

Boosting Youth Power Key to The Role of Universities

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In September 2015, the former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon announced a momentous set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), complete with a list of 169 specific targets at the UN Sustainable Development Summit. 193 member state representatives gathered together, and adopted the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Still, these ambitious SDGs are devoid of any meaning, unless an appropriate platform takes shape to properly implement these goals in a timely manner. Universities, as thought leaders with substantial and diverse resources, have a unique ability to provide a platform necessary to successfully implement the SDGs in our shared global society.

Regarding these SDG the question remains, who is going to take the lead? When thinking about the world in 2050, the answer is very clear. Nobody is qualified to lead this charge other than the youth. The youth with their passion, enthusiasm, curiosity, and creativity are key to the implementation of these SDGs.

My presentation will not only define the role of universities in achieving the SDGs, but also explain how universities can effectively organize and practice the implementation of the SDGs by tapping into their students' potential. Demonstrating the actual role of universities and showing examples of how implementation programs could work, will raise commitment, excitement, and a sense of fulfillment to complete this mission. Such an approach should be simple, youth oriented, realistic, and practical. I will also outline how universities can team with outside agencies to implement the SDGs.

In brief, the Fifth Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) is focused on practical solutions to achieving these SDGs, I want to define universities' unique role in meeting these objectives.