



CONCEPT NOTE FOR SDGs
AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH
CONFERENCE 2020

21st-23rd October
Virtual Conference



SDGS & ACADEMIC
RESEARCH
CONFERENCE

CONCEPT NOTE FOR SDGs AND ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Date:

21st-23rd October 2020

VENUE:

LIVE WEBINAR CONFERENCE

THEME

*Inculcating Sustainable Development Goals
into Academic Research;
Role of University Students*

Convened By:



YOUTH
LEGACY
GHANA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sustainable development is the ability of the present generation to utilize resources and meet their needs without compromising the ability of the unborn generation to also meet their needs. This proposal consists of the vision and ways of convening the SDG's and Academic Research Conference 2020. The document delves to highlight the genesis of the conference and the success record of the previous conferences. The proposal further consists of four objectives with the prime being the ability of conference motivate students to undertake researches relevant to the SDGs. The conference is expected to provide the avenue for the *Launch of Youth in SDGs Journal* as well as other outcomes highlighted. The document states target group (250), proposed topic: *Inculcating the SDGs into Academic Research; the role of the University Students.*

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT NOTES

Amartya Sen defined development as expanding the real freedom that people enjoy and freedom means increasing citizens access and opportunities to the things, they have reason to value.



Sustainable development is the best approach to enforce development in the world especially for less developed countries. The Brundtland Commission defines Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In the year 2015, the united nations adopted the global goals



popularly known sustainable development goals as the means of attaining global development. The goals are 17 with 169 targets and each target have between 1-3 indicators. There is an 18th goal that seeks to ensure youthful participation of the global goals. Ideally, youthful participation in social development is low hence there should be an avenue for motivating, equipping and engendering youth to participate in developmental processes and the fulfillment of AGENDA 2030.

Zora Neale Hurston said Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with purpose. A study by Fayomi et al (2018) theorized that research assumes a key part of forming the world. Through research, we pick up a superior comprehension of the present most squeezing and complex social and logical issues for example social decent, variety, human rights, malady avoidance and environmental change. They further underpinned that research will aid the decision making process of policy makers at various cadre of the managerial leadership of SDGs. The importance of a quality and good research in enhancing growth and development of any system or organization is considerably significant. Research provides data and substantial inferences that track progress and analysis policies for social development. As an imperative component of education, researches are conducted in many forms by students within tertiary faculties as a prerequisite to the attainment of a degree. These students driven researches exposes and divulges the wide array of woes that impede on the social development of societies, means of addressing real societal issues with community based effort and stakeholders support and aids in predicting a sustainable society for unborn generations.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and Academic Research Conference (ARCon) is a youth-driven research gathering that seeks to educate and engender students in tertiary institutions to undertake research studies on sustainable development goals. The conference is premised on three themes; Research, Report, and Projecting. The impulsive idea behind this conference is to equip students to research and provide data and recommendations from their studies highlighting one of the SDGs. The data serves as concrete information to make reports and projections towards the attainment of agenda 2030.





HISTORY OF THE CONFERENCE

The project has been running since the year 2017, with the organization having organized two (2) successful conferences. The first conference featured Dr. Esther Danso-Wiredu from University of Education, Winneba who spoke on the theme: Environmental Dynamism; Increasing Housing Needs a Threat to Resources. The second conference featured three organizations namely;

Institute of Educational Research and Innovation Studies-UEW, Youth Advocate Ghana and Research and Grant institute of Ghana. A total of 134 students attended the conference and were sensitized on the SDGs and equipped with adequate knowledge on their engagement as youth in the attainment of the SDGs through academic researches. A post conference research survey undertaken by the organizers proved that 87% of the students are willing to inculcate SDGs into researches and become practitioners of the Global Goals.

The project is geared towards advocating sustainable development goals among students on university campuses. The conference takes advantage of students' knowledge of academic research as part of their course work in order to sensitize and equip students on how they can employ their knowledge in research to achieving sustainable development goals, especially in their contemporary society.

PROJECT DRIVE.

The conveners of the SDG's & ARCon 2020 identified through observation that, data generation for the assessment of the sustainable development goals is a major challenge due to the sample population used in researches on SDG's. The way to remedy such a problem is to equip, engender and train students both graduate and undergraduate to inculcate the sustainable development goals into their academic research. This will provide a wide array of data with a high confidence level due to the rigorous and thorough scrutiny done on undergraduate and graduate academic



researches. Since Universities accommodate people with varied culture, data authenticity will be high when statistical inferences are made from academic researches that focus on the SDG's.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES.

- Acquire maximum data to report, track and make projections on the sustainable development goals and further develop a *Youth in SDGs Journal*.
- Educate, equip and train at least 200 students to undertake SDG's related research.
- Provide networks for students to participate and contribute to the attainment of AGENDA 2030 on the global scale
- Set cohorts in communities and areas where researches are undertaken to provide remedies and meet recommendations made in research studies.

EXPECTED OUTCOME.

The ends result desired is to be able to;

- ❖ Launch Youth SDGs Journal in JULY 2020 for the collection of youth-led researches that target and give adequate recommendations on a particular social problem.
- ❖ Launch the SDGs ARCon Grant for the provision of financial support for ready and analytic student to undertake SDGs based researches.
- ❖ Get ready and analytic student for mentorship on policy analysis.



THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS

A. Topic.

Inculcating Sustainable Development Goals into Academic Research; The Role of University Students.

B. Sub Themes

- Rudiments of Quality Academic Research Studies.
- Nexus between SDG's and Academic Research.
- Climate-smart and resilient cities in the research context.
- Quality Education the end to adverse inequalities: the academic researcher's viewpoint.



ABOUT THE CONVENERS

Youth Legacy Ghana is a youth frontier that envisage a society where education is prioritized as the means of conserving biodiversity and attaining climate sustainability. To read more about us and our credibility, kindly visit our website <https://youthlegacyghana.org/>

