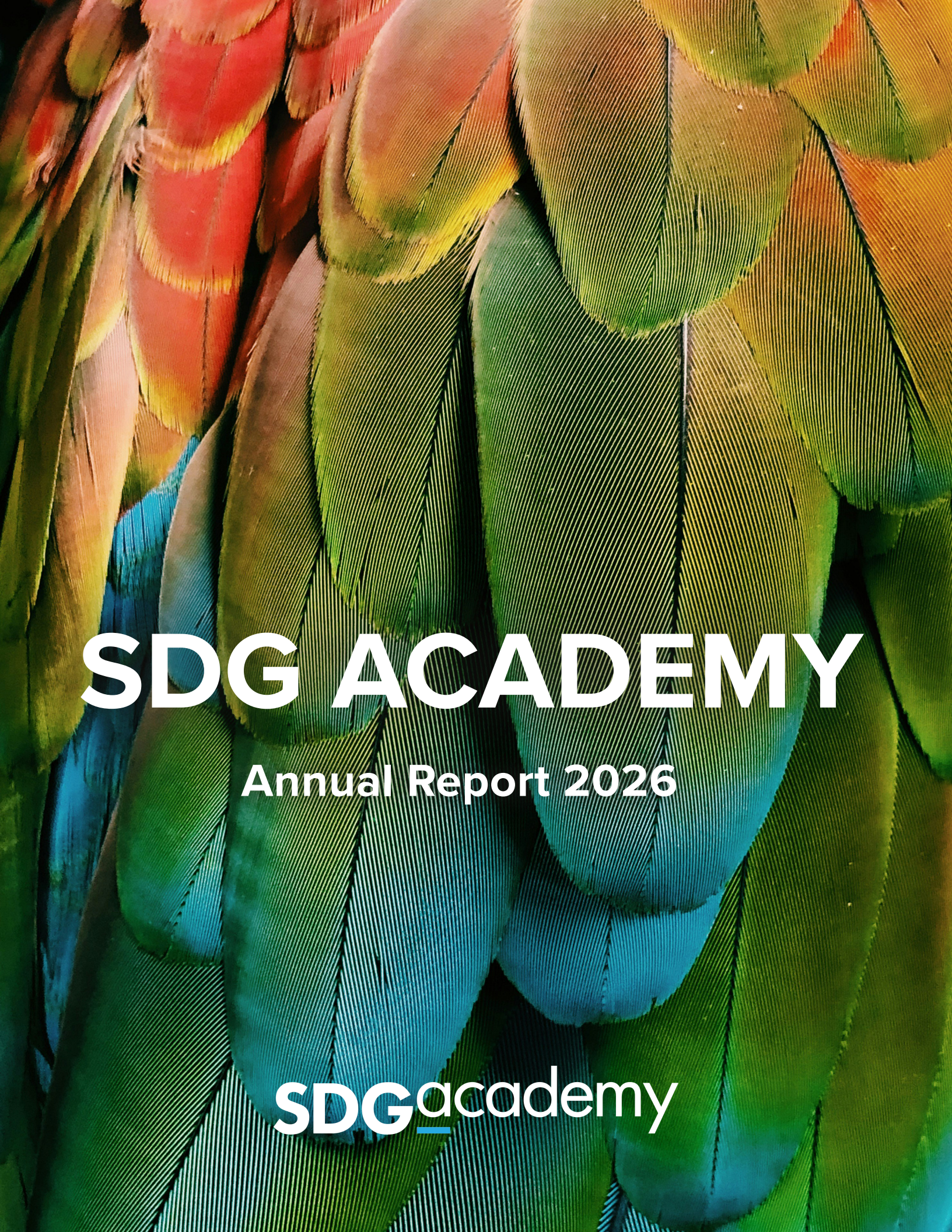




# SDG ACADEMY

Annual Report 2026

SDG<sub>academy</sub>

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## Letter from the President

# Jeffrey Sachs

Dear SDG Academy Community,

I am exceptionally proud to introduce the 2026 Annual Report of the SDG Academy. When the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) created the Academy more than a decade ago, our aim was to make the best available knowledge on sustainable development freely accessible to anyone in the world who wished to learn. The Academy has now reached more than one million learners. In the past year, some 58,000 people enrolled in our courses, and 88 percent of them were taking an SDG Academy course for the first time. The Academy is therefore still reaching new learners in large numbers, and the demand for serious education on sustainable development continues to grow.

As this report makes clear, the reach of the SDG Academy is remarkable. Our catalog now includes 58 courses. Among the four courses added this year are a UNESCO course that prepares teachers to address violent and difficult histories in the classroom and a course on scaling impact produced with Canada's International Development Research Centre. The SDG Academy Library offers more than 2,600 lectures, case studies, and event recordings covering all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Academy also supports online master's programs at University College Dublin, which now counts 169 alumni, and at Sunway University, which now counts 140. In January 2026, students from the two programs studied together in a shared module on sustainable cities for the first time.

The Academy's executive and professional training has grown in parallel. In October 2025, the SDG Leadership Program in Dubai, organized with the UAE SDGs Secretariat and the Government Experience Exchange Office, brought together 32 leaders from UAE-based organizations and 14 countries. The BuildSkills Academy, co-funded by the European Union, is helping vocational training providers in six European countries to prepare construction workers for the green and digital transitions. In Malaysia, the Mission 4.7 team contributed to the new Education for Sustainable Development pillar of the Malaysia Education Plan 2026–2036 and then trained 20 master trainers, who are carrying the program to some 2,500 teachers in 40 schools. I was honored to join the team in March 2026 for its Executive Briefing with the Minister of Education.

The Academy has also given me personally the opportunity to try new ways of teaching, and I am most gratified. Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs, now in its fifth season, has drawn more than one million views on YouTube since its first season. My conversations with historians, economists, and other authors have examined the origins of several wars, the designs of peace, the partitions that shaped modern Asia, among many other subjects. In June 2026, the Academy and I set out on the Marco Polo Drive of Peace, Culture, and Sustainable Development, a 43-day, 15,000-kilometer journey from Rome to Hong Kong along the routes of the ancient Silk Road. We filmed lectures at sites along the way, and more than 1,200 learners from 122 countries followed the course. The purpose of the journey was to show, place by place, how the long history of exchange between Europe and Asia can guide today's search for peace and cooperation.

These accomplishments rest on the leadership of dedicated colleagues, and I want to thank three of them in particular. Professor Patrick Paul Walsh guided the SDG Academy for the past four years as SDSN's Vice President for Education. Paul led the Academy's engagement

with UNESCO and the wider UN system, brought the Academy to every summit of Our Common Agenda since the Transforming Education Summit process began in Paris in 2022, and strengthened its ties to degree programs around the world. He now returns full time to his wonderful leadership at University College Dublin, where he will continue to direct the MSc in Sustainable Development in partnership with the Academy. Dr. Amber Webb ably guided the SDG Academy for four years as Managing Director. Her leadership shaped the Academy's courses, partnerships, and scholarship on education for sustainable development, and she represented the Academy in the international education community with great skill. I am most grateful that Karen Chand, our distinguished colleague at Sunway University, now brilliantly leads the SDG Academy as Managing Director. Sunway University provides the home for this global effort, and I thank the Sunway Education Group for its steadfast partnership, guidance, and generosity.

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“Our commitment is to harness the wisdom of the more than 2,200 universities of SDSN to bring Education for Sustainable Development to the world.”

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Our commitment is to harness the wisdom and technical expertise of the more than 2,200 universities of SDSN to bring Education for Sustainable Development to the world. That commitment begins with universities at all levels, from undergraduate study to doctoral, post-doctoral, and executive programs. It extends to primary and secondary education, where SDSN's Global Schools program and the Mission 4.7 initiative in Malaysia are showing how teachers can bring the SDGs into the daily life of the classroom. It extends as well to the wider public through free online courses, webinars, podcasts, and the SDG Academy Library. The need for this work is great. The Sustainable

Development Report 2026 finds that fewer than one in five SDG targets is on track to be achieved globally by 2030. The goals remain the proper and indeed urgent goals, but achieving them that requires far more people in governments, businesses, schools, and communities have the knowledge and skills to carry them out. SDG Target 4.7 calls on all countries to ensure by 2030 that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, and the SDG Academy exists to help the world meet that commitment.

We will continue to pioneer in 2027 and beyond. The most important step in the coming year will be the launch of a new global Master's in Sustainable Development, offered together with many host SDSN member institutions around the world. The new program will draw on the experience of our online master's programs at University College Dublin and Sunway University, including the joint module that brought their students together this year. We will share more news about the program in the months to come.

Finally, I express my profound gratitude to all who have contributed to the SDG Academy. I thank the Academy's team in New York, Paris, and Kuala Lumpur, whose skill and commitment make this work possible. I thank the many universities, think tanks, and independent scholars who have shared their knowledge through our courses, lectures, and events, as well as the members of our High-Level Advisory Council for their counsel. I thank the global institutions that have partnered with us, including of course UNESCO, along with UN DESA, UN Women, the UN Statistical Commission, and the many other UN bodies with which we work. And I especially thank our learners around the world, whose dedication to sustainable development gives all of us great hope and inspiration.

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs  
President, UN Sustainable Development  
Solutions Network

# Patrick Paul Walsh

## Director, SDG Academy

(Until July 1, 2026)

Dear SDG Academy Community,

We are delighted to share highlights from this past year in our 2026 SDG Academy Annual Report. Our work continues to produce original course content on different platforms, undertake training for governments, partner on university degree programs, run high profile UN events, and promote sustainable development education in podcasts, blogs, social media, and publications.

In July 2025, I was delighted to represent the SDG Academy at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) on the official SDG 8 plenary panel on decent work and economic growth, where I outlined the global case for Education and Training to achieve SDG 8.

The SDG Academy was also honored to run the UAE SDG Leadership Program in October 2025 in Dubai with a theme of “Turbocharging Multilateralism for a Sustainable Future.” The program brought together senior officials from 14 countries to focus on accelerating sustainable development and shaping long-term national strategies. It blended leadership development with strategic foresight, innovation, and cross-country collaboration, addressing complex global challenges. The program was co-organized by the UAE SDGs Secretariat, the Government Experience Exchange Office (GEEO), and the SDG Academy.

Since the pre-TES in Paris in 2022, the SDG Academy has organized events at every meeting of Our Common Agenda, including the Second World Summit for Social Development that took place in Doha, Qatar, from 4–6 November 2025, and focused on global social progress, equality, and inclusion. The Academy was pleased to be part of four side events and had an exhibition space at the Summit. Ahead of the Summit we updated and re-released a MOOC called “Revitalizing Multilateralism for a Sustainable Future” MOOC to guide learners through the past, present, and future of the global development agenda. Leveraging content from our prestigious Global Classroom series and recordings at all Summits in the Common Agenda, including the World Social Summit, the course considered what’s next for multilateralism in terms of UN Reform, Implementation of the SDGs and the post 2030 Agenda.

We were proud to partner on a CSW70 side event “Knowledge is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls” in March 2026. This event was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, co-organised by Soroptimist International and Graduate Women International, and sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Sierra Leone and Mongolia to the UN, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, UNESCO, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and Credit Access India.

The SDSN continues to represent the Western Europe region on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee for 2024-2026, positioning us to enhance Member State engagement and advocate for education for sustainable development.

The SDG Academy also continues to support transformation of the European built environment via the BuildSkills Academy with monthly meetings, representation in events, and participation in the Annual Meeting and

Masterclasses. We are pleased to be a part of this collective effort to transform the European built environment sector to net zero pathways, which requires partnerships for content creation, training, and accreditation across vocational colleges in the EU and beyond.

The work highlighted in this report is made possible by the wonderful SDG Academy staff in our New York, Paris, and Kuala Lumpur offices.

On a personal note, I am going off secondment at SDSN and returning to University College Dublin. I will still be working with the SDG Academy as Director of the UCD M.Sc. in Sustainable Development in partnership with the SDG Academy. It's been a joy to work with the SDG Academy team for the last four years. I am delighted to welcome Karen Chand as the new Managing Director of the SDG Academy, effective from July 1, 2026. Based in our Kuala Lumpur office, Karen brings her exceptional experience and expertise in education, policy, and sustainable development to this role. The SDG Academy has become a cornerstone of the SDSN's mission to mobilize education for sustainable development, and I am confident that, under Karen's leadership, it will continue to expand its global reach and deepen its impact.

We continue to be grateful for the support of our High Level Advisory Council (HLAC). Each and every member is an active part of our content creation, partnerships and advocacy for education, and professional training in sustainable development. Lastly, on behalf of the entire SDG Academy team, I want to express our deep gratitude 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, and our community of partners and funders that we engaged with during this past year.

Sincerely,

Professor Patrick Paul Walsh

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Since the pre-TES summit in Paris in 2022 the Academy has organized events at every meeting of Our Common Agenda.

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# Amber Webb

## Managing Director, SDG Academy

(Until July 1, 2026)

Dear Friends of the SDG Academy,

Over the past year, institutions of learning around the world have faced mounting pressures. Schools, universities, and research institutions are increasingly navigating political polarization, resource constraints, and the far-reaching consequences of global conflicts that have disrupted communities, strained public investments, and challenged international cooperation. At a moment when the world urgently needs evidence-based solutions and informed leadership, many of the institutions responsible for producing knowledge and educating future generations are being asked to do more with less.

Yet amid these challenges, there is also a powerful reason for optimism. The resilience of educational institutions lies not only in their individual strength, but in their ability to work together. When scholars, educators, practitioners, policymakers, and learners unite around a shared purpose, they create communities capable of advancing knowledge, overcoming barriers, and driving meaningful change. Throughout the past year, the SDG Academy has been proud to support and strengthen these communities, helping connect people, ideas, and institutions across sectors and borders in pursuit of sustainable development.

At the SDG Academy, we have witnessed the power of this collective effort firsthand. Our global network of scholars and experts came

together to produce publications, policy briefs, and thought leadership initiatives that advance climate action and sustainable development. These collaborations demonstrate the unique value of knowledge communities: bringing diverse perspectives together to generate solutions that no single institution could achieve alone.

This spirit of collaboration was also reflected in the Global Higher Education Symposium, which we were proud to co-convene at the United Nations during the 2025 High-Level Political Forum. Bringing together leaders from universities, international organizations, governments, and civil society, the symposium provided a forum for addressing shared challenges facing higher education while identifying opportunities for collective action. The discussions reinforced an enduring lesson: the future of sustainable development depends on our ability to build stronger networks of cooperation across institutions, sectors, and regions.

At the heart of this work remains our commitment to learners. Through our courses, degree programs, professional training, and global initiatives, the SDG Academy continues to invest in the next generation of leaders who will navigate an increasingly complex world. More than delivering knowledge, we seek to cultivate a global community of changemakers equipped to bridge divides, foster innovation, and advance sustainable solutions in their own communities and professions. We look forward to extending this work long into the future of SDG Academy programming.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amber Webb

# SDG Academy Team



**Jeffrey Sachs**  
President, SDSN



**Karen Chand**  
Managing Director



**Lucia Rodriguez**  
Director, MDP



**Shannon Kobran**  
Head of Education  
and Training



**Kayla Colyard**  
Senior Program  
Manager



**Amanda Abrom**  
Sr. Program Manager,  
Director, Global  
Schools Program



**Phui Yi Kong**  
Education Policy  
Analyst



**Tharunnia Ganesan**  
Research Analyst



**Isabela  
Carrozza Joia**  
Program Associate



**Dawn Adrian**  
Education Manager



**Sherlina Kaur**  
Education Manager



**Helen Perham**  
Communications  
Manager



**Amber Webb**  
Senior Advisor, Former  
Managing Director



**Patrick Paul Walsh**  
Former VP of Education  
and Director

# Introduction

The SDG Academy is proud to share our 2026 Annual Report. The following pages share the story of the learners, stakeholders, experts, and sustainability practitioners who create the patchwork of the SDG Academy. The mission of the SDG Academy is to create and curate relevant content on the SDGs, share innovative pedagogies and training models, and nurture a global community of learners to prepare this generation and the next to achieve sustainable development.

Our vision is a world in which the 17 Sustainable Development Goals 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 will mobilize a truly global movement aimed at advancing sustainable development everywhere.



The SDG Academy's Shannon Kobran, Sherlina Kaur, and Dawn Adrian with partners from Junior Chamber International.

# High Level Advisory Council (HLAC)

Our High Level Advisory Council (HLAC) provides keen insights, connections, and leadership for our unique program of work. The HLAC is composed of experts from various backgrounds, including library sciences, education technology, and industry, and represents a variety of sectors, including the nonprofit and private sectors, inter-governmental organizations, and higher education.



Kayla Colyard, Helen Perham, Shannon Kobran, and Patrick Paul Walsh at the SDSN Leadership Council Meeting in 2025.

## HLAC Members

**Mohammed Al Pizeiqi**

Sultan Qaboos University

**Niamh Brennan**

Trinity College Dublin

**Peadar Duffy**

ESG Exchange

**Ramu Damodaran**

University for Peace

**Charles Hopkins**

York University

**Radhika Iyengar**

Columbia University

**Katrin Kohl**

York University

**Emmanuel Ola-Olowoyo**

AIIDEV Africa

**Yuma Inzolia**

UNESCO

**Lisa Sachs**

Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

**Niki Rodousakis**

UNIDO

**Trine Jensen**

International Association of Universities

**May East**

Gaia Education

**Thanos Giannakopoulos**

UN Library

**David Smith**

University of the West Indies

**Rocky Tuan**

The Chinese University Hong Kong

**Zeynep Varoglu**

UNESCO

**Raquel Xalabarder**

European Patent Office

**Narimane Hadj Hamou**

CLICKS UAE

**Dan Groody**

University of Notre Dame

**Michael Richey**

University of Bath

**Elizabeth Lee**

Sunway Education Group

**Stephen Wyber**

International Federation of  
Library Associations and  
Institutions

**Oláńrewájú Oláníyan**

Emmanuel Alayande University  
of Education

**William Hynes**

OECD

**Zheng Qian**

Sumitomo Corporation of  
Americas

**Stefano Zamagni**

University of Bologna

**Enda Murphy**

University College Dublin

**Abel Kinyondo**

University of Dar es Salaam

**Virendra Rawat**

Green Mentors

**Michael Richey**

University of Bath

**Kristen Stebbins**

JP MorganChase

**Shea Gopaul**

International Organisation of  
Employers (IOE)

**Aiman Albarakati**

CIFAL UNITAR



Shannon Kobran at the WBCSD Leadership Programme in Kuala Lumpur

# Our Courses

This year, the SDG Academy added four new courses to our catalog, bringing our total to 58:



**Scaling Impact for Sustainable Development** - Produced in partnership with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), this course introduces a practical approach to scaling for the public good. Unlike models that just focus on growth and replication, it offers guiding principles and tools to help innovators navigate scaling impact in uncertain and dynamic real-world contexts.



**Teaching and Learning About Violent Past** - Developed by UNESCO, this innovative online course is designed to equip educators with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to address sensitive and violent histories in the classroom. Covering historical topics such as genocide, colonialism, enslavement, and systemic discrimination, the course emphasizes how confronting “difficult” pasts can foster empathy, critical thinking, and a commitment to human rights and peacebuilding.



**Critical Development Perspectives** - Originally created by the University of Queensland and now hosted by the SDG Academy, this course presents a vast array of different arguments about what development is and how development can be achieved. By examining these perspectives, learners develop skills in critical thinking and analysis, while being introduced to some of the contemporary debates and current challenges facing development practice.



**The Marco Polo Drive of Peace, Culture, and Sustainable Development** - Following Professor Jeffrey Sachs on an extraordinary journey across the ancient Silk Road, this limited-run course explored the civilizations, empires, ideas, and technologies that connected Europe and Asia for centuries, while considering how the Silk Road's enduring legacy can help guide our shared 21st-century future of peace and sustainable development.

This year, we also updated [\*Revitalizing Multilateralism for a Sustainable Future\*](#). Originally developed ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future, this unique course was updated in October 2025 to address the themes of the Second World Summit for Social Development.



In addition to our new courses on edX, the SDG Academy hosted a special six-part webinar series on [\*Corporate Responsibilities for Sustainable Development\*](#). Throughout May 2026, Professor Klaus M. Leisinger explored the ethics of corporate responsibilities for sustainable development, drawing on his decades of experience as a business leader, academic, and activist working to transform ethical standards in the private sector. The series recordings are now available in the SDG Academy Library.



As always, we are grateful to our partners for their trust and willingness to share their expertise with the world through us. And, of course, we are grateful to our learners, whose curiosity, dedication, and enthusiasm for sustainable development gives us hope in these challenging times.

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“What I enjoyed the most was how clearly they explain big global issues and connect them to real-life problems. The experts are inspiring, and the course makes you feel like your learning has a purpose. It’s flexible, meaningful, and gives a broader view of the world” - Learner from *Climate Action: Solutions for a Changing Planet*

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In October of 2025, one of our most popular courses, *Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience*, was archived. The course was developed by the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) and UNEP and had enrolled over 125,000 learners since its launch in 2021. Though the course has been archived on edX, videos from the course are still available in the [SDG Academy Library](#).

Industry reports show that demand for courses in Software Development, Finance, Data Science, and Artificial Intelligence are on the rise. The SDG Academy’s course catalog, by comparison, covers topics such as health, climate change, education, and sustainability across industries from mining to insurance. This year’s increased demand for our [\*Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Working with nature to adapt to a changing climate\*](#) and [\*Tech for Good: The Role of ICT in Achieving the SDGs\*](#) may indicate both an ongoing demand for learning resources on climate resiliency and an emerging interest across industries in ethical and sustainable technology use.

# Courses and Learners in Numbers

The SDG Academy has reached over 1 million learners since our launch over 10 years ago. The majority of learners (88%) who enrolled in one of our courses this year reported it was their first SDG Academy course. Learners were primarily college graduates, with 74% holding a Bachelor's Degree or higher. Most learners enroll with the goal of enhancing their resumes or professional portfolios.

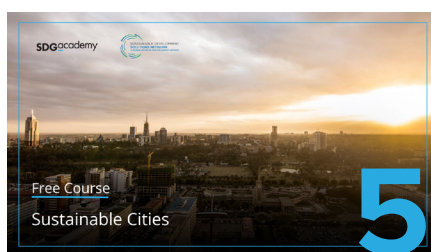
## 58k

Global Learners This Year

## 11.5k

Total Alumni Group  
Members

## Top Five Courses This Year\*

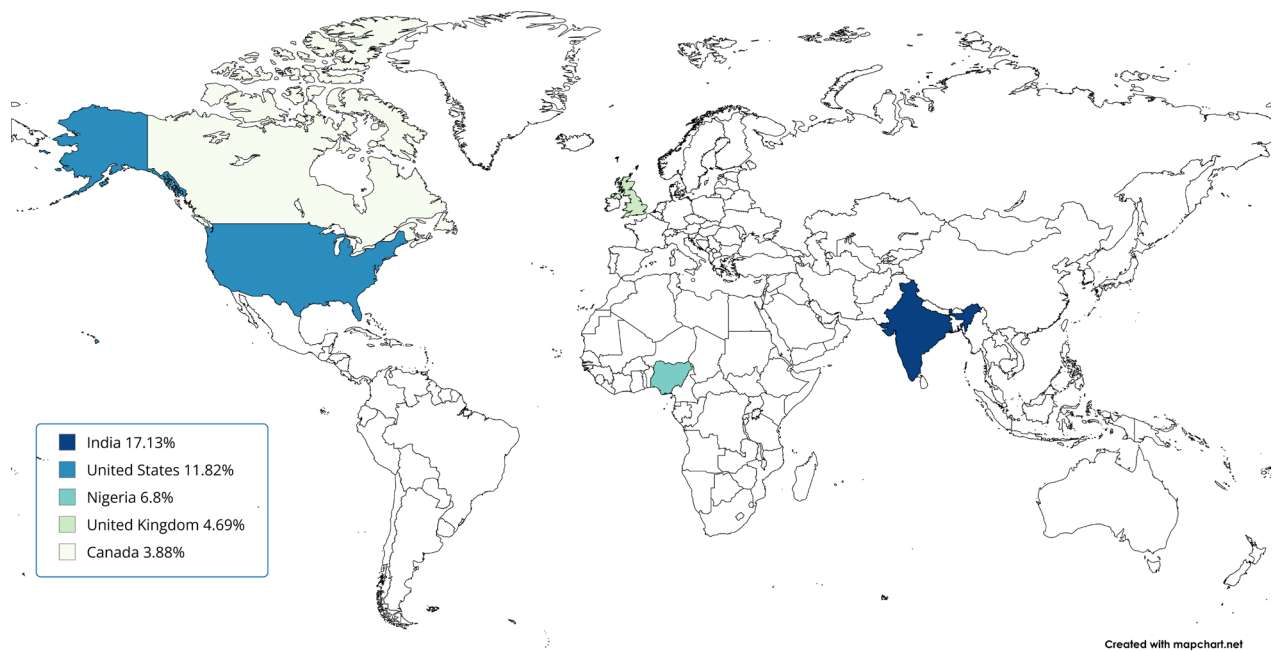


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“This course made the SDGs tangible and actionable. I valued the opportunity to explore the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental issues, which broadened my perspective on global challenges and inspired me to think critically about solutions I can contribute to in my future work.” - **Learner from *Transforming Our World: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals***

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# Countries With the Most SDG Academy Learners This Year



“The combination of real-world case studies, actionable tools, and clear guidance on integrating nature-based solutions into climate adaptation strategies made the learning both engaging and directly applicable to my professional work.” - **Learner** from *Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Working with nature to adapt to a changing climate*

## Our Global Audiences This Year

66k

Monthly Newsletter  
Subscribers

122k

Social Media Followers  
(Instagram, X, LinkedIn,  
Facebook, and Bluesky)

249k

Views of the Book Club  
Podcast on YouTube

# Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs

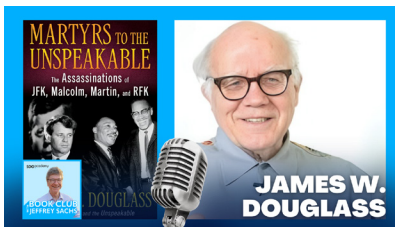
Now in its fifth season, [Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs](#), the SDG Academy's signature podcast, continues to engage a growing global audience through insightful conversations with leading authors, historians, economists, and public intellectuals. Hosted by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, the series remains committed to exploring the ideas, events, and policies that shape our world, one book and conversation at a time. Through thought-provoking dialogues with distinguished scholars and authors, listeners have been invited to reconsider conventional narratives, uncover overlooked histories, and explore pathways toward a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future.



## Season Five of the Book Club Includes Conversations With:



**Michael Jabara Carley**, *Stalin's Gamble: The Search for Allies Against Hitler, 1930-1936*



**James W Douglass**, *Martyrs to the Unspeakable: The Assassinations of JFK, Malcom, Martin, and RFK*



**Rana Mitter**, *Forgotten Ally: China's World War II 1937-1945*



**Dorothy A. Brown**, *The Whiteness of Wealth: How the Tax System Impoverishes Black Americans—and How We Can Fix It*



**Sam Dalrymple**, *Shattered Lands: Five Partitions and the Making of Modern Asia*

Season 5 of the [Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs](#) explores the powerful forces that shape the modern world, from war and empire to political power, economic inequality, and historical memory. Discussions with Michael Jabara Carley ([Stalin's Game Trilogy](#)) and Rana Mitter ([Forgotten Ally: China's World War II 1937-1945](#)) revisited the origins, global dimensions, and often unheard events of World War II, while James W. Douglass's [Martyrs to the Unspeakable](#) examined the assassinations of some of the twentieth century's most influential leaders and the deeper forces behind political violence. Turning to questions of justice and inequality, Dorothy A. Brown ([The Whiteness of Wealth](#) and [Getting to Reparations](#)) explored how U.S. tax policy has contributed to racial wealth disparities and what meaningful reparative policies might look like. Sam Dalrymple's [Shattered Lands](#) illuminated how the partitioning of nations across Asia continues to shape societies and geopolitical tensions today.

These conversations have challenged listeners to rethink conventional narratives of history while exploring how the legacies of war, colonialism, political power, and economic policy continue to influence the pursuit of peace, justice, and sustainable development in the twenty-first century.

1million+ 4.7-4.9

YouTube Views Since Season 1

Star Rating Across Podcast Platforms

## From Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs Listeners:

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"Prof Sachs's podcasts leave me with a feeling of having been enlarged in my knowledge of history and the world...great scholarship, serious and interesting ideas and perspectives, and thoughtful and informative conversation." - **Book Club Listener**

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"Jeffrey Sachs's interviews are eye-opening and insightful, offering a fuller view of today's geopolitical problems. The information provided is historical facts that are conveniently left out of the conversation in the mainstream media. If every US citizen and resident listened to these podcasts, we may be able to avoid being involved in more disastrous, unnecessary wars and massacres." - **Book Club Listener**

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# SDG Academy Library

As our course catalog grows, so too does our SDG Academy Library, becoming a premier destination for free, high-quality educational videos on sustainable development. Today, our Library boasts more than 2,600 lectures, case studies, and event recordings, showcasing the expertise of leaders in their fields, and representing all 17 SDGs and nearly 40 subject areas such as Business & Management, Energy Systems, Education Policy, and History.

# 64k

Video Plays From July 2025 to June 2026

## Top Five Videos This Year



“Introduction: The Oceans and Sustainable Development”



“Our Ocean: A Finite Resource”



“Introducing Sustainable Development”

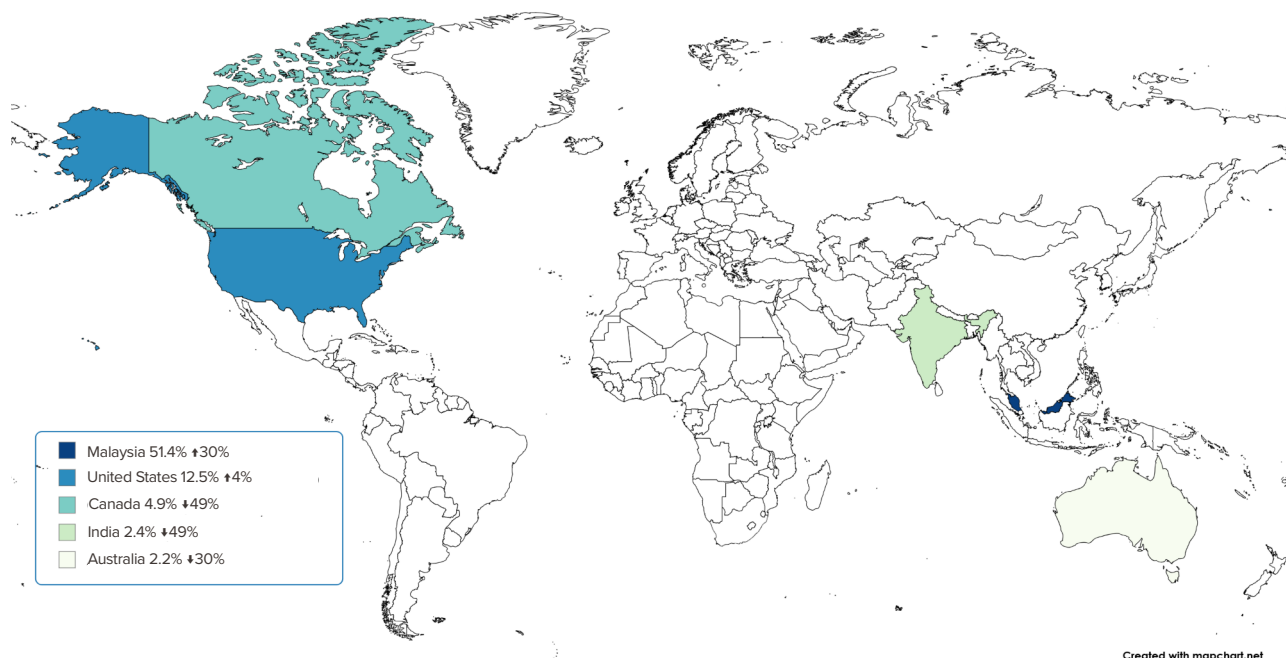


“Why Sustainable Development is Important: Happiness and Wellbeing”



“Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship”

## Top 5 Countries With the Most Library Video Views This Year



### Did you know: half of all video views came from Malaysia?

For the fifth consecutive year, the SDG Academy collaborated with our host institution, Sunway University, and the wider Sunway Education Group, to deliver a compulsory SDG professional development program for more than 2,500 faculty and staff across the campuses of Sunway University, Sunway College, and Sunway International School. The latest version, launched in April 2026, includes two short courses: an introductory course for new hires and a thematic course on individual SDG action, required for everyone.

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“After completing the course, I became more aware of how small daily actions can contribute to sustainability. I also better understood the importance of making conscious choices, such as reducing waste and using more sustainable transportation. The course helped me realize that individual actions do make a difference, which motivated me to be more committed to adopting sustainable habits.” - **Lecturer in the School of Arts, Sunway University**

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# Blogs and Key Publications

The SDG Academy staff and supporters are actively involved in writing and publishing op-eds, blogs, and other media to promote the SDGs and ESD.

## Blogs from SDG Academy Learners, Interns, Partners, and Staff



**Thermal Waters: From Research to Innovation** - By Dr. Zeina Bourhane, SDG Academy Learner

“My aim is not only to share scientific findings but also to empower communities with the tools and frameworks to make informed decisions about their resources. In this way, the insights from the *Nature-based Solutions* course serve as a bridge between global sustainability goals and local action.”



**Learning About Cities Changed How I See My Own** - By Ian Ngugi, SDG Academy Learner and SDSN Youth Fellow

“The *Sustainable Cities* course didn’t hand me solutions. It helped me ask better questions. The urban systems concept helped me see how waste connects to flooding and public health. The modules on inequality made me think harder about who suffers most when waste management fails — and why. The resilience section pushed me to think beyond the temporary fixes.”



**When Violent Pasts Are Still Present: Education for Peace and Responsibility** - By Minghan Ma and Johanna Huber, SDG Academy Interns

SDG Academy interns Minghan Ma and Johanna Hubert reflected on their differing educational experiences learning about histories of violence as K-12 students in China and Germany, respectively. Minghan and Johanna supported a UNESCO webinar about the *Teaching and Learning about Violent Pasts* course in spring 2026.



**Creativity as the Bridge to Innovation and the SDGs** - By Alana Lewis, SDG Academy Intern

“When applied to sustainable development, creativity becomes a bridge: linking social, environmental, and economic goals in ways that help to reshape societies for the future. The Sustainable Development Goals are interconnected by design, and are strongest when we innovate with all of them in mind. Creative solutions, especially those emerging from communities themselves, show us what’s possible when we think in systems rather than silos.”



**Empathy in Action: Embedding Poverty and Inequality Training in Social Work Education** - By Dr. Liza Arellano, DSW, LCSW, and Dr. Philip Breitenbucher, Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at California Baptist University

“The SDG Academy’s *Understanding Poverty and Inequality* course supports our mission to develop the ‘whole’ student, and we recommend adding the online course to all Social Welfare Policy programs with similar missions.”



**Four Years After the Transforming Education Summit: It’s Time to Make Education Data Count** - By Dr. Amber Webb, SDG Academy Managing Director

“Four years after the TES, the education community has a clearer understanding of both the scale of the challenge and the opportunities ahead. The question is no longer whether data matter. The question is whether we will use data to drive the transformation we have already committed ourselves to achieving.”

## Op-eds from the SDG Academy

- [\*Equipping Youth with Education, Training, and Agency in Shaping Policies for a Sustainable Future\*](#) by SDG Academy’s Kayla Colyard and Patrick Paul Walsh, published on the UN SDG:Learn Blog
- [\*One skill at a time: how the BuildSkills Academy is constructing a sustainable future\*](#) by SDG Academy’s Isabela Carrozza Joia, published on the UN SDG:Learn Blog

## Key Publication: Special Issue of the Journal of ESD

JESD Special Issue: “Policy Perspectives on Education for Sustainable Development.”

The virtual launch of the *Journal of Education for Sustainable Development* special issue, “[Policy Perspectives on Education for Sustainable Development](#),” brought together scholars from around the world to examine how effectively ESD policies are translating into meaningful practice and progress toward the SDGs. The second part of the dual issue was released in November 2025 and explored gaps, opportunities, and challenges in ESD—including what forms of education are needed for 21st-century challenges.

The issue included SDG Academy commentary on the field: In their piece, SDG Academy Managing Director Dr. Amber Webb and co-authors take stock of the evolution of ESD within international policy, particularly its role in advancing SDG Target 4.7, and critically examine whether growing policy attention has translated into meaningful, transformative practice. The authors highlight both the progress and persistent gaps in the field, calling for more critical, inclusive, and context-sensitive approaches to ESD, stronger policy implementation and financing, and greater attention to diverse knowledge systems and voices as the 2030 Agenda approaches.

## Key Workshops, Summits, and Events

### Global Higher Education Symposium

Held on the sidelines of the 2025 High-Level Political Forum, the SDG Academy, along with partners UN Academic Impact, the International Science Council (ISC), the International Association of Universities, the German Center for Research and Innovation New York (DWIH), York University (Canada), UNESCO, UNITAR, and the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), convened the Global Higher Education Symposium (GHES) under the theme “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for 2030.” Following the Symposium, the organizers collaborated on “[Building Sustainable Futures, A Consensus Statement on the Unique Position of Higher Education in the Pursuit of Solutions](#),” launched at the GHES II in July 2026.



The 2025 Global Symposium on Higher Education was held on July 18th, 2025, at the UN Secretariat Building in New York. Pictured here are SDG Academy’s Helen Perham and Patrick Paul Walsh with Symposium participants.

## 14th UNESCO Youth Forum

Representing the SDG Academy and the SDSN, on behalf of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and UNESCO, Program Associate Isabela Carrozza Joia contributed to discussions that led to the adoption of the Global Recommendations presented at the 43rd UNESCO General Conference that took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from October 30 to November 13, 2025. The Global Recommendations ensure that NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO are recognized as key actors and include lifelong learning and vocational education as key contributors to the green transition.



Program Associate Isabela Carrozza Joia (center) in Samarkand

## Second World Summit for Social Development

From November 3–6, 2025, the SDSN participated in the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) in Doha, Qatar.

Hosted at the Qatar National Convention Center, the SDG Academy proudly represented SDSN at the World Social Summit in Doha with an engaging exhibition booth that spotlighted SDSN's diverse education programs, from the SDG Academy and Global Schools to Ages of Globalization and the Master's in Development Practice (MDP) program, highlighting learning opportunities that span from primary education to lifelong learning.



Patrick Paul Walsh, Kayla Colyard with Jeffrey and Sonia Sachs in Doha

Throughout the week, the SDSN and its partners hosted a series of events addressing a range of sustainable development challenges, including equitable access to quality education, job mobility and training within the green and digital transitions, education's role in peace, and the role of higher education institutions in the future of sustainable development.



**Global Citizenship Education for All: Advancing Social Inclusion Through Equitable Access to Quality Education** - In this [side event](#), we explored how two innovative projects—Mission 4.7 Malaysia and Ages of Globalization—are innovating GCED pedagogies to foster social inclusion.



**Strengthening Education for Peace, Dignity, and Justice: Transformative Models and Initiatives** - [This session](#) highlighted local initiatives and solutions that re-center education on principles of peace and harmony. Specifically, three themes were drawn out from a panel of expert speakers: 1) Virtues, values, and holistic learning, 2) Knowledge systems and epistemic justice, and 3) Bringing together social and environmental peace.



**Higher Education's Value Proposition for Inclusive Futures for All: Cross-Cutting Multi-Stakeholder Solutions to Advance Social Development** - This [Solutions Session](#) showcased multistakeholder collaboration on the cross-cutting instruments outlined in the World Social Summit draft political declaration: 1) quality education and life-long learning, 2) technology and artificial intelligence, and 3) innovations in finance to advance social development worldwide.



**Pathways to Future Skills: Multistakeholder Solutions for a Sustainable and Inclusive Labour Market For All**- [This webinar](#), hosted by the SDSN and BuildSkills Academy, showcased the multistakeholder initiatives that are focusing on enabling a labor market that is more sustainable, inclusive, and that supports employability for all.

## UN Statistical Commission



**Progressing the Greening of Education through Monitoring: How Countries Can Inform their Policy and Curriculum Making through the New SDG Global Indicator 4.7.1b** - This [side event](#) at the 57th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission elaborated on ways the new indicator, produced by a MECCE Project with the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, can be used to improve integration of green content in formal education. Specifically, a panel of expert speakers provided a technical overview of the indicator, described ways the indicator can be used to improve integration of greening in formal education curricula, and discussed application of the indicator to improve national curricula.

# Other Events

The SDG Academy participated in over 45 virtual and in person panels, workshops, and presentations around the world between July 2025 and June 2026 with institutions in the SDSN's Network, and global NGOs such as WWF, Junior Chamber International, and GEIDCO.



H.E. Fergal Mythen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN (left), Ms. Nabila Aguele of the Malala Fund, Prof. Patrick Paul Walsh of the SDSN and University College Dublin, and Ms. Pia Britto of UNICEF at the CSW70 side event “[Knowledge is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls](#)”



Visitors view the SDG Academy's exhibition booth at the Second World Summit for Social Development



Shannon Kobran (center) at the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia



Global Schools Director Amanda Abrom and Helen Perham at the NYC Green School Conference 2025

# Online Master's Programs in Sustainable Development

The SDG Academy continues to support innovative online Master's programs in sustainable development at both University College Dublin (UCD) and Sunway University, Malaysia.

## University College Dublin

The [MSc in Sustainable Development](#) at University College Dublin welcomed 39 new graduates, bringing its total alumni to 169 students. UCD's Professional Diploma in Foundations of Sustainable Development, part of the SDG Academy's innovative Master's Pathway Program, has enrolled 10 new students.

Since the formal beginning of this partnership in 2021, UCD continues to benefit from the creative use of SDG Academy educational resources, including our MOOCs, videos from our SDG Academy Library, and exciting guest lectures alongside UCD lecturers' synchronous and asynchronous teaching and project-based learning.



Professor Patrick Paul Walsh (center) with UCD MSc in Sustainable Development graduates

## Sunway University

The [Master in Sustainable Development Management](#) (MSDM) program offered by the Jeffrey Sachs Center at Sunway University enrolled 22 new online students, with 30 new graduates in the past year, bringing the total to 140. The program, designed for working professionals across Malaysia and beyond, aims to equip students with necessary management skills and acumen to create innovative solutions to achieve the SDGs.

This year also marked a significant milestone for the Online Master's consortium: in January 2026, we launched the first collaboration between the UCD and Sunway Master's programs. Twelve Sunway students joined UCD's Sustainable Cities module as an elective subject in their Sunway degree. Students not only attended Prof. Enda Murphy's Zoom lectures together—they worked in mixed teams on a shared group project that encouraged them to collaborate across cultures and time zones. Students in both programs were also required to complete the SDG Academy's *Sustainable Cities* online course to further enhance their learning.

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**"The course offered deep knowledge through credible expertise with good case studies." - Ayisha, Sunway University, Malaysia**

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# Professional Training

The SDG Academy partners with governments, NGOs, and private sector businesses to develop sector-specific sustainable development trainings. Initiatives include multi-year programs such as the BuildSkills Academy, Sunway Educational Group staff trainings, OneStop ESG, and SDSN Canada's "Youth Can Sustain: SDG Leadership Certificate Program," as well as special series such as the Dubai Leadership Training.

## Dubai Leadership Training

From October 27–31, 2025, our team hosted a milestone gathering of global policymakers and senior officials for the executive [SDG Leadership Program](#), an intensive leadership and capacity-building initiative delivered through a powerful partnership between the UAE SDGs Secretariat, the Government Experience Exchange Office (GEEEO) under the UAE Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, and the SDG Academy.

The program brought together 32 leaders from UAE based organizations and 14 countries, united by a shared commitment to accelerating sustainable development and shaping long-term, future-ready national strategies. Designed to help leaders navigate a world defined by complexity, multipolarity, and fast-evolving global challenges, the capacity building training blended leadership development with strategic foresight, innovation, and cross-country collaboration.

Under the theme "Turbocharging Multilateralism for a Sustainable Future," the program provided a comprehensive blend of high-level insights, hands-on learning, and cross-country exchange. Participants explored leadership for complexity, systems thinking, policy execution, innovation ecosystems, financing for development, and long-term future governance aligned with both the SDGs and the UAE's emerging XDGs 2045 framework.



Delegates from 14 countries gathered for the SDG Leadership Executive Program in Dubai.

Participants left the program with strengthened leadership capabilities, actionable national strategies, and a renewed sense of global solidarity. The week showcased the value of multilateral cooperation, demonstrated not only in the content, but in the collaboration between the UAE SDGs Secretariat, GEEQ, and the SDG Academy; with a vital takeaway that SDG 17 remains a critical enabler for all other SDGs.



This training program reaffirms the UAE’s leadership in empowering governments worldwide and advancing sustainable development through innovation, partnership, and shared vision. At the SDG Academy, we’ve seen how leadership programs like this provide governments with a powerful platform to strengthen strategic skills, foster shared understanding, and promote cross-sector collaboration – essential tools for driving meaningful national progress. By bringing leaders from different countries together, these trainings enhance collective problem-solving and help align approaches to global challenges that no nation can address alone. Hosting these programs allows governments not only to deepen their own capacity but also to contribute to a more interconnected global community advancing sustainable development.

The organizing team: Christiaan Coetzee, Reem Almazrouei, Patrick Paul Walsh, Kayla Colyard, David Donoghue and Ruaa AlShehhi

### BuildSkills Academy

The SDG Academy is a key policy and dissemination partner in the BuildSkills Academy (BSA), a multistakeholder initiative to create a pan-European framework and certification scheme for upskilling the construction sector towards the twin transitions.



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

The SDG Academy developed a roadmap to support VET providers across Europe to use the BuildEnrichedSkills Methodology to update or create new courses, run pilots, and develop internal and external pathways to certify their offerings for construction sector workers with enriched skills for the green and digital transition.

In 2025–2026, BSA achieved key milestones:

6

European Countries

12

Updated Vocational  
Education and Training (VET)  
Courses

225

New Students

We also actively contributed to include BuildSkills Academy outputs in high-level policy discussions. Between June 2025 and January 2026, the SDG Academy ran a webinar series on “Pathways to Future Skills” to discuss sustainable ways to develop skills for the future, featuring the BuildSkills Academy’s methodology and roadmap as practical examples for a global audience. In total, the webinar series had 3 sessions that were featured in the sidelines of global and regional recognized events.

## BuildSkills Academy “Pathways to Future Skills” Webinar Series:



2025 EU Green Week Side Event



Second World Summit for Social Development Side Event



UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2026 Side Event

In addition to the webinar series, SDG Academy Director Patrick Paul Walsh and Program Associate Isabela Carrozza Joia are developing a policy recommendations brief to refer the BuildEnrichedSkills Methodology as a key tool and platform that allows for VET providers across Europe to quickly adapt their offerings to the green and digital skills required, expanding it beyond the construction sector.



BuildSkills Academy leadership, including SDG Academy Program Associate Isabela Carrozza Joia (left), gathered for their 2026 Annual Meeting in Cyprus.

Some findings of this report were also presented by Isabela during the SDSN session at [13th Africa–Europe Science Collaboration Forum](#) in Brussels, April 2026, to an audience of EU policymakers, education providers, and researchers.

In the coming year, BSA looks forward to its successful conclusion. The final year of the project will be marked by the delivery of three Masterclasses to help trainees understand why the twin transition is important and the trends driving the future of the construction sector. They will also create a sustainability pathway to continue the project beyond May 2027.

## Youth Can Sustain: SDG Leadership Certificate Program

For the second year in a row, the SDG Academy partnered with SDSN Canada for the [Youth Can Sustain: SDG Leadership Certificate Program](#), a fully online, no-cost program designed to equip Canadian post-secondary students with the knowledge and skills necessary to lead impactful SDG initiatives in their communities. From January to April 2026, students completed an online course through the SDG Academy and attended at least 4 skill-building workshops.



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“Through the course and workshops, I realized that advancing the SDGs is not only the responsibility of the government, but that individuals can make a large-scale difference as well. My perspective on sustainability and leadership evolved a bit as well. Instead of seeing them as these broad concepts only achievable if you are associated with a large corporation or government, I learned that change can come from any direction. These workshops have helped me understand how I can use my career to influence change. I feel a bit more aware of all the work that is going on, and a bit more motivated to be a part of social change.” - **Youth Can Sustain Us Program Participant**

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# Global Master's in Development Practice (MDP) Program



Global MDP students, speakers, and MDP Secretariat Director Dr. Lucia Rodriguez (right) at “Simulation to Systems Change,” during the 2026 ECOSOC Youth Forum

Amid ongoing challenges of maintaining relevance and adaptability in higher education to meet evolving job market demands, rapid technological advancement, and rising costs of tuition, fees, and living expenses worldwide, higher education continues to face significant hurdles in providing world-class opportunities—particularly for underrepresented students. Despite these obstacles, the MDP network remains resilient.

This resilience was evident throughout the year. A key highlight was a two-hour roundtable where members from all 13 North American MDP programs shared successes and addressed challenges. Topics included student visa processes, return travel for international students on field placements, and difficulties accessing student loans. Across these discussions, a strong commitment to student well-being and collective resilience was apparent. We remain dedicated to supporting and empowering students, ensuring access to quality education even in challenging circumstances.

## MDP Global Challenge Competition

The year 2025–2026 was also marked by notable achievements. Among these was the MDP Global Challenge Competition, a cross-campus, a cross-border initiative that fosters collaboration between students and NGOs to address complex sustainable development issues. This year, 147 students from 26 countries formed 15 diverse teams.

# 147

Students

# 26

Countries

# 15

Teams

Working across time zones, sectors, and disciplines, “Team Bridge” was crowned the winner by a panel of global leaders from foundations, the private sector, government, and multilateral organizations, and received seed funding to implement their solution. [Their project](#) focused on transforming waste into wages, with MDP students from South Africa, Botswana, Malaysia, and the USA collaborating with an NGO in South Africa to address waste management and create jobs for unemployed youth.



MDP Global Challenge Winners, “Team Bridge”

## From Simulation to Systems Change

In addition, MDP students organized and participated in a side event at the 2026 ECOSOC Youth Forum in New York City. This event showcased how programs like the Global MDP Challenge, along with other “simulation to systems” pipelines, equip young leaders with the diplomatic and analytical skills necessary for institutional impact. By fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue among youth, government, and the private sector, the session identified key policy and financial frameworks essential for scaling youth-led innovation. These insights contributed actionable recommendations to the ECOSOC Youth Forum, reinforcing the importance of cross-sector partnerships in achieving SDGs 9, 11, and 17, and supporting the focus on youth leadership and leaving no one behind.



Colleagues from the SDG Academy and the SDSN at “From Simulation to Systems Change” during the 2026 ECOSOC Youth Forum

Beyond translating coursework into practical solutions, we prioritized expanding access for Indigenous, African, and African heritage students. Thanks to a two-year grant from the Leopold Bachmann Foundation, the MDP Global Association supported students at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and the University of Los Andes, Colombia. These students, already engaged in entrepreneurial activities, sought to enhance their knowledge, skills, and impact despite financial barriers.

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**“The Leopold Bachmann Foundation is helping me advance my career by supporting my participation in this multidisciplinary program that equips me with the leadership and technical skills to address complex sustainable development challenges within my field and beyond.”- Phumla Mntambo, MDP Student, University of Los Andes**

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As we reflect on this year’s progress, our commitment remains unwavering: to foster resilience, empowerment, and innovation among students and faculty, creating a future where access to quality education and sustainable development is within everyone’s reach.

# Mission 4.7

This year, the Mission 4.7 team in Malaysia significantly strengthened its position as a regional leader in education for sustainable development (ESD), delivering measurable impact across policy advisory, capacity-building, strategic partnerships, and thought leadership.

## Policy Advisory

The team's most significant achievement was its contribution to national education policy in Malaysia. Following SDSN's invitation by the Ministry of Education to contribute to the development of the new Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Pillar (Pillar 6) of the Malaysia Education Plan 2026–2036, the team played a central role in shaping one of the country's most significant education reforms. Beyond contributing to the policy itself, the team led the development of a comprehensive implementation framework through a dedicated workshop with the Plan's authors in December 2025. The resulting action plan established four strategic priorities covering the transformation of learning environments, educator and leadership capacity development, learner and school empowerment, and governance mechanisms to support effective implementation.

To support the transition from policy to practice, the team convened a high-level Executive Briefing in March 2026 for the Minister of Education, senior Ministry officials, Sunway Education Group leadership, and strategic stakeholders. The session featured Professor Jeffrey Sachs, who provided global perspectives on positioning Malaysia as a regional and international leader in future-focused education through ESD.



The Mission 4.7 team convened an Executive Briefing for the Minister of Education (center), featuring Jeffrey Sachs (center right).

## Capacity-Building

The team successfully translated national policy into large-scale implementation through an integrated educator capacity-building program. In partnership with the School of Education at Sunway University, it delivered a five-day national Training of Trainers program in December 2025, creating a cohort of 20 master trainers equipped to lead ESD professional development nationwide. This initiative positions Sunway University as the delivery partner for Malaysia's national ESD educator development program.

Beginning in January 2026, these trainers commenced implementation of the five-module ESD program across 40 schools, reaching approximately 2,500 in-service educators by the end of the implementation period. The program also expanded beyond schools through additional collaborations with teacher education institutes and school leadership training institutes to strengthen both pre-service teacher preparation and leadership development.

The team's capability to deliver executive education was further strengthened through the successful certification of SDSN staff as Human Resources Development Corporation (HRDC)-certified trainers. This milestone establishes the foundation for a sustainable, revenue-generating executive education model in Malaysia by enabling eligible organizations to access nationally-supported training program.

40 2,500  
Schools Educators

In addition, in June 2026, the team formalized a strategic partnership with the Rainforest Youth Summit (RAYS), providing youth leadership development through its annual global summit in Kuching, Sarawak.

## Thought Leadership

The team made substantial contributions to the evidence base for ESD implementation and impact. In collaboration with the Sunway Institute for Global Strategy and Competitiveness and researchers from Sunway University, it established a long-term research program to evaluate the effectiveness of Malaysia's National ESD Action Plan, directly addressing longstanding evidence gaps in education reform implementation. This work included the successful design and deployment of research instruments across large-scale ESD training cohorts, creating one of the region's most comprehensive datasets on educator capacity-building for sustainable development.

The team's scholarship also gained international recognition through the submission of the chapter "Beyond Transfer: Co-constructing Environmental Education to Harmonise Global Agendas with Local Realities" for inclusion in the forthcoming *Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Environmental Education*. Complementing its research activities, the team convened the dialogue "Charting a Sustainable Future – Bridging Youth Voices and System Change," bringing together diverse stakeholders to explore how youth perspectives on sustainability can be translated into meaningful policy influence, institutional reform, and long-term systems change.

Collectively, these achievements substantially enhanced the team's influence across policy, practice, research, and international partnerships, reinforcing its role as a trusted advisor to governments, a leader in educator capacity development, and a regional hub for advancing education for sustainable development.



Phui Yi Kong, Sherlina Kaur, and Tharunnia Ganesan at the Rainforest Youth Summit 2026

# NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee

The SDSN, represented by the SDG Academy's Isabela Carrozza Joia, was elected to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee for the 2024–2026 term. This key body represents NGOs' collective voice in UNESCO, fosters dialogue between NGOs and UNESCO, and coordinates international fora on UNESCO's five program areas: education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information.



Isabela Carrozza Joia (second from right) with NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee Leadership team

In 2025, Isabela was appointed by the Committee President to serve as the Communications Officer for the [2024–2026 Program of Work](#). In this capacity, Isabela supported the delivery of impactful communications about the committee's work and activities via its social media channels ([Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)).

Isabela was also appointed as Chair of the Committee's Youth Working Group, which gathers around 80 young people working and involved with NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO. In this position, Isabela works by elevating youth voices in the Committee, leveraging SDSN Youth as a key program of SDSN for meaningful participation of youth in policy processes, while also developing key knowledge products with the group, such as the Recommendations Paper on "[How can youth be meaningfully involved in the Greening Education Partnership?](#)"



Program Associate and NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee representative Isabela Carrozza Joia (right) at the 19th International Forum of NGOs in Paris, France

## Representing NGOs at UNESCO Forums

The SDSN seat on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, represented by the SDG Academy, has proven to be an important policy seat to guarantee NGO voices are heard in key UNESCO high-level events, including:

- **43rd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO**, Samarkand, Uzbekistan (October 2025)
- **14th UNESCO Youth Forum**, Samarkand, Uzbekistan (October 2025)
- **18th International Forum of NGOs on Greening Education Partnership**, online (February 2026)
- **19th International Forum of NGOs on Advancing a Culture of Peace in Africa**, Paris, France (May 2026)

During those high-level gatherings, the SDG Academy's Patrick Paul Walsh and Isabela Carrozza Joia represented the SDSN to disseminate SDG Academy and SDSN initiatives, bringing a policy perspective to greening education, youth participation and inclusion, and advancing NGO representation through international forums.

In late 2026, the Committee will elect its new representatives for the next tenure of 2026–2028. We are hopeful that the SDSN can continue supporting this important UNESCO mechanism for improving meaningful collaboration with NGOs worldwide.

## Featured Initiative: The Marco Polo Drive of Peace, Culture, and Sustainable Development

In June 2026, Professor Jeffrey Sachs and the SDG Academy embarked on the [Marco Polo Drive of Peace, Culture and Sustainable Development](#), a 43-day, 15,000-kilometer drive from Italy to China. Learners joined Prof. Sachs on his extraordinary journey through video lectures filmed at key locations along the way. Over seven weeks, more than 1,200 learners from 122 countries explored the civilizations, empires, ideas, and technologies that have connected Europe and Asia for centuries, while considering how the Silk Road's enduring legacy can help guide a shared 21st-century future of peace and sustainable development.



The Marco Polo Drive began in Rome, Italy, and followed the Silk Road to Suzhou, China.

# Thank You to Our Partners

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