



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



सत्यमेव जयते



Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development

A joint initiative by UNESCO and the Government of India

UNESCO and the Government of India in a major new partnership

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Government of India are embarking on a major new partnership to create the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development.

Through research and capacity-building, the Institute aims to develop and promote new



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Minister Kapil Sibal (India) and UNESCO's Director-General, Irina Bokova, at the signature of the agreement establishing the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, July 2012.

approaches to education, empowering learners to transform their lives and build a more peaceful and sustainable world.

Based in New Delhi, this will be the first UNESCO specialized education Institute in India, and the first in the Asia-Pacific region. It is particularly fitting that the Institute is hosted by India, the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi and a country that has made a significant commitment to education over the past decades.



Photo provided courtesy of the Indian National Commission for UNESCO



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Transforming education for tomorrow's world

The Mahatma Gandhi Institute has been created based on the fundamental conviction that education can help provide the answers to some of the greatest challenges of the 21st century, from poverty, conflict and deepening inequality to threats related to climate change and environmental degradation.

Today's challenges are global in nature and require global solutions. As the international community looks towards a new sustainable development agenda, it is increasingly recognized that education can play a decisive role in fostering a sense of shared responsibility and in bringing about fundamental changes in how we coexist with each other and our planet.

Education is essential to bringing shared values to life and to gaining the skills required in the new millennium: how to coexist peacefully, live sustainably, work collaboratively, think critically and develop creative solutions. Yet these principles and skills are not given nearly enough priority in teaching and learning today. We need a profound transformation in how we learn and what we learn for.

The Mahatma Gandhi Institute aims to help governments transform education systems, drawing on UNESCO's experience and inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's legacy.

A centre for excellence in education

The core business of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute will lie in research and capacity-development, supporting education reform and innovation in education for peace and sustainable development particularly throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

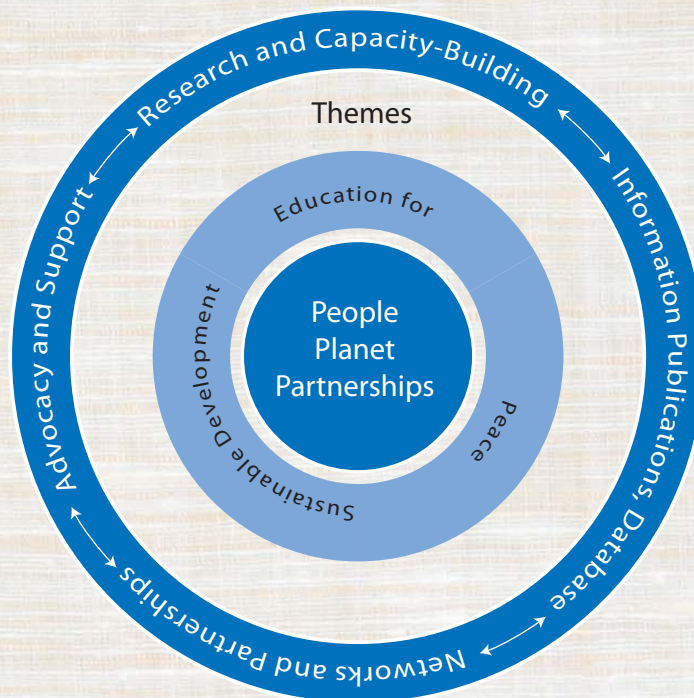
An expert Advisory Body has been appointed to provide guidance on initial strategic priorities for the Institute. Chaired by the distinguished Indian diplomat, Lalit Mansingh, and comprising leading international educationalists, the Advisory Body will work with the Director of the Institute to develop a programme of activities in the following domains:

Expanding the knowledge base: the Institute will collect information on good practice in education for peace and sustainable development, showcasing what works

and why, and providing guidance on how successful programmes can be scaled up or replicated in other countries.

Providing technical advice: working closely with UNESCO's offices in the region, the Institute will support governments in reorienting their education systems to better promote peace and sustainable development, helping to identify gaps and develop appropriate policy responses.

Building networks and partnerships: by connecting national and regional experts and institutions, and harnessing UNESCO's dynamic networks of University Chairs, Associated Schools and National Commissions, the Institute will forge a common platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration.



Creation of the Institute

The decision to establish the Mahatma Gandhi Institute was voted unanimously by UNESCO's 35th session of the General Conference in 2009 and formally established in July 2012. It has been made possible through the generous support of the Government of India.

The Institute joins the family of six other UNESCO "Category 1" Institutes in the field of education. Category 1 Institutes are an integral part of UNESCO's education programme and budget, bringing additional specialized expertise in core areas such as planning, curriculum development and lifelong learning.



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The legacy of Mahatma Gandhi

In choosing to name the Institute after Mahatma Gandhi, one of the greatest political and spiritual leaders of the 20th century, UNESCO and the Government of India pay a fitting tribute to India's 'Father of the Nation'. They also draw inspiration from his thoughts, principles and actions which are still more relevant than ever in today's world.

Gandhi's teachings of tolerance, non-violence (*Ahimsa*) and insistence of truth (*Satyagraha*) will provide a guiding spirit to the work of the Institute. His respect for nature, his fight for justice and equality and his undying passion for learning and education encapsulate the mission of the Institute.

UNESCO and Education for sustainable development

Since its creation, UNESCO has viewed education as the single most powerful tool to promote peace, defend human dignity and achieve sustainable development. Under the banner of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), UNESCO has reinforced its commitment to integrating the values, skills and knowledge relevant for sustainable development into education, working with civil society organizations and other partners to forge a global movement for education reform. Designated as the lead agency for the Decade, the Organization also provides direct support to governments in their efforts to integrate education for sustainable development into formal and non-formal education.

“*If we are to reach real peace in this world and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with children.*”

– Mahatma Gandhi



“*Education is what gives individuals the knowledge, aspiration and values to live in dignity and act for the common good. This is why it is the most basic foundation for building lasting peace and sustainable development.*”

– Irina Bokova,
UNESCO Director-General



Shaping the future

As we approach the close of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the 2015 target for the Millennium Development Goals draws near, the creation of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute comes at a time when the world is charting a new course for global development.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in June 2012 set in motion the process for defining concrete sustainable development goals that will shape the post-2015 agenda of ‘the future we want’. The Conference highlighted the central role of education in achieving sustainable development, and called for reforms to ensure the transformative potential of education is realized.

In September 2012, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched a major new global education initiative, ‘Education First’, providing a further opportunity to promote the transformative power of education. UNESCO’s Director-General, in her role as the Executive-Secretary of the Initiative’s High-Level Steering Committee, will offer strategic guidance on how to link education more closely to achieving sustainable development fostering global citizenship, and mobilizing stronger political, public and private sector support for education.

In support of these collective commitments, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute will be a powerful advocate for UNESCO’s vision of education, encouraging governments to include peace education and education for sustainable development within national teaching and learning environments at all levels, and ensuring that the momentum for education reforms is maintained.



“ Earth provides
enough to satisfy every man’s
need, but not every
man’s greed. ”

– Mahatma Gandhi



For more information, see: www.unesco.org
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