INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & POP FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH-LED CLIMATE ACTION 2024



About the POP (Protect Our Planet) Movement

The POP (Protect Our Planet) Movement was founded on Earth Day in 2016 by Late Dr. R.K. Pachauri—who accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which he led as Chairman for thirteen years (2002-2015)—and his son, Dr. Ash Pachauri, who now leads the organization. Dr. Pachauri was of the strong conviction that tackling the issue of climate change would take a groundswell of action, inspired by knowledge, led by the 1.8 billion youth of the world (UNFPA).

Since its inception, the POP Movement has reached 2.3 million youth in 127 countries in collaboration with 429 partners from across every sector. With a mission to ultimately reach the size, scale, and momentum to become a global movement, the POP Movement seeks to promote youth leadership to tackle climate change through unique and innovative technology-based solutions, community-driven regional projects, and advocacy. With this vision and goal, the POP Movement, in collaboration with its partners, hosts an annual, global flagship event called the International Conference and POP Festival for Youth-Led Climate Action.

About the POP Festival

With a focus on climate action, the <u>POP Festival</u> provides a youth-led platform for *all* to celebrate climate leadership; promote cross-learning and exchange of wisdom, practices, and

experiences; and mobilize stakeholders (policy-makers, governments, diplomats, activists, non-profit organizations, businesses, academia, tribal and Indigenous communities, networks, and groups) so as to propel a movement founded on inclusion, innovation, and initiative. The festival brings together youth and communities from around the world to exhibit, promote, and celebrate a wide range of sustainability initiatives.

In the true spirit of a festival, the POP Movement brings together artists, performers, musicians, craftswomen and men, indigenous tools, innovative technologies, games, and interactive applications (to name a few) at the event.

The POP Festival has recently been recognized by the G20's Civil Society Group (Sustainable and Resilience Communities Working Group) as a global best practice (Udharan) with high positive impacts, shortlisted from many successful projects from G20 nations around the world.

The International Conference and POP Festival for Youth-Led Climate Action 2024 was set to create **intergenerational** and **multisectoral** opportunities to **catalyze climate action** and build a **collective resolve** to attain the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, while leaving no one behind.

By bringing together various stakeholders, including global leaders, experts, and youth that the POP Movement has been working with, the POP Festival focused on, but not limited to: climate and health, use of technology in climate action, role of women in sustainability leadership, and action-oriented strategies to address the challenges of climate migration and other risks from the perspective of equity and justice.

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SESSION 1

TOMORROW IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF OUR LIVES

HUMAN FRATERNITY, HUMAN SECURITY, LOVE, COMPASSION, AND PEACE



Lighting of the Lamp by our Distinguished Delegates

The inaugural session of the 2024 POP Festival unveiled the foundational principles of "Love, Peace, Culture, and Compassion" as integral elements for sustainable progress. It underscored the imperative to reform the global mechanisms to tackle climate-induced conflicts, bolster human security, and nurture harmony effectively. The session saw active participation from youth representing more than 12 schools across Delhi National Capital Region (NCR), with a total engagement of 365 students alongside other young attendees.

Watch the Session

Ms. Asmita Satyarthi, Managing Trustee, Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion



What are we doing with our planet? We need to take urgent action by accepting that it is our problem. With 3.5 billion people vulnerable, Africa is the most susceptible, and bears a heavy burden. The wealthiest nations, catalysts of climate chaos, leave the poorest, especially children and women, to suffer—an embodiment of Climate Injustice and Inequity. The mantle of change rests on the shoulders of our youth, the rightful leaders and advocates for a brighter world.

"There is nothing more powerful than youth driving change for the world."

Her Excellency Mama Shamsa Abubakar Fadhil, Kenya Peace Mediator and Community Mobilizer

Instilling the value of social integration for *Nature* is a collective responsibility, not just for the government but for everyone. The POP Movement acknowledges the oversight in nurturing the necessity of environmental care in the youth and aims to rectify it. As advocates for social integration, let's embrace the motto "*Leave No One Behind*" (LNOB) within the POP Movement.

It's time to acknowledge our mistakes, take charge, and work together to care for the Earth. Advocacy for tree planting, beach cleaning, and waste management is our shared duty. Nature's care is not someone else's responsibility—it's everyone's responsibility. Let's instill these values in the youth for a sustainable future.



"It is your duty and my duty to take care of the environment for this, I swear and I take this pledge solemnly today, that I will take care of Nature as my duty and responsibility. May God help me!"

H.E. José Ramos-Horta, President of East Timor and Nobel Peace Prize (1996) Winner



H.E Jose Ramos-Horta highlighted the global challenges of insecurity and peace, underscoring areas like Myanmar, Syria, Gaza, Ukraine, Congo, Mali, and more. He emphasized the pressing need to replace violence with dialogue and fostering acceptance of each other's humanity. Our collective actions over the past century have inflicted significant damage to our small planet, and we are now reaping the consequences. It is imperative for individuals, nations, particularly advanced countries and world powers, to champion peace, human fraternity, and support the most vulnerable

nations facing climate adversity. Notably, East Timor stands as the 10th freest country in the world for press freedom.

"It is time for wisdom to prevail by dropping violence and accepting each other as fellow human beings in this small planet that has been increasingly under threat from our actions over the last 100 years."

Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Human Rights Activist, Nobel Peace Prize (2014) Winner

The significance of the POP Festival leaves us with a profound resolution to carry forward. Nations worldwide have united to embrace goals for a sustainable world, achievable through four pillars: protecting people, preserving the planet, fostering prosperity, and establishing peace. Emphasizing the pivotal role of youth in advocating for a better world, we recognize that safeguarding the most vulnerable, including the poorest and children, is inseparable from protecting the planet. To realize this, we must



globalize compassion, cultivate a supply chain of gratitude, discover unity in diversity, and construct an internet of responsibilities that span the globe.

"Globalizing compassion is a mindful, selfless problem solving of people and the planet."



Dr. Raghavan Seetharaman, Former CEO of Doha Bank; Global Goodwill Ambassador, POP Movement

In our evolving world shaped by globalization and anti-globalization consumerism, I discovered the transformative power of meditation, passion, and compassion at a young age. These principles not only helped me understand myself but also appreciate the values of our system. Viewing the world as a single fraternity, I recognized the elements of land, water, fire, sky, and wind. Loving oneself fosters love for the entire world, emphasizing empathy over sympathy. The realization that we are interconnected and can effect change in the world is profound. As a banker, I don't just see economics; I see *Eco-nomics*.

"Once you realize that you can transform within yourself you can transform the world. Every day is motivational. Every day is is inspirational and every day is a chance to make a better world!"

H.E. Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam, Secretary-General of Zayed Award for Human Fraternity

This gathering for human fraternity addresses pressing threats, especially climate change, emphasizing the vital connection between this humanitarian challenge and the role of human fraternity. My sincere gratitude to the POP Movement for organizing this crucial event, bringing together climate activists architects of hope. and As Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders, I wholeheartedly support and endorse this impactful initiative. Engaging the youth is essential for fostering human fraternity globally. We stand in solidarity



with all efforts aiming to achieve this shared vision. Our recent global humanitarian initiative, "The Call of Conscience," unites leaders worldwide. We emphasize the collaborative nature of achieving human fraternity, acknowledging that no single entity can independently bring about significant outcomes.

"Together with love, solidarity and co-existence, we can offer and achieve much for the sake of humanity."



Dr. Ruth Mitchell, Paediatric and Adult Neurosurgeon, Sydney Children's Hospital and Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1985

Beginning as an international physician focused on preventing nuclear war, I sought mentors until I found a like-minded family aware of the health impacts of such devastating weapons. Our campaign, initiated in Melbourne in 2007, led to the establishment of an international law coalition, culminating in a treaty in 2017 to eliminate the use of nuclear weapons. Speaking up for a better world is challenging but, with determination, you'll connect with others who share your passion for protecting our planet. Nuclear weapons, whether tested or used, pose global justice issues. Even a 3% use could lead to a third of the

world's population perishing within two years. Embracing our collective power for good, there are no limits to what we can achieve together to solve problems and create a better world.

"We are in this together, my liberation is bound with yours and we get free together! If you have come to me to help me then you are wasting your time, but if you have come to me to work with me then you are welcome."

Janani Ramanathan, Secretary General, World Academy of Art & Science (WAAS)



"Human Security for All" is our campaign, partnered with the UN and the POP Movement, recognizing youth as pivotal to realizing a better world. Beyond traditional notions of weapons and armies, the UN identifies 8 pillars of security: economic, food, personal, health, environmental, community, political, and technological. Providing all these pillars is essential for achieving peaceful human security. To make this a reality, we must shift from perceiving security as solely military power to a measure of human wellbeing. Global security perceptions also need a

transformation. Human security aligns directly with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and shared technology can significantly bridge funding gaps for these goals by 14%.

"One man's perfection cannot save the world."

H.E. Dra. Rosalía Arteaga Serrano, Former President of Ecuador; President of Fundación FIDAL, Ecuador



The POP Movement, standing for Protect Our Planet, revolves around engaging young people, recognizing their vital role in addressing climate change. It aims to instill conviction in the youth who will bear the brunt of environmental disasters caused by human actions. The movement extends its reach globally, activating members to drive social mobilization and take actions like planting trees and cleaning ecosystems. It emphasizes the importance of influencing others, starting with families and friends, to be mindful of actions impacting the environment to avoid future climatic imbalances.

Global Peacebuilder Award to Her Excellency Mama Shamsa Abubakar Fadhil, Kenya Peace Mediator and Community Mobilizer



"This award is for the youth of the world"

SESSION II

SOFT LAUNCH OF THE BOOK HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE: UNRAVELING THE CONNECTIONS



The session unveiled the upcoming book, "Health and Climate Change: Unraveling the Connections," by Dr. Saroj Pachauri, Dr. Ash Pachauri, and Dr. M.P. Jonathan. Dr. Saroj Pachauri emphasized the recent acknowledgment that climate change is a public health crisis impacting mental health and contributing to the rise of dangerous zoonotic diseases. The book, categorized into four themes, explores climate change's diverse effects on human health and provides insights and case studies from various regions. It documents evidence-based research to understand these connections and addresses the pressing need for mitigation strategies. The chapters, spanning developed and developing countries, offer a valuable resource for researchers, activists, and governments globally.

TIME TO TREAT THE CLIMATE CRISIS: HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This session aimed to delve into the intricate intersections between climate change and human health acknowledging the universally recognized phenomenon of climate change and its increasingly evident impact on wellbeing. The session organized by the Population Council in collaboration with the POP Movement focused on discussing the complex pathways through which climate change affects human health. It examined the effect of climate change on vulnerable populations and suggested strategies to address the escalating incidence of climate-related health problems.



In the shared voices session on climate change and health, Dr. Vidhya Venugopal shed light on the profound impact of heat on vulnerable workers, particularly children. She emphasized the disproportionate burden on the poor and highlighted the struggles of farmers and the harsh living conditions for those without shelter. The repercussions extend to mental health and contribute to distressing statistics, such as the alarming rate of farmer suicides.

Mr. Nand Kishore addressed the interconnectedness of climate change, health, and agriculture. He proposed a community-based flood action system as a solution and stressed the pivotal role of children and youth in catalyzing present and future change. Notably, he advocated for small, consistent actions, reinforcing the principle that prevention is better than cure.

Additional voices, such as Jyoti Sharma, Akash Mishra, Purnasha Pany, and Pawan Kumar, brought diverse perspectives. Their contributions ranged from raising climate awareness in rural villages to addressing health issues like anemia and food poisoning. The consensus was that youth must shoulder the responsibility of climate action, emphasizing the need for tangible efforts and a collective commitment to a sustainable future.

Watch the Session

CULTIVATING UNITY - EMPOWERING ACTION-BASED EDUCATION THROUGH TREE PLANTING FOR HUMAN FRATERNITY

The "Cultivating Unity" panel at the POP Festival 2024 delved into the transformative impact of tree plantation as a catalyst for addressing environmental challenges and fostering unity within communities, youth, and women. The call to action invited global leaders and young individuals to join hands in a collective effort to plant trees, emphasizing the interconnectedness of environmental responsibility and shared purpose.



Levy Nyirenda, POP Youth Representative from Zambia, shared insights into the POP Movement's climate education and tree planting project in Zambia. With a national reach, the project emphasizes the "Leave No One Behind" approach, making programs accessible to all age groups. The initiative aims to engage forestry officers, expand awareness programs, leverage technology, and forge partnerships for sustainable impact.

Anandjit Goswami, Founder of Tohri Foundation, expressed gratitude for the opportunity and outlined their diverse projects, including tree planting, self-help micro-enterprise mentoring, reskilling, mental health initiatives, and cultural development. Collaborating with various organizations, the foundation remains committed to building a sustainable and prosperous world.

Her Excellency Mama Shamsa Abubakar Fadhil, a Kenya Peace Mediator, passionately conveyed the vital connection between humanity and nature. Drawing attention to Kenya's climate challenges, she urged everyone to embrace the responsibility of caring for nature, emphasizing the POP Movement's slogan of "Leave No One Behind" in the pursuit of climate justice.

Rajiv K Shrivastava, Founder of Act Now, shared a teacher's perspective on sustainability. Inspired by a tree planting moment with Late Dr. R.K Pachauri, he emphasized the significance of individual actions, encouraging everyone to plant trees and offset their carbon footprint. Shrivastava stressed that "sustainability is a mindset and a way of life, achievable through collaborative efforts."

In essence, the session underscored the power of collective action in fostering environmental stewardship, unity, and sustainable change.

Watch the session

WORKSHOP I

INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECISION-MAKING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

By Heeta Lakhani, Founder & Director, ClimAct Foundation and Co-Founder, Youth Negotiators Academy



Embark on an interactive session exploring the effects of climate change. From soaring temperatures and global warming to melting glaciers and rising sea levels, Ms. Heeta Lakhani delved into personal experiences with climate change, encompassing heatwaves, droughts, and floods in Delhi. Understand the impact of greenhouse gases—carbondioxide, methane, carbon monoxide, fluorocarbons, and nitrogen oxide—leading to temperature increases and global warming. Uncovered the perilous consequences, including storms, hurricanes, and biodiversity loss in oceans. The workshop explored the roots of climate change in industrialization, notably from developed nations, causing an imbalance in resources.

Watch the workshop

SESSION III

YOUTHQUAKE: ACTION TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF CHANGE

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

In this session, youth and leaders from across countries showcased their innovative, technology-oriented, ecological, biodiversity, and community initiatives through their presentations.



<mark>Mr.</mark> Arka Sarkar, Human a<mark>nd Environment Alliance</mark> League

Dr. Ruth Mitchell, Paediatric and Adult Neurosurgeon, Sydney Children's Hospital and Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1985 [The Dual Challenge of the Nuclear Crisis and Climate Change]





Ms. Prasiddhi Singh, Prasiddhi Forest
Foundation, [India Harnessing the power of
Nature-Based Solutions: A case study in
reforestation, community engagement & climate
action], India

Dr. Konstantin Pavlidis, Complementary Medical practitioner and Movement Master & Director and Founder, Orassy Health and Lidia Gerasimova, Orassy Health [An Integrated Health Model]



Mr. Geoffrey Lipman and Dodo, SUNx Malta, Belgium [Sustainable Tourism]



Mr. Markandey Rai, International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP) [Blue Economy]





Mr. Samuel C. Okorie, POP Nigeria Initiative, Nigeria [Non-Economic Loss and Damage]

Ms. Neha Jain, Ritika, Himani, Suraj, Climate Ready, Delhi, India [Climate Ready], India





Mr. Monaaleekh BK Gowda, Bangalore [Green Urbanization]

Mr. Sayan Das, Kapda Karo Recycle, West Bengal, India [Textile Recycling Opened Loop Recycling], India





Mr. Uroš Popadić, Serbia [Scientific Research: The Effect of the Paris Climate Agreement on the United Nations Climate Change Conferences]

Mr. Levy Nyirenda, POP Youth Mentor and Representative from Zambia, [POP Zambia Initiative]





Mr. Ivan Ransom, Co-founders, Resilience 2020, Mexico [Resilience 2020]



Ms. Prachi Shevgaonkar, Founder, Cool The Globe, India [Cool the Globe App]

Mr. Ved Solanke, Nath Valley School, Aurangabad, India [Socioeconomic Initiative for Ecological Agri-food Production and Consumption]











...and more presentations by youth leaders and school groups.

Watch the presentations

WORKSHOP II

ECO-CRAFT WORKSHOP

By Rakesh Khatri, Nest Man of India & Founder Trustee, Eco Roots Foundation organized by The Energy and Resources Institute, Delhi



An engaging session was specially designed in collaboration with TERI for youth who were eager to explore the world of crafting while learning about the importance of environmental sustainability. The workshop focused on the making of nests by participating school students to portray the

significance of caring for environments, animals, and ourselves in achieving the goal of a sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous world.

Watch the Workshop

RENEWED RUNWAY: WHERE STYLE MEETS SUSTAINABILITY - A FASHION SHOW Choreographer: Mr. Abhimanyu Singh Tomar



Step into a world where style gracefully dances hand-in-hand with sustainability at Renewed Runway: Where Style Meets Sustainability, a captivating fashion showcase within the enchanting realm of the POP Festival 2024. Renewed Runway serves as a visual manifesto for a greener, more sustainable future in fashion. From upcycled couture to designs rooted in circular fashion principles, the runway becomes a canvas where artistry meets environmental consciousness. We did not only celebrate style but also

sparked a vital conversation about the transformative potential of sustainable fashion. It was not just a fashion show; it's a declaration that style and sustainability can harmoniously co-exist, setting a new standard for the fashion industry and inspiring a global shift towards conscious choices.







Watch the Fashion Show

SESSION IV

LAUNCH OF THE BOOK TRANSFORMING UNEQUAL GENDER RELATIONS IN INDIA AND BEYOND: AN INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In this session, the transformative work "Transforming Unequal Gender Relations in India and Beyond: An Intersectional Perspective on Challenges and Opportunities" took center stage. Co-edited by Dr. Saroj Pachauri, a Public Health Specialist and Climate and Health Mentor at the POP Movement and Dr. Ravi Verma, Asia Regional Director for International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), this remarkable book, published in 2023, delves into the intricate layers of gender relations. Dr. Pachauri and Dr. Verma shared their reflections on the profound insights encapsulated in this literary endeavor. Additionally, Ms. Satvinder Kaur, the Publishing Editor of Springer Publisher, and other contributing authors joined us on stage for this momentous occasion.

The book, offering a unique intersectional perspective on gender equality and SDG5, explores the convergence of gender with various structural drivers of inequalities including caste and class, regional, ethnic, and sexual identities, it presents case studies and empirical findings, addressing challenges to implementing SDG5 in practice. The chapters discuss policies promoting gender equality, preventing violence against women and girls, and advancing women in decision-making and leadership roles. Emphasizing the transformation of gender norms, the book argues for recognizing women and girls as independent economic entities. It dismantled the notion of monolithic masculinity. A critical reference for researchers, policymakers, students, and scholars across gender studies, women's studies, and sociology, it reflects on progress made and the journey still ahead.



Watch the Session

MOVIE SCREENING: A VIDEO COMPILATION

Watch the Screening

Global leaders graciously shared their key insights via video messages, reflecting on two pivotal questions: 1) What does Human Fraternity mean to them? 2) A personalized message directed to the youth of the POP Movement. A total of twenty-five heartfelt messages were received and compiled into a compelling video presentation, capturing the essence of wisdom, unity, and inspiration shared at the festival.



Human Fraternity for Youth-Led Climate Action





COMMEMORATING THE LEGACY OF DR. R.K. PACHAURI A GALA TRIBUTE TO THE ICON



The event concluded with a sense of fulfillment as we transitioned from the realms of scientific knowledge to the profound experiences of humanism, fraternity, and collective consciousness. It encompassed expressions of music, art, culture, advocacy for the natural environment, equity, justice, and the empowering belief that together, we can overcome challenges for the betterment of our planet and humanity.

This momentous gathering witnessed the active participation of national and international organizations, collaboration with numerous institutions, the presence of dignitaries, Nobel Peace Prize laureates, heads of state, scientists, students, social activists, nature defenders, artists, fashion models, musicians, schools, universities, and more. The day culminated in commemorating the legacy of our Chief Mentor, marked by cultural performances from school students and youth leaders, adding vibrancy to the evening.

With participation from 41 countries, both in-person and online and presentations of 28 youth-led projects on climate action, the event showcased global commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change and global warming. The enthusiastic energy of the youth participants infused the festival with unparalleled meaning and vitality.

As we part ways, let's carry forward the spirit of collaboration and commitment to effect positive

change in the world. In the pursuit of sustainability, we pledge to keep Dr. Pachauri's vision alive by supporting youth worldwide. The day was filled with joy, featuring activities, music, art exhibitions, and a fashion show at the India Habitat Center. Emotional speeches and impactful demonstrations underscored what can and should be done. It was heartening to witness people from diverse nationalities, particularly the Latin American contingent, united by goodwill and determination to create positive environmental transformations.

"In times of darkness and uncertainty, when the future of humanity seems clouded, it is the flashes of light that are most appreciated — those that illuminate and reveal the true colors and positive elements that always exist—Dra. Rosalia Arteaga, Former President of Ecuador."

MEDIA ARTICLES BY DRA. ROSALIA ARTEAGA





Download Preview

LA ACCIÓN CLIMÁTICA ES LIDERADA POR LOS JÓVENES

El festival Protect Our Planet -POP, dirigido a los jóvenes y que tuvo lugar en la India, se centró en temas de importancia global, como clima, salud, uso de la tecnología en la acción climática y la equidad y justicia, entre otros. En representación de Ecuador asistió la Dra. Rosalía Arteaga, presidenta ejecutiva de Fundación FI-DAL, para participar en la conferencia Mañana es el



primer día del resto de nuestras vidas: fraternidad humana, seguridad humana, amor, compasión y paz. Además, recibió el Premio Icono del Clima, que le fue otorgado en el 2022.

CLIMATE ACTION IS LEADED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

Summary

withe Protect Our Planet PCP festival, aimed at young people and taking place in India, focused on issues of global importance, such as climate, health, use of technology in climate action and equity and justice, among others. Dr. Rosalia Arteaga, executive president of the PIDAL Foundation, attended on behalf of Equator to participate in the conference Tomorow is the first day of the rest of our lives: human fraternity, human security, love, compassion and peace. Additionally, she received the Climate Icon Award, which was awarded to her in 2022.

ME-mail

National Columnists

POP Festival

February B, 2024















Rosalia Arteaga Serrano

When things look dark and full of uncertainties, when the future appears full of black clouds, that is when the flashes of light are most appreciated, those that illuminate and make us see the real colors and positive things.



IMPACT NUMBERS





MESSAGE BOARD ON HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR YOUTH-LED CLIMATE ACTION

The Bin Zayed Group has embarked on a noble endeavor, gathering heartfelt messages from the youth across the globe and esteemed global leaders alike, centered on themes of **human fraternity**, **peace**, **love**, **and compassion**. At the POP Festival 2024, we curated a sacred space, where the vibrant voices of the world's youth and other passionate participants resonated, as they shared their profound messages of hope and unity.

