Weekend 2023. Most notably, the SDG Academy hosted two events that highlighted the role of science in achieving the SDGs.



## Accelerating Multilateralism with Transformations in Science Policy Practice Interfaces

September 16, 2023

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On September 16, 2023, the SDG Academy hosted this event, along with the Permanent Missions of Ireland and New Zealand to the UN, UNESCO, and the International Science Council (ISC). The event emphasized the critical role of multilateral Science-Policy-Practice Partnerships in advancing the global sustainable development agenda. The event and accompanying discussions outlined the clear need for inclusive approaches, capacity building, youth engagement, and multi-stakeholder partnerships for realizing the SDGs.



## Catalyzing Transformative Change: Science, Academy, and the Journey to 2030

September 16, 2023

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As part of SDG Action Weekend, the SDG Academy hosted this event along with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in collaboration with the International Science Council (ISC), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The event emphasized the need for political commitment to navigate the path toward a sustainable future. Mariana Mazzucato's keynote outlined the critical role of science and academia in achieving the SDGs.



## SDG Summit

September 18 - 19, 2023

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The SDG Academy participated in the 2023 SDG Summit along with high-level government representatives and diverse stakeholders to discuss the path to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This summit marked the midway point of the implementation phase of the SDGs and a stage of accelerated efforts towards achieving the goals.



## International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD)

September 18 - 20, 2023

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As part of ICSD, the SDG Academy hosted a panel discussion on critical perspectives midway through SDG 4. The event aligned with greater ICSD programming on the theme "The Midpoint of the SDGs: Global and Local Progress & Challenges." The SDG Academy's event also marked the launch of our special issue of the *International Journal of Educational Development*.

# OCTOBER



## Global Conference on Sustainable Development

October 3 - 5, 2023

The SDG Academy hosted a session on Education for Sustainable Development at the Global Conference on Sustainable Development in Hong Kong. Director Patrick Paul Walsh and UNESCO Chair at York University Charles Hopkins discussed the many education initiatives enriching the effort for sustainable development.



## MENA Climate Week

October 8 - 12, 2023

The SDG Academy led a group of over 60 youth delegates from around the world to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to attend MENA Climate Week 2023 Youth Summit. At the Summit, youth delegates participated in networking, workshops, panels, and tours designed to give youth the opportunity to speak on their ambitious and innovative ideas.



## edX Global Forum

October 2 - 4, 2023

Education Manager Jessica Crist presented on the importance of upskilling the global workforce to further efforts toward the SDGs and outlined the steps that the SDG Academy is taking to contribute to this cause, including our Master's Pathway and professional certifications.



## Internet Governance Forum

October 10, 2023

Director Patrick Paul Walsh and members of the UNESCO Dynamic Coalition on OER examined the role of OER in addressing the challenges of global digital divides and supporting inclusive access to knowledge for learning, particularly as digital platforms for learning become more ubiquitous. This session highlighted how the work of the Coalition supports inclusive access to digital knowledge in the five areas of action of the UNESCO 2019 Recommendation on OER.



# NOVEMBER



## ASEAN-China-India Youth Leadership Summit (ACIYLS) October 30 - November 3, 2023

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The SDG Academy's Shannon Kobran served as panel moderator, mentor, and judge for the 1st annual ASEAN-China-India Youth Leadership Forum in Singapore. Organized by the OSG Youth Alliance, the ACIYLS unites youths across ASEAN, China, and India to tackle the most pressing sustainability challenges of our time. The inaugural Summit, focusing on SDGs 11 and 12, began with hackathon-like SDG solutions competitions in 12 countries. Teams also had to complete at least two SDG Academy courses. Winners from the country rounds joined the Summit in Singapore. The Summit featured a Forum with expert panels, where Shannon moderated a discussion between diverse professionals on "Building a Career around Sustainability."



## UNESCO General Conference November 7 - 22, 2023

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Director Patrick Paul Walsh and SDSN President Jeffrey Sachs attended the Meeting of Joint Committee on the Implementation of the UNESCO OER Recommendation while at the UNESCO General Meeting. Along with partners, they approved the governance structure and work plan for the Joint Committee.



## World Young Scientist Summit (WYSS) November 11 - 14, 2023

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Shannon Kobran was invited to participate in the World Young Scientist Summit in Wenzhou, China. Since 2019, this high-profile event has brought together young scientists from across China and around the world to celebrate achievements in science, technology, and innovation that tackle global challenges. Shannon spoke about the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration within and outside of academia and also gave a presentation on the SDGs to nearly 600 students during a special session on Climate Education in High School.

# DECEMBER



SDG Academy aims to mobilize partners at all levels to further the SDG agenda. We help reimagine institutions for the future we want.



## COP28: Implementing the Greening Education Partnership in Higher Education: Collaborations and Initiatives

December 1, 2023

In partnership with the Foundation for Environmental Education, Green Growth Asia, the Aspen Institute, and the American University of Sharjah, the SDG Academy organized a Green Zone event which highlighted higher education's role in creating a sustainable future. In addition, Director Patrick Paul Walsh participated in the COP28 Youth Climate Champions program as a mentor to youth delegates.

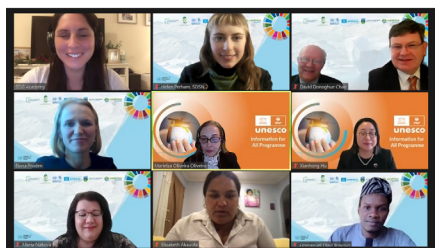
# JANUARY



## UN World Logic Day

January 21, 2024

The SDG Academy joined over 2,000 participants at the largest in-person World Logic Day to discuss emerging trends in technology, education, strategic decision-making, AI, and the future of sustainable development investment and entrepreneurship. Education Manager Kayla Colyard moderated a panel that highlighted the importance of investments in technology and education from all sectors and the need for collaboration, accountability, and innovation in policy making.



## UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum

January 30, 2024

Director Professor Patrick Paul Walsh made a statement at the event's plenary session, the SDG Academy hosted an official side event on "Building Resilience in Youth Vulnerable to Economic, Social and Environmental Shocks," where an expert panel discussed emerging trends regarding youth in upper secondary education, tertiary education, and vocational training, as well as their progression into gainful employment.



## UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum

January 30, 2024

The SDG Academy was a co-organizer of the "SDG Action Segment on Goal 16: Peace, Justice, & Strong Institutions," where speakers highlighted the need for a "whole-of-society approach, with enhanced cooperation and coordination."

# FEBRUARY



## UN SDG:Learn Syllabus Building

February 27, 2024

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UN SDG:Learn showcased the SDG Academy’s educational resources as part of their syllabus building event. Communications Coordinator Helen Perham presented the SDG Academy’s wide-array of resources at the event, providing educators and learners with the tools, resources, and support needed to integrate SDGs into their curriculum effectively.

# APRIL



## 2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum

April 16 - 18, 2024

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The SDG Academy attended the 2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum, networking with UN bodies and civil society organizations dedicated to SDG 4 and education for sustainable development. The SDG Academy also liaised with secondary school students and young professionals at the Global Schools Program and the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens side event on “Youth for Sustainability: Cultivating leaders through education, innovations, and partnerships.”



## European Commission Education for Climate Policy Forum 2024

April 17, 2024

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The Policy Forum on Climate Resilience, held on April 17, 2024, focused on preparing for climate challenges through education and policy. The event featured discussions and interactive sessions on building local community capacity, enhancing green competencies, and promoting science-driven climate education. Director Patrick Paul Walsh lead a lab about science driven education where he offered insights into innovative educational projects in the EU such as the BuildSkills Academy.

# MAY



## 2024 UN Civil Society Conference May 9 - 10, 2024

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Delegates from hundreds of civil society organizations visited the SDG Academy booth to learn about SDG Academy resources and furthering education for sustainable development. Director Patrick Paul Walsh was a member of the program committee for Civil Society Recommendations on the Pact for the Future, at which he reported on Chapter 3 of the Pact and the Global Digital Compact.



## 2024 UN Civil Society Conference Post-Conference Town Hall May 31, 2024

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At the session, SDG Academy representatives engaged in open discussions in which organizers and participants reflected on the process and outcomes of the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi. Stakeholders noted that holding the conference in the Global South was a key development ensuring geographic diversity will be leveraged in the future.

# JUNE



## Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Dialogue and Launch of the 2023 Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development June 5 - 7, 2024

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The Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development was adopted by all 194 UNESCO Member States in 2023 and outlines 14 guiding principles, concrete learning outcomes and priority action areas for holistically reshaping all aspects of education systems for the 21st century. At the Regional Policy Dialogue, delegates from more than 20 countries discussed challenges and opportunities for adopting the Recommendation in the region, and participated in workshops to develop a Regional Implementation Guide and Roadmap.

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR PROGRESS



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