

SUSTAINABILITY AND WATER INTELLIGENCE 13TH ANNUAL ITIHAAS SUMMIT

Date: 17th August 2023

Venue: India International Centre, Main Auditorium, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi.

The Summit commenced with a welcome Address by Smita Vats, Founder Director of ITIHAAS, followed by the speech of two students from KDM School, who shared their experience of water conservation at their institution. Session 1 featured Dr. Vandana Shiva, founder of Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources especially native seeds. Dr. Shiva emphasised the need to conserve organic seeds instead of relying on chemical-based ones, citing their toxic effects on humanity. She also suggested growing millets, pulses, oil seeds and fruit trees in school gardens. She concluded by stating that Itihaas is a vehicle, remembering is freedom and forgetting is slavery.

The subsequent speaker was Dr. Archana Varma, an IAS officer and current Mission Director of the National Water Conservation mission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. She stressed water conservation through methods like reviving baolis and roof top rainwater harvesting. Session 1 ended with a water anthem performed by St. Thomas School's young students.

After the tea break, Session 2 began with an engaging presentation by Dr. Monica Banerjee, Head of Inter Globe Foundation, dedicated to conserving both natural and cultural heritage. She highlighted the importance of waste management and suggested student exchange programmes within India to promote diversity understanding.

The following speaker Dr. Amrita Vohra, COO and Director of GEMS Education India, advocated for breaking boundaries between subjects and implementing SDG goals practically. The post-tea session also featured Chef Anahita Dhondy who emphasized sustainable school canteens, focusing on SDG goal 02 (Zero hunger) and the necessity of home science labs in schools.

To conclude the summit, Dr. Sunita Swaraj, Principal of The Heritage School, Vasant Kunj, discussed the importance of collaborative learning environments. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Smita Vats.



