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Shaping New Frontiers
The World University Consortium
with
The University for Sustainability

The World University Consortium and the University for Sustainability announce a partnership to advance the Sustainable Development Research Network and the International Students-at-Risk Network and other mission-aligned programmes to accelerate a just sustainable development transition.

Guided by the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Rome Declaration on Responsible Research and Innovation, we are convinced that sustainable development cannot be achieved without building and sustaining capacities in education, science, technology and innovation. We note the urgent need to bridge the gap between isolated and fragmented scientific information systems and knowledge bases that hinders: researchers and development practitioners from making new discoveries, the diffusion of knowledge, and the absorption of breakthrough research and innovative solutions. While urging the international community to ensure that "no one is left behind," in the transformation to sustainability including the growing number of refugees and displaced people, we recognise the imperative to provide conflict- and violence-displaced and refugee students with opportunities. The partnership seeks to:

- Enable researchers and development practitioners to make new discoveries, facilitate the diffusion of knowledge, and the absorption of breakthrough research and innovative sustainable development solutions.
- Promote and advance scholarship and fellowship programmes in support of conflict- and violence-displaced and refugee persons of merit and the advancement of responsible science, technology and innovation at centres of excellence.
- Deepen a scientific understanding of the humanistic, economic, cultural, social and environmental issues in the development and promotion of peaceful coexistence.
- Develop and further advancement of world-class scientists and technologists at the frontiers of responsible science and technology and sustainability sciences relevant to socio-economic development.
- Develop, deliver and support global cooperative schemes in higher education, training, research, development and innovation to accelerate a just and humanitarian transformation to sustainable development.

Professor Dr Heitor Gurgulino de Souza President of the World University Consortium noted: "The World University Consortium was created a few years ago by the World Academy of Art and Science to pursue precisely what our signed MOU states, to benefit our research and academic institutions and ultimately our societies in Sustainable actions and programs."

Founding President of the University for Sustainability, Dr Kenneth Stokes remarked that the agreement “reflects the parties’ intentions to collaborate in activities pertaining to the advancement of higher education, science, technology and innovation. Among them, our climate justice initiative, the International Students-at-Risk Network shall enable conflict- and violence-displaced and refugee students to connect with educational opportunities with member institutes of the University for Sustainability and the World University Consortium.” “Of the world's 26 million refugees,” Stokes continued “only 3% have access to higher education.”

The mission of World University Consortium is to evolve and promote development of accessible, affordable, quality higher education worldwide based on a human-centered approach that shifts the emphasis from specialized expertise to contextualized knowledge within a trans-disciplinary conceptual framework reflecting the complexity and integration of the real world, from teaching mastery of a field of knowledge to learning that enhances the capacity of students to think and discover knowledge for themselves, from theoretical mastery to acquisition of knowledge, skills and values relevant to each individual’s personal development and career – an educational system better suited to develop the full potentials of social personality and individuality for productive engagement, social welfare and psychological well-being.

Turning knowledge into action, the University for Sustainability aspires to become a world leader in championing sustainable development. Delivering interdisciplinary programmes at the nexus of the fourth industrial revolution and the sustainable development megatrends, the University and its global partner organisations are committed to accelerating a just and humanitarian transformation to sustainable development with challenge-driven education, scientific research and innovation.

For inquiries with the World University Consortium please visit the Academy's website at <http://wunicon.org>.

For inquiries with the University for Sustainability please contact the Communications Office via e-mail communications@u4sustainability.org or visit the University's website at www.u4sustainability.org

