



# Youth and World Governance

PROPOSAL PAPERS SERIES

By Anugraha John

Regional perspectives from  
Dara Parker, Lucinda Hartley  
Ben Knight, Dunfei Chen, Safira De la Sala

January 2011



Global Citizens<sup>®</sup>  
for Sustainable Development



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Forum for a new World Governance  
&  
Global Citizens for Sustainable Development (India)

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# Youth and World Governance

By Anugraha John

Forum for a new World Governance

January 2011

## Background and context

“Yet I know that if all the money spent on war was spent on ending poverty and finding environmental answers, what a wonderful place this would be. In school you teach us not to fight with others, to work things out, to respect others, to clean up our mess, not to hurt other creatures, to share, not be greedy. Then why do you go out and do the things you tell us not to do? You grownups say you love us, but I challenge you, please, to make your actions reflect your words.”

In 1992, at the very young age of 12, Severn Suzuki with the help of her friends raised money to participate at the Rio Earth Summit. It was at this summit she delivered an incredible (six minute) speech which not only received a standing ovation but also silenced the whole United Nations gathering. Later after ten years of her activism, in her interview with the Time Magazine she admits that although she has seen some improvement since 1992, there is nothing significant yet that has been accomplished. In fact, her confidence in the people in power was deeply shaken.

It should not come as a surprise to anyone that stories similar to that of Severn Suzuki are near almost true for many other young men and women across the globe. The youth who are genuinely concerned about some of the key challenges of this century are certainly disappointed with the present world governance.

In the last three years, I have personally met, interacted, networked, and lobbied with many young leaders and activists across the globe under the banner of Indian Youth Climate Network, South Asian Youth Environment

Network, Asian Youth Climate Network, 350.org, International Youth Advisory Board for UN-Habitat and others, fighting for one of the key challenges of the 21st century, i.e. global warming (without undermining there are several other key challenges that we face in this century and are presently working for as well). But still we are disappointed with most of the negotiations happening so far at the world governance level as there is no major headway.

Children and youth today are frustrated with the ‘people in power’ who are unable to come to a tangible consensus of capping our carbon emissions and implementing alternative solutions globally. UNFCCC’s Conference of Parties (CoP15) held in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009 was a total failure. Although there were some positive signs seen at COP16 meeting in Cancun, Mexico but it is not enough.

We (the youth) demand that people in power to change their diplomacy attitude and find appropriate way forward to post Kyoto Protocol and reach a common understanding of their local, national and planetary responsibilities. Rio+20, i.e. the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) will soon take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and we don’t want to be patronized by just listening to ‘Our Voice’. We demand Commitments and Action.

As children, we all grew up learning that ‘as you sow, so shall you reap’. Here is a most fantastic example of the direct result of the Industrial Revolution that has led us to this situation with our carbon emission level soaring high. The consequences of

It is a bitter truth; something that happens in one part of the planet has dire consequences on all parts of the planet, and it is not just humans that suffer but all beings.





Fishing in Shilabati river  
Photo: Sudipto Das

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that period are evident now and are no surprise, that it is us, the young people and our children to come—the next generation, who will be deprived of clean air quality/ environment, a basic human right. Shouldn't we expect more from the previous generation and our present world governance system?

It is a bitter truth; something that happens in one part of the planet has dire consequences on all parts of the planet, and it is not just humans that suffer but all beings. According to the IPCC, Bangladesh for example will be one of the poor countries that due to rise in sea-level temperatures, will go through an intense transition process of flooding, disastrous cyclones, destruction of agriculture capacity, and various other habitat related issues, which will displace not just humans but also other beings. To raise awareness of this grave issue, on 17th October 2009, President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives held a cabinet meeting with his ministers decked in scuba gear under water

and signed a document calling for global cuts in carbon emissions.

Several such countries which are economically disenfranchised and struggling to progress after their colonial regimes will face more problems, due to climate change, although these countries are not directly responsible for this situation. The climate crisis is not just catastrophic, but also exposes the glaring inequalities in the world. And the irony is that these nations have contributed least to greenhouse gas emissions and (as a consequence of climate change) but however it is these countries that will have to bear the brunt of climate change.

Unsustainable growth and the relentless pursuit of progress by the present and previous generations has created this convergence of crisis – the crisis of climate change, the crisis of poverty and hunger and the crisis of species loss and resource consumption. Now if we look at the bigger picture, climate change is only one such

**The climate crisis is not just catastrophic, but also exposes the glaring inequalities in the world.**

example of the many challenges that we face today. But what about other challenges and issues such as poverty, illiteracy, overwhelming power of the multinationals over government (control influence on governance institutions), unequal distribution of financial resources (global financial inequity), the present economic crisis, nuclear weapons, war, terrorism, fundamentalism, racism, increasing population growth, HIV/AIDS and others?

Some of the UN and its agencies have astounding statistics and estimates:

- 10 million children die every year due to lack of health care
- More than 25 million people have died of AIDS since 1981 and as of 2007 there are 33 million living with HIV/AIDS
- 884 million in the world do not have access to safe drinking water
- 2.5 billion people in the world do not have access to adequate sanitation

The United Nations Millennium Declaration set 2015 as the target year for achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is today less than six years away but the progress towards the goal is threatened due to the present (convergence of crises) economic crisis, climate change and other factors involving the member states. But, if we wait to evaluate until the date of the achievement of the MDGs, it might raise doubts about what we have achieved so far at the ground reality.

In the book, 'The End of Poverty', Jeffery Sachs predicts with his study and analysis, how the present generation can end poverty by 2025. But unfortunately, even he misses the emphasis on the role of young people who will have to play a major role in this effort and goal.

We need to do something about these concerns and we need to do it now!

Youth today see themselves as the 'Agents of Change', and inspired by Gandhi's word, "You must be the change you want to see in this world" they are taking action both locally and globally.

This paper is an attempt to look at the youth perspective of world governance and their active role in the same.

## World Governance

In the twentieth century, the term world governance surfaces two important structures, the League of Nations and the United Nations. The League of Nations as a concept was thought of in the eighteenth century inspired by Emmanuel Kant but was very short lived in the twentieth century, when it was operative.

Post World War II, since 1945 the world gradually started to accept the United Nations (UN) as the new structure of world governance. 'International relations' in the era of 'globalization' had become more complicated, and thus world governance seemed more appropriate term to replace the same term, although each have their own distinguished meaning but the former is since then less used or relative.

As of 2008, the UN along with its subsidiary organizations facilitates with 192 member states, cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress, human rights, and achieving of world peace.

In the 21st century, there are several issues and factors supported by historical facts that have raised doubts about the role of United Nations as the world governance system. The most recent example is the war in Iraq where UN remained a mere spectator

**In the 21st century, there are several issues and factors supported by historical facts that have raised doubts about the role of United Nations**

while thousands of innocent lives were lost at war. Then Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan speaking on the invasion, said, “I have indicated it was not in conformity with the UN Charter. From our point of view, from the chart point of view, it was illegal.” . Thousands have lost their beloved, family and friends in the recent genocides in the last 10 years, as a result more people are drawn in tentacles of poverty and hunger and peace still remains elusive.

In this context, one wonders, what is world governance really and how we can revive the present one?

For any common man to understand world governance, Arnaud Blin best defines it according to me very simply, ‘as nothing more and nothing less than the collective management of our planet, in its political and economic aspects, but also in its social, human and environmental ones.’

It is an accepted fact now that globalization is here, and it is here to stay. The 21st century requires global action and global effort to manage our planet. There are several reasons that the United Nations alone cannot be seen as the only structure of world governance anymore, neither could it take that place till date. Nor do organizations like World Trade Organization (WTO), G8, and Non-Aligned Movement have been able to play the role of global governance vis-à-vis the UN. The UN’s role is limited and the principle of ‘one state one vote’ further limits the voice and concerns of the majority of the people to be heard at the United Nations. Even worst it can put a smaller country like Nepal or Bhutan at the same level as the USA, paving the way for the big nations to have the upper hand to make decisions in the UN.

There certainly can be an endless argument that no world governance system can be

perfect, but in all this debate, can we certainly not say, United Nations is not the only way?

Global governance refers to more than formal institutions and organizations through which the management of international affairs is or is not sustained. The United Nations system and governments are surely central to the conduct of global governance, but they are only part of the full picture. The concept of global governance over the period of time has become very popular but also very complicated. The meaning of both words ‘global’ and ‘governance’ has been interpreted differently during different circumstances and hence widely misunderstood. But here James Rosenau’s remark brings to our light a very important aspect, that amidst the United Nations failing attempt to work as a world governance system we are missing the full picture. And this century we need to focus on looking at the world governance in totality, we need to draw the full picture.

### **So, what do young people (really) need the world governance to be?**

Governance is the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country’s affairs at all levels... it comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.

This definition of governance is generally accepted by the member states of the United Nations. But as far as world governance is concerned, how we apply this definition in the global framework is the big challenge

Common principles like transparency, accountability, legitimacy, participatory, democratic, respecting human rights are essential elements of good governance.



And the new world governance we perceive should be inclusive of the same principles, it should be:

**Workable:** Over the period of years there have been several debates about theory and practice but one of the observations we overlook in these debates is the notion that practical experience leads to the development of theories. The League of Nations and United Nations in today's context, have become many practical experiences. We need to move on and work on a new theory of new world governance which is workable in this century, drawing from the lessons learnt from the UN. Thus reiterating, one of the most important driving forces of the Forum for a new World Governance programme which not only identifies new ways of global governance but also finds the means for it to work.

**Organized:** The role of the world governance should be more of an Organizer. As an Organizer, it must help a community, or communities, acquire a sense of collective purpose and promote participatory dialogue and partnerships for catalyzing collective action.

**Re-affirmative (of Rights and Responsibility):** World governance should ensure a balance of reaffirmation of both rights and responsibilities of all human being. At present, international life is underpinned by two pillars: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which focuses on the dignity of individuals and on the defense of their rights, and the Charter of the United Nations, which focuses on peace and development. These two pillars have been a framework for undeniable progress in the organization of international relations. But new challenges of the century clearly indicate that these two pillars are not enough. We need a 'third pillar' and the Charter of Human Responsibilities is an effort for due consideration to be



accepted by the world citizens as an essential third pillar.

**Local to Global, Legality to Legitimacy:** Mechanisms of co-operation between all levels of governance is important. The decisions made at the local level are as important as the decisions made at the global level. World governance definitely needs to be defined by certain rules and regulations; it has to have a legal framework. But the legitimacy of this legality rests on the sense of equity, priorities of the biggest and poorest human groups.

**Democratic to Transforming (of our attitude and behaviour):** Setting the right pace for an emerging global community will be a challenge for the new world governance. It has to not only develop new strategies and plans for new challenges of the 21st century but also undergo a transformation process so it has the capability to manage a long term plan.

In Victor Hugo's words, "the invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come". We need to reflect, re-evaluate and reshape our present world governance.

The time is now, today and not tomorrow and both young men and women have an important role to play in the same.

"The invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come."

These are some fundamental components that young people demand for new world governance. The present crisis is not the end of the world. The youth today are optimistic and determined to see opportunity in the present crisis. There is a light at the end of tunnel, and young people like me are working towards reaching that end, and hopefully it will lead our path towards new world governance.

### Who are Youth?

The concept of youth can be defined as all the people within a specific age group, or as a state of being or even a state of mind. The UN, for statistical purpose, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. But the Commonwealth defines youth as those persons between the ages of 15 and 29, in the Indian and African context it is between the ages of 15 and 35 and in the context of Malaysia it may range up to 40 years. There are yet others at the age of 60 or 70 determined to be young forever and exemplify youthful attitude all their life, living and singing to the tunes of Bryan Adams, '18 till I die'.

Many young people from Asia and Africa feel that the UN's age range of youth, 15-24 is very limited and narrow. And most likely, there is a growing pressure or a debate within the UN and its subsidiary organizations to reconsider the age range of 15-24 for the 'youth' (as defined by them for statistical purpose). For the first time, the UN's subsidiary organization, UN-Habitat elected their first Youth Advisory Board with age range 18-32 at the World Urban Forum held in Nanjing, China in November 2008, a clear indication of reform and reorganization.

The statistics according to the UN, says that more than one-fourth of the world's population (about 1.7 billion between the ages of 15-24) are youth. With this information, we can further estimate that youth between the ages of 15-30 could be somewhere at least between 40-45 % of the world population if not more. And 60% of the global youth population lives in Asia, and majority of the youth live in the 'Global South'.

In the 21st century, these groups of young people are the largest ever to be entering



adulthood and the largest underrepresented segment of the world's population.

## Why Youth?

### **Increased level of awareness, participation, competence and leadership skills**

Albert Einstein was only 25 years when he wrote his famous theory of relativity. Gandhi was about 25 years when he was instrumental in founding the Natal Indian Congress which molded the Indian community of South Africa into a homogeneous political force before he moved on to fight for the freedom of India. Che Guevara was about 28 years when he joined the revolutionary movement with Fidel Castro for the freedom of Cuba. Nelson Mandela was about 30 years old, when as a leader, he was spearheading against apartheid policy of racial segregation. There are several such young leaders today that exemplify their leadership in the field of science, medicine, technology, business, art, sports, politics, literature, and other sections of the society.

In the 21st century, when it comes to politics vis-à-vis governance, there have been recent developments even for the top position of the state. Younger leaders are filling those profiles. In 2008, Barack Obama became the youngest President of United States at the age of 47 amidst fierce competitors of the so called 'the experienced'. At the young age of 34, Nikoloz Gilauri took the office of the Prime Minister of Georgia and the Bhutan's king, Jigme Wangchuck who acceded to the throne at the age of 17 in 1972, is presently aged 29.

Traditionally, governance has always been considered the concern of the old and wise. But this generation of youth is way different with the young people of the last two generations. There is a mounting

dissatisfaction experienced by the youth with the present local and the world governance system and thus increased level of awareness has led to responsible participation of both young men and women in politics. It is also true that the national youth policies of several countries discourage youth to participate at various local and national levels of governance and active citizenship. Few reasons identified are; denial for right to vote until the age of 18, opportunity to represent their country in parliament until between 21 and 25, youth preference to work at the grassroots or local level, most common - the lack of capacity building and experience, etc.

World disorder, the challenges of a new century due to globalization and failed old ideologies has compelled young leaders to take responsibility of the present situation, and act before it gets any worse. Governments and institutions that acknowledged this factor have encouraged youth participation at local activities and decision making process, and such initiative has reaped benefits with their inputs and knowledge of innovative and creative thinking.

Youth with their great enthusiasm, new ideas, bountiful energy, dedication and commitment being fully aware of the complexity know of what they want to achieve. They are no more the leaders of tomorrow but are leaders of today.

### **Education, Information and Communication Society**

Today, internet is a fascinating tool for citizens to learn and participate at different levels of governance both locally and globally. At the tip of your finger there is information available about what is happening all over the world through several news website. There is music, academic and research papers, among many other things that are available on

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Internet has opened many windows of opportunity for the youth to learn about the various incidences across the globe.

internet. Young people today are networking through the World Wide Web and have the potential of mobilizing youth or citizens for any urgent cause, in a very short period of time.

If J.F.Kennedy won the election using the media of television and radio then the victory of President Obama is certainly a result of the excellent campaign through

against the reelection of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in June 2009 which is a fine example of how the mobile and internet revolution at the disposal of youth have changed the dynamics of politics.

Internet has opened many windows of opportunity for the youth to learn about the various incidences across the globe. Youth today, not only work in the framework of Think Global, Act Local but also are in the mode of Acting Global. Platform like Taking IT Global (TIG) has emerged for youth activists to network and jointly lobby effectively for causes urgent to them.

Education has now become one of the top priorities for young people today. Many youth believe that education is an antidote to poverty. They also know that education by itself is not enough, nor will it solve the whole issue of poverty. Thus once educated they want to be trained and skilled to be 'Social Changemakers'. Youth have positively contributed to the success of programmes like 'Education for All and Education for Sustainable Development.'

### Sustainability and Intergenerational Partnership

At the 'Youth: Trendsetters of Education for Sustainable Development-ESD' workshop of the UNESCO and UNEP 4th International Conference on Environmental Education held in India in November 2007, it was the young people who proposed the idea of an intergenerational partnerships for Sustainable Development. This idea was further tabled by the youth at the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress 2008 held in Barcelona, Spain. Later, in October 2008, the initiative of Intergenerational partnership for Sustainability (IPS) was successfully launched.

Today's youth are open to ideas, suggestions and partnership with the older generations.

internet. Obama's campaign was able to mobilize its citizens, especially young men and women using tools like Facebook, You Tube, and many other programmes available on the internet to swing the victory for the Democrats. Young people voted for Barack Obama by a far wider margin than did voters in other age groups.

Young men and women in Iran have also not left any stone unturned with their protest

Education has now become one of the top priorities for young people today.



© Picasso - Dance of Youth



Magritte Clairvoyance

And don't necessary believe that only youth can bring the change by themselves nor do they want to do it just by themselves. A need for an intergenerational partnership approach for the challenges of 21st century is a must.

In a continent with 60% of the population being youth, an intergenerational partnership focus will be very vital for a regional and global governance perspective. The wide gap between youth and adults needs to be filled for peace and regional stability. The Asian Citizens Assembly held in Bangalore, India in August 2010 has already initiated work in this framework of partnership.

Sustainability or Sustainable Development has become an important factor for many governance and development initiatives. Too often youth are left out of the processes that shape their future but less do we realize that inclusion of youth automatically ensures a sustainability component in any programme. The progress of our governance is based, among other elements, on each society's

capacity to involve young women and men in building and designing the future.

## Role of Youth in World Governance

### a) Role of youth in United Nations and its subsidiary organizations

It was only after the call by the UN General Assembly for the observance of the 1985 International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace that drew attention to the important role of young people in the world, and, in particular, their potential contribution to development and the goals of the United Nations Charter. On 18 December 2009, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution A/RES/64/134 proclaiming the year commencing on 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. The Year also coincides with the 25th anniversary of the first International Youth Year in 1985.

Today's youth are open to ideas, suggestions and partnership with the older generations.

The wide gap between youth and adults needs to be filled for peace and regional stability.

The involvement of today's youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21.

Top leaders of national government and the United Nations realized that it would be impossible to achieve the goals set for MDGs set to be achieved by 2015, without the participation of young men and women. The importance on the role of young men and women at the international level was by and large evident in the last decade, at the end of the Millennium.

The United Nations currently has youth advisory boards, and other means for youth engagement in the following: United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), United Nations Programme for Human Settlements (UN HABITAT), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNDCP), UN Space Program (UNISPACE), as well as through agencies for children, like the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF) and the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.

'We know what works and what needs to be done'. With this attitude youth have been working with commitment to fulfill the goals of the MDGs as their strength remains a combination of both **volunteerism and activism**.

We will study two cases here that exemplify youth's activism and volunteerism:

### **Case Study 1: Youth Engaging Youth in Educational Opportunities**

Free The Children is an international network of children helping children at a

local, national and international level through representation, leadership and action.

Craig Kielburger founded the organization in 1995, and at the time he was a twelve-year-old Canadian. In the past seven years, Free the Children has spread to more than 35 countries and more than 1 million people have participated in its projects and campaigns. The organization is currently working on many issues concerning the protection of children's rights and youth representatives from Free the Children have become international spokespersons for children's rights and primary education for all children.

One of Free the Children's projects is 'School Building'. The organization has built and outfitted more than 375 schools around the world providing education to more than 30,000 children in 23 developing countries. School building projects are supported and enhanced by alternative income programs, medical centers and clean water programs. Another project the organization has undertaken is providing 'School and Health Kits'; it has shipped more than 175,000 school and health kits to children in nearly 40 developing countries, providing them with the necessary supplies to go to school and remain healthy. Free the Children owe their success to the formula: 'young people for young people'.

### **Case Study 2: Incubating Women and Youth Resource Center in A Conflict Zone**

In May 2002, Margaret Mercy Akongo, age 25, an Oxfam International Youth Parliament Action Partner in North East Uganda founded Tedwaii Indigenous Women Development Organization (TIDO) with the hope it would empower young people and young women in Karamoja as active partners in the development process.<sup>77</sup> Karamoja is stereotyped as a backward region and is



neglected by the government. Conflict in the region dates back thousands of years, but modern warfare has made the situation even more deadly. Education levels are low and there is little access to information. Natural resources are scarce and competition for them leads to conflict. Famine, drought and disease exacerbate the situation. Human rights abuses are frequent, especially against young people.

Mercy, with the aid of her organization, began running workshops to educate the people in her community on issues such as human rights and development. She took an active role at her university in advancing women's affairs and she lobbied on behalf of her community at different local, national and international forums. Mercy has found that the more she speaks up, the more young people in Karamoja have called for changes to be made. At Oxfam International Youth Parliament 2004, Mercy developed an Action Plan to set up a resource center for young people and women in Karamoja to provide information that the community needed, but previously had no access to. With assistance from Oxfam IYP, Mercy is currently establishing a resource center on various topics such as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and human rights to help empower the youth and women of Karamoja. Through the resource center, Mercy also runs regular discussions and debates on topics like involving young people and women as active partners in the development process.

#### **b) Role of youth in national government and multilateral institutions**

The governments of each country have realized the potential of the youth that could be tapped for the various programmes run by the government. These programmes need to give a legal framework for the youth to function and also exercise the power to work effectively. The idea of youth parliament

or youth council has worked well in few countries and could be an option to be explored at places where youth participation is limited.

Youth have been deprived of the right to active participation in formulating of international policies, and implementation of the same. Youth should not be seen as mere beneficiaries but also as contributors. The role of youth in international institutions with governmental membership, spanning several regions, including financial institutions such as World Bank and IMF, UN agencies and regional groupings is more relevant with the present crisis of economic and globalization. Youth with appropriate training and capacity building should be able to work towards reform in some of the multilateral institutions, which is need of the hour.

#### **c) Role of youth in civil society movements**

Participation of young men and women in the civil society movements has proven to be very positive and productive. Their expertise in information and communication technology has proven to be rewarding as well for developing programmes of many countries. International civil society movements like the World Social



Forum and the Citizens Assemblies have increasingly included young people as Social Changemakers in their journey of; ‘Another world is possible’.

### **Youth and Charter of Human Responsibilities (CHR)**

At the conclusion of the World Citizens Assembly held in France in 2001, Charter of Human Responsibilities emerged as a hope for young people to reassess their responsibility for their planet. Since then youth have been very active in promoting the notion of ‘responsibilities and rights as two sides of the same coin’.

The CHR International facilitation team has organized several capacity building workshop and seminars to empower youth to work towards managing the planet with an intellect of responsibility.

### **Youth-Led Development Programmes**

Over the past many years financial institutions and donor agencies have donated or given on loan several millions of money towards the development work to governments or selected NGOs but unfortunately they have not been able to channelize the same amount of money to several small organizations or NGOs that could work for the same purpose but have bigger impact.

Youth-Led Development is a new concept gaining momentum which empowers youth as it allows access to funds/small grants to bring effective change. Through this programme, youth are able to have trainings, learn to fund-raise, build leadership skills and also engage in effective action. This is mostly driven by youth but not necessarily only for youth but for different needs of communities and region.

Acknowledging this strategy of Youth-Led Development Programmes to be a success and to harness the energies of the young

to overcome problems of urban poverty, UN-Habitat launched – The Opportunities Fund programme which is designed provide financial support of up to one million dollars per year. Such programmes have indeed obliged youth to be seen as partners and not just mere beneficiaries.

### **Global Citizenship**

In the 21st century, citizenship is fundamentally plural, for each individual will inevitably be a citizen, not only of their immediate community and of their state, but also of a world region and of the entire planet.

Global citizenship as understood by few of us in one of the workshops organized in Bali is, ‘a deep appreciation and embraced responsibility for the human condition, our essential oneness, and the unique expressions of each, beyond artificial boundaries.’

Fortunately or unfortunately, globalization has also opened the door for a booming aviation and transport industry. It is inevitable for young people today to migrate for study, work, business and personal reasons. There is an urgent need for programmes which educate and advocate the need of global citizenship.

There are several youth organizations like Peace Child, Taking IT Global, Global Citizens for Sustainable Development (GCSD), etc. that have been working to create a society of “Global Citizens”, a well-informed and committed group of young people with a clear vision about intercultural understanding in a world where local and global issues are intertwined.

### **Conclusion and the Way Forward**

Youth need to be involved actively in the drafting of the national and international youth policies, implementation, and decision making process of the various governments

and international developmental programmes and implementation of the same. The opportunities for youth to be involved in politics should be expanded. Their commitment to work voluntarily and responsibly should be tapped to the fullest.

Youth shouldn't have to bear the brunt of the failed system of world governance. But their participation and inclusion will only help to the positive implementation of the same.

Global Citizens for Sustainable Development (NGO based in Bangalore, India) organized its first workshop on this theme, 'Youth and World Governance' on 26th July 2009 in Bangalore, India and will continue to organize more workshops and discussions for youth in collaboration with the Forum for a new World Governance to explore the way forward on this theme.





- 16
- i Extract from the speech of Severn Suzuki at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.
  - ii The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro was unprecedented for a UN conference, in terms of both its size (172 governments, 108 at level of heads of State or Government, 2400 NGO representative) and the scope of its concerns. Twenty years after the first global environment conference, the UN sought to help Governments rethink economic development and find ways to halt the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources and pollution of the planet.
  - iii 350.org is an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis--the solutions that science and justice demand.
  - iv United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
  - v The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions . These amount to an average of five per cent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008-2012.
  - vi Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Economist
  - vii The term youth here applies to all those person between the age 15 and 30
  - viii [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/3661134.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3661134.stm) - BBC 16th September, 2004
  - ix What Amazonia does the World Need? Proposal Paper Series. Forum for a new World Governance (2008)
  - x James N. Rosenau, 'Governance in the Twenty-first Century', *Global Governance* 1, no.1 (1995):13
  - xi United Nations Development Programme 2001
  - xii The idea for a third pillar, an "Earth Charter", focusing mainly on relations between humankind and the biosphere, first surfaced at the 1972 Stockholm World Conference. It was revived during preparations for the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, but no Earth Charter finally emerged because governments were unable to reach consensus on a wording which truly addressed the global challenges.
  - xiii Pierre Calame – Principles of Global Governance
  - xiv The Commonwealth of Nations, often referred as the Commonwealth and previously British Commonwealth is an inter-governmental organization of 53 independent member states. Most of them are formerly part of the British empire
  - xv News report by Anne Ryman published in the Arizona Republic – 6 Nov 2008
  - xvi International Union for Conservation of Nature
  - xvii [www.asianassembly2010.org.in](http://www.asianassembly2010.org.in)
  - xviii Agenda 21 – Chapter 25 (Children and Youth)
  - xix Youth and UN ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org))
  - xx Page 21, Final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for Youth and MDGs
  - xxi Page 27, Final report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for Youth and MDGs
  - xxii Multilateral Institution as defined in Bretton Woods Project glossary
  - xxiii The World Social Forum (WSF) is an annual world network meeting, started based in Brazil, that defines itself as “an opened space – plural, diverse, non-governmental and non-partisan – that stimulates the decentralized debate, reflection, proposals building, experiences exchange and alliances among movements and organizations engaged in concrete actions towards a more solidary, democratic and fair world....a permanent space and process to build alternatives to neoliberalism
  - xxiv Citizens’ assemblies gather women and men, association and organizations that would want to participate in renewing democracy and act in significant changes in their society and at global level. Assemblies are not a kind of new parliaments or new institutions but they stand for social and participatory processes where trustful relations and cultural, ideological and religious differences are respected and they are based on organizing discussions among numerous members of the society so as to gradually deduce joint and sharing prospects and strategies to be achieved collectively. They extend an international hitherto unknown adventure which started in 1994 with the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World, and later on, with the World Citizens’ Assembly, in 2001.
  - xv Pierre Calame – Principles of Global Governance
- Other References from:  
[www.world-governance.org](http://www.world-governance.org)  
[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

## Youth Governance Models in Canada – The Case of the United Nations Association in Canada

**Dara Parker**



Dara is a Canadian Urban Planner with a specialization in social sustainability, global urbanization and local governance in poverty reduction planning. She has lived in 5 countries, travelled and/or worked in over 40, and speaks English, advanced French and intermediate Spanish.

With 10 years experience in non-profit project management and local government policy development, Dara has developed an emphasis on strategic planning, cross-cultural communication, designing inclusive and participatory processes, and relationship management.

Throughout her career Dara has worked with and for youth, mobilizing young people to be the change. Currently she is as Executive Board Member of the United Nations Association in Canada (Vancouver), where among her responsibilities, she manages the youth volunteer program.

### Youth and World Governance

It is young people who are the most willing to listen to new ideas while absorbing fresh information – they still in their education years. It is young people who instinctively seek out partnerships and collaborate on multi-stakeholder solutions – they are habituated to working in peer groups. It is young people who are accustomed to adapting to change – change is a constant in your youth. This adaptability will build resiliency to our rapidly-changing world. If we are to effectively address issues including women’s rights, climate change, food security and HIV/AIDS, we will require knowledge, collaboration and resiliency from our leaders. When our global community is serious about addressing international challenges then we will engage youth. Youth require preparation to contribute in an intelligent, innovative and empowered manner. The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) is doing just that.

### United Nations Association in Canada

“We the Peoples...” these, the opening words of the UN Charter, offer the hope of a world organization that is not simply a community

of nations, but a community of peoples and of individuals. UNA-Canada works to make that vision a reality. UNA-Canada is a Canadian national non-profit organization promoting UN programmes and activities within Canada. The Association offers individual Canadians a window into the work of the UN, and a channel through which to become engaged in the critical international issues affecting us all. As the United Nations struggles to reform itself to deal with a new array of emerging global problems, the Association strives to foster an understanding of what the UN is and where it is going. By creating links between the work of the UN and the lives of Canadians, UNA-Canada is helping to build a better United Nations. Recognizing the importance of youth in world governance, UNA-Canada focuses the majority of their programs on youth.

### Model United Nations

A Model United Nations (MUN) is an activity that simulates the activities of specific organs and committees of the United Nations. It is a form of experiential education that aims to raise awareness about current global issues, the benefits of cooperation, and the functions and structure of the United Nations.

Through Model UNs, students develop and practice skills in research, organization, writing, debating, lobbying, negotiation, cooperation and compromise. Model UN activities are often cited as formative educational experiences with the potential to positively affect the career choices and worldviews of its participants.

Model UNs assist students in understanding the intricacies of global problems, but also underscore the potential for solutions through discussion and multilateral cooperation. In essence, Model UN activities create links between participants and enhance the capacity of young people to communicate and share ideas, expertise and experience with each other.

### **The Canadian MUN (CANIMUN)**

Since September 2000, the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) manages a n annual Model UN Programme to encourage Canadian student participation at Model UNs and to support, financially and logistically, the organization of Model UN events throughout Canada. Six major components can be identified as pillars of the Model UN Programme. These include:

- A Domestic Grant Fund - Awarded to students in Canada, attending Canadian Model UN events at least 450 km away from their homes, and to organizers of new Model UN conferences and initiatives.
- An International Grant Fund - Awarded to Team CANIMUN participants from across Canada, attending pre-selected international simulation events abroad.
- The Canadian International Model United Nations (CANIMUN) Conference - Planning and realization of the only pan-Canadian and international bilingual simulation event for post-secondary level students.
- The Provincial Representatives - A Team of ten (10) Provincial Representatives selected

from every province in the country to support MUN activities and to encourage Model UN connectivity within each province.

- A Model United Nations Activity Sourcebook - An essential guide to Model UN participation and organization for teachers and students across Canada wishing to be introduced to Model UN.
- The ListServe & Online Resources - A comprehensive Model UN Programme website, including an online inventory of existing Model UN conferences and initiatives in Canada; and the MUN-Canada ListServ.

The above components work together to create links between young Canadians from different regions of Canada while promoting Canada's international role among these and among youth in other countries. UNA-Canada's Model UN Programme highlights the benefits of Canadian diversity, particularly vis-à-vis multiculturalism and bilingualism, and ultimately works to engage a significant number of young Canadians in the work of the United Nations and with Canadian foreign policy priorities around the world.

### **CANIMUN Outcomes**

Model UNs are a form of experiential learning that have many benefits for participants. Youth develop international awareness, learn about the goals, purposes and structure of the UN, develop abilities to solve complex international problems, benefit from the demonstration of cooperation, compromise and communication, and enhance their capacity to share ideas, expertise and experience. The CANIMUN model is an excellent example of how to further engage and prepare youth to play a significant role in world governance. It is integral that the world engages youth in a meaningful manner if we are to address the international issues that face us all.



## A Perspective on Youth and Governance

### Lucinda Hartley



Lucinda Hartley, is a Landscape Architect and Urban Designer with local and international development experience across Australia, Asia and Pacific including positions with UN, AusAID and Habitat for Humanity.

Lucinda is the founder of [co]design (Community Oriented Design) studio, a non-profit design studio that provides emerging designers with a platform to engage with community development projects. Lucinda also currently represents Asia-Pacific on the Youth Advisory Board of UN-Habitat.

Youth engagement, youth participation, youth mainstreaming are words frequently thrown around with regards to youth and governance. However, to what degree are youth really included or engaged in governance? In Australia there has been a recent shift to providing dedicated youth activities, round tables and governing committees as well as young people becoming involved in regional and global youth networks. While this is a good step, questions remain about the effectiveness of youth engagement in governance. This document outlines several examples of youth and governance from an Australian perspective and suggests a need to not only include youth in decision making, but to ensure their participation is meaningful and effective.

While there are more young people under 25 globally than ever before – nearly 3 billion – Australia has an ageing population. Only 21% of the population is under 25, compared with 50% or more in many countries, particularly developing countries. There is, nevertheless, a shift to include young people, to varying extents, in decision making processes in Australia. Engagement of young people generally forms one of three forms: firstly, through formalised youth boards and youth round tables within local councils, and

official governing bodies. Secondly, through dedicated youth activities and youth services provided by larger community groups and non-governmental organizations. Oxfam, World Vision and the Salvation Army for example all run dedicated youth programs. Thirdly, youth engagement is exemplified by an explosion of youth-led organizations. This is in-turn being supported by grant-making bodies, philanthropic organizations and government bodies who are providing dedicated funding, mentoring and support to youth-led initiatives.

In the instance of the first types of youth engagement – through official government bodies, involvement of youth tends to rely on formalised channels of communication and works more as a means of consulting young people, rather than engaging youth as active partners in a particular initiative. Having formalized youth engagement in place is to be commended, however there is room to engage youth more meaningfully in this process.

Where youth are engaged as part of services and activities through broader organizations, the type of youth governance can be highly varied. Some organizations are grass roots, others set up youth-led advisory groups while others run programs for rather than

with young people. There are a number of advantages to having youth programs within broader organizations, particularly in terms of mentoring and access to funding.

The final model of youth-led organizations has grown significantly over the past decade with an increasing number of young people involved in youth-led movement. Youth-led organizations typically allow for meaningful governance by young people. Some youth-led organizations such as the Australian Youth Climate Coalition or the Oaktree Foundation provide an avenue for thousands of young people to have an active voice on key issues and to be directly involved with international development projects. Pressing global issues such as climate change and urbanisation are mobilising young people on a wide scale to take action and to demonstrate leadership and a voice for young people. Youth-led organizations often work in partnership with other organizations and increasingly there is access to effective mentoring and resources

for young people.

While there is an overall increase of ways in which young people can be involved in governance and leadership in Australia, there remains a need to develop more inclusive methods of youth participation, and to provide opportunities for meaningful partnerships with young people. Effective mentoring, access to resources and peer to peer development programs all contribute to meaningful youth-engagement. The real need is to create a level playing field where young people are treated as partners in governance. Increasing global youth-networks and international funding opportunities are strengthening Australian youth-led initiatives, and enabling Australian young people to demonstrate leadership on a regional and global level. We are likely to see youth-led initiatives grow in the next few decades and as a result this will assist in growing partnerships with young people in governance.



## Youth and World Governance: A North American (USA) perspective

### Ben Knight



Ben Knight was born, raised, and had his formative education in New York. He is a practicing design manager (Pratt Design Management alumni, 2008) who has had an enormous amount of creative work experience in various institutions, in many contexts, throughout the world. For over 6 years he has been working full time as a staff member for the United Nations in NYC. He writes a monthly blog post at Catalyst Strategic Design Review (<http://catalystcdr.wordpress.com/>)

In North AmericaUSA, young people have been marginalized by the government and until the latest election in 2008, many have felt that their voices were not being represented, or were misrepresented, and some still feel this way. From feeling limited and undervalued by traditional government, there have been a surge of new organizations started and/or managed by young people. For the past ten years my work in art and design related fields has given me a great view of change and transformation in North AmericanUSAmerican organizations. I have witnessed entire disciplines in these creative fields embrace a new emphasis on compassion when compassion was not a focus of the government. Organizations are being created to meet the world needs of the 21st century; they fully embrace intrinsic motivation, divergent thinking, peer-to-peer learning, and sustainable creative thinking. The youth are driving these new institutions. These pioneering in these dual focused creative and compassionate fields are sprouting up everywhere, though over the past few years some have really set new ground for prosperity. The message is clear the young people of America are compassionate and will create lasting change through positive organizations and hope

that the government will follow their lead. Many new, young person run, American organizations have been established over the past few years, and I have the pleasure of presenting a few:

OLPC, the One Laptop Per Child project/organization has still managed to raise the bar of the democratization of computers, both on the hardware and software arenas. Young people now have opportunities to connect with the world, experience peer-to-peer learning and write basic computer programming (Python). The project has had its problems from both outside and inside, but the main visions and short term goals have been reached, and the organization and the new software (Sugar Labs) and hardware (Pixel Xi) offshoots have created strategic alliances that have made the organization even more powerful in solving the world's education problems.

Architecture for Humanity has been making tremendous progress among various global design initiatives. Using young professional designers, the organization has transformed many communities around the world. Architecture for Humanity created an online open source community, Open Architecture Network, to exchange design ideas and



promote great design. Architecture for Humanity continues to promote sustainable design and evolve.

NurtureArt, a non profit artist gallery and community art center helps artist thrive and that is setting a new standard for which they teach as well as support contemporary art. Located in a very low income neighborhood, they help the community directly by exposure to and providing free art lessons for all young people in the area. Also holds sessions on creation of non-profits and how to apply for

grants, etc. The organization continues to flourish and create a great forum for art.

Art Codex is a young person art collective that specializes in creating projects that focus on global political and social problems. Some of these issues include war, migration, and the human habitat. The artists work independently, in addition to collectively, making sustainable art as well as creating lasting change in communities. Art Codex continues to push the boundaries of art as well as promote artists who create sustainable art.



## Youth and Governance A Chinese perspective

### Dunfei Chen



Dunfei Chen is currently an undergraduate student in Mathematics and Financial Economics from University of Rochester, USA. He is the founding member of China India Forum and was a member of the organizing committee for China-India-Japan Forum which was held in Japan in July 2008. He has represented as a young Chinese leader and speaker at several forums including the China-Europe Forum. He presently engages in dialogue and development work in China and globally with his position as the Director (China Chapter) of Global Citizens for Sustainable Development. His recent research in cooperation with the local government in China includes about the food conditions in near 300 primary schools.

“Youth and governance” are new words in China. Chinese society is in a big social transition. Roles of the youth are changing, so are values. So, youth in China are trying to redefine their positions in the society. It is very difficult to summarize the ways that youth could be involved in with social issues in China. But we can still see some patterns here.

First and the most important, there are several large youth organizations with government background, focusing on youth affairs. Even though those organizations are somehow funded by government, the operation and daily work are relatively independent. Here I would like to present two organizations, which are of the biggest and the most influential.

The All-China Youth Federation (ACYF) is a federative body of Chinese youth organizations and excellent youth nationwide. Through its 52 member organizations and over 77,000 individual members at all levels, the ACYF reaches over 300 million young people across China. The ACYF aims to represent and protect the legitimate rights and interests of young people and promote youth participation and development. It runs programs and activities in the following

fields: education and training, voluntary service, development of new countryside, environmental protection, protection of rights and interests, innovation and employment, youth culture, international exchanges and cooperation and exchange programs with Hongkong, Macau and Taiwan. Due to its significant contributions to the youth and society, the ACYF was granted the Human Resources Development Award by UNESCAP in 1999, the World Youth Award by UN in 2000 and the Champion of the Earth by UNEP in 2004.

The China Youth Development Foundation (CYDF), since founded in Beijing in March 1989, has devoted itself to the well being and development of Chinese youth, primarily with regards to education, health, environmental protection, volunteerism and engagement. The mission of CYDF is to help young people build capacity and to improve the environment for the development of young people by providing aid services, giving a voice to the interests of young people and carrying out social advocacy.

The CYDF is best known for launching and managing its largest program to date, “Project Hope.” The goal of Project Hope is to ensure that children and youth in rural communities

have the opportunity to go to school. By the end of 2009, Project Hope had raised over RMB 6 billion in donations, helped 3.5 million children from poverty-stricken rural families continue their schooling, built 16,355 Hope primary schools, presented Hope mini-library series to 14,636 village schools in remote areas, and trained over 60,000 village primary school teachers. In a survey of 29 provinces of household residents aged 16 or above in China, 94% had heard of Project Hope and 64% had contributed in some way. As a result of consistent efforts by staff and supporters, Project Hope has become one of the best-known and successful charity programs in the country.

The CYDF's work is always youth-oriented and driven by critical needs. In recent years, the CYDF has launched new initiatives in supporting the second generation of migrant workers for vocational education to improve their life skills and inspiring youth to develop their own creative charity programs and social entrepreneurship. In the field

of environment protection, the CYDF has initiated the Mother River Protection Project to help young people raise environmental awareness, and plant a large number of trees near sources of the Yangtze River, the Yellow River and eventually in other environmentally threatened areas throughout the country. In the field of health, the CYDF launched Action Red Ribbon, with a mission to increase HIV/AIDS awareness among Chinese youth and to support the education of children in AIDS-affected areas.

Similar organizations in China give young people sufficient stages to present themselves. One of the advantages of those organizations is that they are able to bring those programs into effects in a large scale, since the government backgrounds. It is much easier for those organizations to have partnerships with schools and communities.

There are very less NGOs or NPOs, fully run and organized by young people, in China. But, voluntary programs organized by Chinese overseas students are becoming

more and more prevailing. No matter for issues like global climate change or domestic poverty, these organizations are playing more and more important roles. Although most of them are in their beginning stages, lacking enough experience and in relatively small scale, bright futures can be expected.





## Youth and World Governance: A South America View

### Safira De la Sala



Safira is a young Brazilian lawyer, who is now pursuing a Master's degree in Housing, with focus on planning and project management, in the Institute of Technological Research of the State of São Paulo, Brazil.

She is passionate about working with communities in Sao Paulo especially to guarantee their human rights which she thinks is very fundamental. And she is determined to create a society with justice and inclusion for everyone, by awareness people.

In our lives, everything is always changing. In fact, life is about change, and the consequently renew of everything.

So people change too, not only themselves, but who is alive. From time to time, new people change what the other ones have done, giving a new sense about the common interpretation. Youth has always been the necessary energy in our World to promote changes, especially because we young people feel free to do everything, nothing is impossible.

In a good way, when we realize the situation we are living in, we feel the need to do something to change. It comes from inside, from our souls.

The French newspaper "Le Monde" published this week in its editorial, that "the economy is moving to the South". What does it mean? Emergent countries as Brazil and other ones in Latin America are finally appearing in the international scenario.

More than ever, Latin Americans have to choose a position. Do we want to fight for Justice, in all senses, or just keep going? Almost every week we have a scandal involving politicians, in all old problems, such as corruption. Because of this, plus the fact of society's negligence, our problems involving health, education, habitat and social

exclusion are increasing in a non-ending circle.

As I said, when we gain the conscience, we just can't stay without doing anything. But how can we do something, if the government doesn't have a special politic to include youth in decisions? How can we prepare ourselves for world governance?

Maybe the answer could be joining a Non-Governmental Organization, where we would be involved and learn more about the problem which we are interested in. As always, learn more about the subject is fundamental: to promote effective changes, we have to know what we are talking about, not only have a passionate speech.

Thinking about NGO, we have a lot in Latin America. You can choose which subject you prefer to work on: from animals to children, from environment to violence, every subject is possible.

Besides all these subjects, one is very important: habitat. It is at home that family is constituted, and family is the base of our society. It is where we learn most of the precious lessons we will take for all our lives, what will mold our personalities.

In Latin America, we have more than 200 million of Latin Americans living in a situation which characterizes poverty or

extreme poverty, without houses or any guarantees to provide them an equal access to health programs and education.

Because of this, a specific NGO is having a great success and helping thousands of families. It's called "un techo para mi país" ("a roof for my country", in free translation). It was founded in 1997, in Chile, and now exists in more than 17 Latin American countries. The mission is separated in three phases, and the phase one is about building emergency wood-houses for families in situation of extreme poverty (in just one weekend!). All the project is done by youth, especially in college, from the research of communities (slums) to work, contacting government, interviewing families, finding donations and organizing constructions.

After the terrible earthquake in Haiti, Un Techo Para Mi Pais has been one of the most important organizations there, working to re-build the country and give people hope – UTPMP has received the help from young people from all the American Latin countries, and also congratulations from Koffi Anan,

who was the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The young people who are working there and in many other NGO, are committed to keep working until building a new country, with justice for everybody.

Unfortunately, many young people not even think about this possibility, because it is a normal thought that "there is nothing we can do about it"; people who don't think to vote in elections, or just do not vote, because all the politicians are the same; or even worse, "that is not our problem". Social problems are problems for everyone, once that human beings are social animals, who live in society. And we have to take the responsibility for each of us.

To conclude, we should remember the famous quote of Edmund Burke: "all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". Youth, fortunately, is decided not to let the dream die. We will do whatever we can to have a new world with equality, where justice will be the law.



## About Global Citizens for Sustainable Development (GCSD)

GCSD is a registered not-for-profit and non-governmental-organization based in Bangalore, India and its mission is to engage and empower children, youth, men and women to sustain communities, cultures and societies while promoting improvement in their social, economic and environmental conditions through the notion of human responsibilities.

GCSD creates platform for children, youth, men and women motivated to bring a positive change at a personal, social and ecological level in their individual environment and their respective society for the progress of humanity. GCSD creates a platform for youth, children and adults for creativity, innovation and compassion to transform the society. GCSD believes that every individual has a capacity to change his/her attitude and behavior. Everyone has the possibility to contribute in their individual capacity for creating a responsible, sustainable and united world. GCSD through all its activities will foster moral and spiritual values regardless of caste, color, religion or gender and promote secular human values.

Global Citizens for Sustainable Development work focuses on the following areas of social intervention: Youth Leadership and Youth Empowerment: Capacity building for children and youth from around the world, credit and volunteer programs for students from Peking University (China), J.F. Oberlin University in Japan, University at Albany (US), St. Joseph's College (India) and many others.

Peace and culture: Building civil society capacities towards inter-community harmony.

For example, working with peace committees in communally sensitive areas; promoting interreligious understanding and harmony; organizing cultural festivals around the theme of peaceful coexistence with society and nature; providing platform for people from around the world to meet and learn from each other and so on. In this effort GCSD has initiated programs such as China-India Forum, Japan-India Forum, Korea-India Forum, Sri-Lanka-India Forum and many such programs.

Ecology: Advocacy on environmental issues in the country and the region, dealing particularly with Climate Change. Some examples include the looming global water crisis, restoration of water-bodies, roof top rain water harvesting, and water conservation. Organic farming and vermi-composting are part of this advocacy, as well as promoting organic farming among local farmers.

Development: Working with farmers, women and youth on issues of ecological agriculture, health, hygiene, economic and food security; responding to the crisis of HIV-AIDS; and soon.

International workshops and networking on civil society issues: GCSD has organized workshops, conferences, forums, film festivals in different parts of the world on themes such as, Cross-Cultural dialogue for Peace, Sustainable Development, Education, Housing, Climate Change, Water, Youth and World Governance, etc. GCSD also helps to network organizations through the World Youth Water Alliance, Asian Youth Climate Network, and Asian Citizens Alliance.



## A Global Citizens Program:

### **WE BUILD: An Alternative Summer Study Abroad & Volunteer Program in Bangalore, India**

This four-week annual program usually scheduled from mid July – mid August and is designed as a **co-curricular service-learning model**, as it connects the theory taught in the school to the application used in the world. It not only gives international exposure to students but also engages them through a labor intensive experience by building houses for the poor communities. The program also introduces students to the Indian society and culture by focusing on the three areas - culture, peace and development.

We BUILD is designed to address key themes such as **Global Citizenship, Housing a Human Right and Sustainable Development**. This program is a youth empowerment program that engages young students and professionals in addressing issues related to children's rights to education and poverty alleviation.

The students are usually engaged in a series of action-oriented projects with children and possibly with the tribal and rural communities: facilitate painting, singing and photography classes; teach soccer, volleyball, jump rope and other recreational games; cook and serve food to children; facilitate and participate in discussion forums at the Global Citizens Youth Assembly and teach English, Math and other subjects to the children.

Presently, 4 academic Credits for this program are offered by University at Albany (USA), St. Joseph's College (India) and

American University of Kuwait (Kuwait) in association with GCSA to students from their respective universities/country.

#### **Indian Culture, Development Issues and Experiential Learning (4 Credit Program)**

MODULE 1: Indian Life and Culture (1 Credit / 16 hours) - Contemporary India - Political and Economical Challenges in India - Caste System in India

MODULE 2: Peace, Justice and Social Movements (1 Credit/ 16 hours) - Housing Reforms and Social Justice Movements in India - Children's Rights in India - Education as an antidote to Poverty

MODULE 3: Experiential Learning (2 Credit / 32 hours) - Build Homes for the poor - Teach Children – **Global Citizens Youth Assembly**

**WE BUILD is also a SUMMER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM for those students or volunteers not interested in academic credits but are looking for an opportunity to do something meaningful during their summer break. Thus, the volunteers have an option of selecting for this program either for:**

**2 weeks** - During this two week volunteers will be involved mostly for the BUILD project, building houses in rural Bangalore.

**4 weeks** - During this four week volunteers will be involved with both rural and urban program, building houses, teaching children, attending the Global Citizens Youth Assembly and many more opportunities for Indian cultural immersion.

For more details send us an email: [webuild@globalcitizens.org.in](mailto:webuild@globalcitizens.org.in)

## Youth and World Governance

“Albert Einstein was only 25 years when he wrote his famous theory of relativity. Gandhi was about 25 years when he was instrumental in founding the Natal Indian Congress which molded the Indian community of South Africa into a homogeneous political force before he moved on to fight for the freedom of India. Che Guevara was about 28 years when he joined the revolutionary movement for the freedom of Cuba. Nelson Mandela was about 30 years old, when as a leader, he was spearheading against apartheid policy of racial segregation.

Youth with their great enthusiasm, new ideas, bountiful energy, dedication and commitment being fully aware of the complexity know of what they want to achieve. They are no more the leaders of tomorrow but are leaders of today.”

*Anugraha John is a youth leader and peace activist recently awarded the Honorary title of Millennium Development Ambassador with due recognition of services towards achieving Millennium Development Goals and Youth Development by the Sri Lanka United Nations Friendship Organization. John is an avid traveler and has been sowing the seeds of 'global citizenship' during his travel all across the globe. He currently runs the organization **Global Citizens for Sustainable Development**, a not-for-profit organization based in Bangalore, India that focuses on youth leadership and youth empowerment, peace and culture, environment and other social development issues. He is the Coordinator of the **Asian Citizens Assembly**, founder of inter-generational forums such as **China-India Forum**, **Japan-India Forum**, **Korea-India Forum** and is presently on the **Youth Advisory Board of the UN-Habitat**. He loves to play football and enjoys listening to country and alternative music. As of today, he dedicates most of his time to work on his dream project, **VEDIKE: an eco-residential school** in rural Bangalore.*

