

Raising the bar higher :

The Dais SDG Lab powered by Rana University, Kabul, Afghanistan : Signing of Memorandum of Understanding

The need to empower youth for a better future is connected to elevating a nation as well as equipping them to handle the challenges that the SDG's have laid on a global front. The Dais & Rana University along with partners from Academia and Civil Society from Afghanistan, Indonesia and India gathered together towards setting up of The Dais SDG Lab at Rana University, Afghanistan.

The Dais SDG Labs Program was instituted by The Dais on 24th October, 2019, United Nations Day to empower educational institutions and youth towards achievement of SDGs through sensitization, capacity building, social entrepreneurship and collaborations. The Dais is an organization based in Delhi, India with a vision to empower people towards a better life. The achievement of SDGs and leaving no-one behind is one of the core objectives of The Dais, with primary focus on environmental preservation, ensuring equality for all, improved education for children and youth and towards a peaceful and prosperous world.

The signing commenced with the Master of the Ceremony , Ms. Indrani Sharma setting the context and giving all the stakeholders and attendees a purview about Sustainable Development Goals, the developments brought so far.

This was followed by a inspirational experience sharing and context building by Mr Nixon Joseph, chief guest, partner The Dais who also commended Rana University for their foresightedness and advocated to the students to “think creatively, think differently and bring change”. Though the global challenges may sound daunting for today's youth, the UN SDGs provide pathways to a better world and has been developed by the global governing body under the motto “leaving no one behind”. The Dais has been working on the implementation and development of the SDGs together with UN agencies and leaders since their inception in 2015.



*“There is no specific time to bring change, any time is good to bring change”
- Mr Nixon Joseph, President and COO, SBI Foundation, India*

After the warm welcome, Mr. Sayed Mustafa Saiedy, Vice Chancellor - Academic, Rana University who leading this collaboration welcomed and thanked The Dais and all the other stakeholders for their never-ending support for peace resolutions and education in Afghanistan and asserted that they would work hard to make the SDG lab a great success. According to him, the energy optimism and creativity present in young people are invaluable resources, sources of transformation and constant creation.

The University will become an innovative hub for community building to build networks across the world and a discussion forum for a diverse range of activities be able to apply the knowledge from the lecture halls and put into practice the knowledge as they reach sustainable solutions that center around the implementation of the UN SDG's goals and targets have been curated to highlight the learning material and curriculum of the college students.

The next segment was led by Ms. Rupa Chakravarty, Senior Advisor, The Dais & Director, Suncity Schools, India, who illustrated via her presentation 'Role of Educational Institutions & Youth in Achievement of SDGs' the different dimensions of impact that the SDG lab hosted by The Dais would have at Rana University. the need and importance to move forward in sync with the developing times, the importance of energy preservation and also the emergency for the youth to ascend and take hold of the depleting environment and education system.

*“The aim of education is to collaborate, corroborate and ensure that we are ready for the real world”
- Ms. Rupa Chakravarty, Senior Advisor, The Dais & Director, Suncity Schools, India*

Mr. Pardeep Sharma, Coordinator for The Dais SDG Lab, Kabul from the International Relations Office, Rana University affirmed that this venture is to “learn from each other” and that collaborating with the SDG lab would provide great insight to tackle global challenges.



Former UN official and Chief of Staff for The Dais SDG Lab Program, Mr. Peter Kakucska raised high hopes for the UN SDG's lab at Rana University and added that leadership will show the students at Rana University the light to the UN and could help enrich the students learning experiences, who was also backed by Ms. Jasmine Susan Jose, Director, The Dais SDG Labs Program, through her presentation 'SDGs & The Dais SDG Labs Program' maintained that this collaboration will provide a "platform and resources" to help students through meaningful engagement and the SDG lab will help foster a culture of collaboration and knowledge exchange. Ms. Sakshi Gupta, Ms. Manvi Nagpal, Ms. Muskan Ajitsaria and Ms. Anoushka Vellara also provided key inputs during the presentation.

This was followed by the Partners of the Lab sharing their remarks with Dr. Imam Wahyudi Karimullah, MA, Head of Office of International Affairs, University of Islam Malang (UNISMA), Indonesia asserting that education and collaboration is the key to change our world and extended support for the SDG's lab at Rana University. Dr. Edrees Tabasum, Academic Vice Chancellor, Taj University, Afghanistan implored other universities to also join this noble cause of being "change makers" and stated that "University is where this change starts".

The remarks of the Partners were followed by the Deans and the inspiring students of various faculties at Rana University discussing the potential role of Computer Science, Journalism, Business Management and Political Science in contributing the SDGs and to engage with the The Dais SDG Lab at Rana University.

Mr. Keshav Gupta, Founder, The Dais concluded the event and asserted that "inclusivity would play a huge part through the program and that nobody should be left behind in thoughts or in actions". The Dais SDG Lab powered by Rana University, Kabul will be directly impacting 20,000 youth in Afghanistan over the next 5 years.

