



GLOBAL NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

"It always seems impossible until it is done" Nelson Mandela



END OF THE YEAR 2017 REPORT

BRIEF BACKGROUND



Global Network for Sustainable Development (GNSD) was initiated by a group of young community leaders from Africa who participated in leadership workshops on Empowerment for Peace through Leadership in Agribusiness and Sustainability (EmPeaceLABS) held in Jalgaon (India) in 2012. The initial mission of GNSD was to promote among youth the importance of global partnership for sustainable development workshops the were organized by the partnership between Arizona State University (ASU) and Gandhi Research Foundation.



The network was launched in Kathmandu (Nepal) at the meeting of Rotary Clubs in November 2014. Since then, GNSD has been functioning as a project of the ASU Department of Psychology. On August 8, 2017 after submitting our Bylaws (see the attachment) that we had been working on since the beginning of May 2017, GNSD was officially registered in Arizona as an NGO (file number 22107915). GNSD was assigned the EIN 82-3512985, and recently received a confirmation of 509 (a) (2) status.



Our current mission is to contribute to the education of a new generation of community leaders who will understand the relationship between sustainable development and peace, as well as the importance of a global partnership for the successful realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

EVOLUTION OF NETWORK



1. We created the following bodies, with the assumption that they can be modified at the beginning of 2018.

Board of Directors
Advisory Board
Executive Team.

2. We nominated the Regional Coordinators in Nepal, India, Kenya, Uganda, China, Sri-Lanka and USA. Nominations for Bangladesh and Singapore are pending.

3. In August, we launched our website (www.gnsd.org), and in September we created our brochure and flyer.

4. From July to November, Birendra Kumar has reached out to 2000 schools of Delhi, India inviting them to establish Peace Clubs for Sustainability.

5. We started to create the Peace Clubs for Sustainability and Sustainability Clubs for Peace in Nepal. For detailed information please see attached brochure or visit our websites (<http://gnsd.org> and on Facebook).

6. Dr. Marek and Mr. Jan Hellman (Founder of Non-Violence Project Foundation) met in Delhi, and agreed to work together and sign a MOU with GNSD, Non-Violence Foundation and Global Network of Community Colleges Pvt. LTD based in Delhi. However, the MOU was not signed until today.

7. In November, we presented our network at the panel on education at the Smart Cities Summit in Phoenix, and at the Peace Day Global Citizenship Youth Summit held at the UN Headquarters in New York. We also had a chance to speak to the participants of the worship at the Interfaith Church affiliated with the UN.

EVOLUTION OF NETWORK



8. During the session at the UN we agreed to initiate a collaboration with Georgina Galanis, Founder of the organization The Colors of Life. For many years Georgina has been working with various units of the UN, and she agreed to help us to make relevant connections there. She was added to our Advisory Board.

9. We signed an MOU with the corporation Maesinfo from Chengdu (China) in which we agreed to create a joint venture in Chengdu that will provide sustainability education for schools in Sichuan Province based on the grant from the government. Mr. Hu, CEO of Maesinfo was in Phoenix to discuss with us the details. The grant proposal was written and submitted to Mr. Hu. According to the recent updates we received from Mr. Hu the government is hesitant to spend 14 million dollars on education, and would rather sponsor Bioscience Research Institute led by Dr. Hartwell.

Dr. Hartwell rejected this suggestion. At the meeting with him we agreed that we have the following options: withdraw from the project, try to compromise by adding a small research component, reduce the size of the project and its cost, and if collaboration with Maesinfo will discontinue - incorporate the Chinese project into other grant proposals we are currently preparing.

10. Birendra Kumar signed a partnership agreement between his company and the/a Non-Violence Project in Switzerland, and created the new organization Non-Violence Project in India. This organization in collaboration with Non-Violence Project Switzerland and in association with GNSD organized, a 3-day long training workshop for trainers representing various districts of India. Eight Regional Coordinators of GNSD representing different regions of India joined this training and discussed an implementation strategy for creating Peace Clubs for Sustainability in India. The workshop was facilitated by Ivana Bushlieta, Director of Global Education at Non-Violence Foundation.

EVOLUTION OF NETWORK



11. On occasion of the International day of Tolerance Non-Violence Foundation with association of GNSD officially launched "Youth Peace Parliament-2017". The Parliament session with participation of about 300 students and numerous teachers, was facilitated by the powerful panel: Augustine Veliath (Chairperson Non-Violence Project India), Blaise Oberson, (CEO, Non-violence Project Foundation), Swami Satchidanandan Acharya Guru, (Navshruthi International Trust), Dr. Karan Singh (Member of Parliament and Chairperson of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Peace and Sustainable Development), Dr. Madan Mohan Goel, (Director, of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development), Dr. Marek Wosinski, (President of the Global Network for Sustainable Development), and Ivana Bushljeta (Director Global Education, Non-Violence Project Foundation.)

12. In principal GNSD agreed to create a partnership with the Non-Violence Foundation, Global Network of Community Colleges, and Mahatma Gandhi Shodh Sansthan, however we still need to sign relevant MOUs.. GNSD and Partner organizations started creating Peace Clubs for Sustainability in India. So far 26 Clubs have been registered. All clubs are registered on the/our GNSD website, as well as a new group of Regional Coordinators from India. Dr. Marek Wosinski graduated trainee and regional coordinators during the Youth Peace Parliament and GNSD.

13. During the Parliament Session, we met Dr. Jianrong Chen who created the first in China Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at Jinan University in Guangzhou. We agreed to set up collaboration between his Institute and GNSD.

14. Stephen Daniel, Regional Coordinator in Uganda, and Eugene Nyuydine Ngalim, Regional Coordinator in Cameroon, started to create Peace Clubs in their countries. Birendra appointed Regional coordinator in Sri-Lanka, from Jan 2018, we will start functioning in Sri-Lanka. Bibesh Manandhar, Regional Coordinator for Nepal, created 2 Peace Clubs in Kathmandu, a Peace club for Sustainability and Sustainability Club for Peace in Hetauda.

EVOLUTION OF NETWORK



15. On January, 10 we presented GNSD at the meeting organized by the Head Foundation in Singapore for governmental officials and representations of community organizations. HEAD Foundation is supporting educational programs for East Asian countries. The meeting was successful, we have prospects for a long term collaboration with the Foundation, and I also made initial contacts with numerous organizations from Singapore.

16. Birendra Kumar already started the process to get funding for GNSD such as the Google Grant (It provides a credit of \$10000 every month for promotion of GNSD on google's platform, and unlimited Google Suit for email and other google related services, along with hardware and software with a 90% discount). We recently we received approval of this Grant.

17. The Launch of GNSD in 2014 in Nepal had a symbolic meaning, as this is still one of the poorest countries in the world. Therefore, from the very beginning our vision was to create in Nepal a model of peace and sustainability education for countries with emerging economies. Therefore, we signed a partnership agreement with the Youth Parliament of Nepal (YPN). The purpose of this partnership is to create peace and Sustainability Clubs in the whole educational system of Nepal. Some initial discussions were also conducted with the Minister of Youth and Minister of Environment, as well as with some community organizations.

18. Thanks to the support and generosity of Mr. Diwakar Aryal, Director of Youth Parliament Nepal, and few private donors, we opened in Kathmandu the office for the Nepali Branch of GNSD . The office is next to the office of YPN, which will make future collaboration convenient.

19. The following GNSD members will constitute the Team of GNSD Nepal: Bibesh Manandhar (Regional Coordinator for Nepal), Bipin Panday (Assistant to the Regional Coordinator), Rudeep Rajthala (Community Outreach), Sumit Shrestha (Coordinator of Agricultural and Environmental Projects), Aayush Manandhar (Coordinator of International Exchange), and Prajwal Rajthala (Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator). The formal registration of GNSD Nepali Branch is pending.

EVOLUTION OF NETWORK



20. In collaboration with the GNSD Nepali Team, YPN and the School of Social Work at Arizona State University organized an Internship for Megan McDermott and Alissa Heyer, graduate students at the School of Social Work. Their task was to assess the need of new created Peace Clubs, help students to design plan of work, as well make a plan for collaboration with two clubs recently created in Phoenix. The internship was very successful (you may find detailed report in news on GNSD website.). There is a plan of organizing next year (together with the ASU School of Social Work) internships for more students. Megan and Alicia are working on the program of these internships.

21. Creators of Phoenix clubs (Mathilde Rispoli and Marcus Wolf) visited Nepal. They participated in the Global Youth Peace Conference (see below), and visited Peace Clubs in Kathmandu and Hetauda (detailed report is on our website.) They are expected to facilitate collaboration between Peace Clubs in Nepal and USA, as well as help us create a program for exchange of students in the future.

22. In collaboration with the GNSD Nepali Team, YPN organized the Global Youth Peace Conference in Kathmandu on January 14/15. At this conference, GNSD had a panel on the topic Global Network for Sustainable Development; Investing in Youth with participation of the following GNSD members:

Dr. Marek Wosinski, Moderator, President of GNSD,
Birendra Kumar, Vice-President of GNSD, and Country Director of Non-Violence Project

Foundation, India.

Osee Lieberman, Vice-President of GNSD, President of Halsten Enterprise.
Susan Risa, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer of Nagarik Aavaz (Nepal)

Sumit Shrestha, Founder and CEO of

Mira Jankowska, Manager, Academy of Love, Warsaw, Poland

Bibesh Manandhar, Regional Coordinator for GNSD, Nepal

Marcus Wolf, Regional Coordinator, Arizona, USA

Mathilde Rispoli, Regional Coordinator, Arizona, USA

Stephen Daniel, Regional Coordinator, Uganda

From private sources, we sponsored the costs of travel and conference registration for four members of the panel.

PLANS FOR 2018



1. We agreed that our focus during the first year will be on securing funding for our projects, beginning with efforts to secure a seed grant allowing us to continue our work in Nepal. Dr. Bradley Lusk prepared a list of potential sponsors, and we are working on the grant proposals for our educational project here in the US that will be submitted to NSF, and another proposal for the project in Nepal that will be submitted to UNDEF. Similar proposal we will create for Cameroon, Uganda, and Ethiopia. In the meantime, we will continue negotiations with China. Birendra Kumar is planning to visit the USA in February to work on other funding opportunities.



2. Birendra registered GNSD under the UN Civil Society roster. Next, we will also try to get a/the Consultative Status in United Nation on Major Group of Sustainable Development. Georgina Galanis, our advisor from NY agreed to:

- Assist in making global connections allowing the creation of new Peace and Sustainability Clubs;
- Initiate partnerships and collaboration with other NGO's and UN Agencies;
- Arrange presentations introducing GNSD to UN Agencies;
- Enrich curriculum for the Peace and Sustainability Clubs by educational materials created by Global Citizenship;
- Work towards official affiliation of GNSD with UN
- Travel to various events to promote the GNSD mission.

PLANS FOR 2018



3. In 2018, we begin installation of "Peace Clubs for Sustainability" with target to reach out to every state in India.

4. The plan is to create in collaboration with YPN, teams in 6 districts of Nepal, with 5 schools selected in each of them. During the period of 3 years there, we will create a sustainable model of clubs that will later be implemented in the entire educational system in Nepal (see attached proposal).

5. GNSD will collaborate with the University of Pokhara on organizing the International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals for Emerging Economies, organized in June 2018.

6. To continue operations in the absence of funding, we are assessing the feasibility of a membership fee for all Regional Coordinators.