

WORLD ORGANISATION OF STUDENTS AND YOUTH
5TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: INCREASING INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING
AMONG YOUTH
19-20 Feb.2011, Punjab University, Chandigarh

An international seminar has been organised by WOSY with the theme 'Celebrating Diversity- Increasing Intercultural Understanding Among Youth' on 19-20 Feb.2011 at Punjab University, Chandigarh. The agenda behind the seminar was to understand the diverse aspects of humanity with a broader vision to accept and respect the same. There was a participation of 221 delegates belonging 37 nations. Delegates were given the opportunity to represent their country and talk about the negative and positives sides of their country with special reference to culture and its contribution to the socio economic development of the nation in particular and the world as a whole. The two day seminar was divided into plenary sessions. Each session dealt with the aspects and necessity of culture by experts.

Day 1

Inaugural Function

The seminar was inaugurated at Law Bhavan, Sector 37, Chandigarh with Mr. Sunil Gullati, Principal Secretary, Finance Commission of Haryana State Government as the Chief Guest. The inaugural function was blessed with the kind presence of Mr.Satpal Gosai, Deputy Speaker of Punjab Legislative Assembly, Sri Sunil Ambekar, Advisory Council Member, WOSY and National Organising Secretary, ABVP, Dr.Rashmi Singh, Chairperson, WOSY, Sri.Aniket Kale, Secretary General WOSY, Sri. Sanjeev Ningombam, Convener,Seminar, Sri. Syroos Zaboli, Co-Convener, Seminar, Sri.H. S. Baath, Chairman, Reception Committee, and Sri. Munish Sabharwal, Secretary, Reception Committee and Smt. Nalini, Regional officer, Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

Sri Sanjeev Ningombam Initiated the inaugural function with the introduction and the outlining the agenda of the seminar. Sri H.S Baath welcomed the gathering representing the Reception Committee as the Chairman. Sri. Aniket Kale went on a brief of WOSY, its need in cross cultural understanding. He made a note on the activities of WOSY and its development. Sri Sunil Ambekar recalls the agenda of establishing WOSY in 1985 and praised the effort of WOSY by crossing the 25th year of existence with multiple varieties of activities. He mentioned that WOSY has reach momentum and has still a long way to go. Sri. Syroos Zaboli brief about the agenda of seminar. Sri. Sunil Gullati praised WOSY for the initiative of bringing youths from diverse ethnical background and for a common understanding. Dr.Rashmi Singh delivered the Chairperson remark. She emphasised on the role for culture into bringing human races together. The inaugural function concluded with the thanksgiving note by Munish Sabharwal.

Session 1: Intercultural understanding, a guarantee for global peace.

Sri. Sushil Pandit, former Chairman WOSY and present member of advisor council WOSY spoke on the various aspects of culture. He emphasised on the need of respecting the diverse concepts of humanity which in turn can lead for building a better consensus. The session was chaired by Mr. Somprakash (Retd. IAS Officer). He conclude the session with his remark.

There were presentations made by the delegates as well on the culture related issues. The delegates who presented papers in the 1st session are:

1. Vivek Kumar, Pratyush Verma, Devesh Vohra & Himanshu Taunk
From India
Topic: "India" (Slide Show)
2. Abdulsalam Dorrazehi
From Iran
Topic: The Role of Culture in the Economic Development of Countries.
3. Absolom 'O Nyang 'Au
From Kenya
Topic: Diversity of Intercultural Communication today.
4. Arth Patel and Sushant Kumar Suman
From India
Topic: Celebrating a Common Culture – Humanity.
5. Sirijitti Pan-ngoan
From Thailand
Topic: The Kingdom of Thailand

Session II – Economic development & its impact on culture.

Mr. Sunil Ambekar, the main speaker of the Session gave an insight of the culture and its role in fostering the economy of a nation. He emphasised that the economy of a nation has a strong resemblance of its culture and has been reflected from the same.

The delegates who presented papers in the 2nd session are:

1. Mohammad Hashim Pashtun
From Afghanistan
Topic: Afghan Culture – Motherland of Different Cultures
2. Ajit (Panchia)
From India
Topic: Milestones and Evolution of the Indian Culture.
3. Varshibye Appa
From Mauritius
Topic: The Republic of Mauritius
4. Tshoejab Mepham
From Bhutan
Topic: Gross National Happiness

Group Discussion

With the aim of generating ideas from delegates a group discussion has been arranged. Delegates were entertained to pop up with their ideas on basics of culture, theme of the seminar and their experience. The total delegates were divided into three groups being chaired by experts.

Cultural Programme

The cultural programme performed by students from different chapters took the day into a different turn bringing all into a tune and cheers. There was performance from the following:

1. Mauritius
2. Nepal
3. India (Yoga)
4. Tajikistan
5. Iran
6. Tibet
7. India (Bhangra)

Day 2

Session III – The Philosophical aspects of culture:

The fourth session of the seminar marked the Philosophical aspects of culture. The session was presided by, Mr. Susheel Gupta, the main speaker of the session. Mr. Sunil Gupta (Vice Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University) chaired the session. Both of them mainly focussed on the various philosophies underlying any culture. They said that though the pattern of each culture is different in the world but the source of the values and principles of all the cultures are more or less similar. They also stated that philosophies underlying the cultures are directly or indirectly related to each other.

The delegates who presented paper in this session are:

1. Sudeshna Bhattacharya
From India
Topic: Role of Youth in Intercultural Understanding
2. Kenneth
From Uganda
Topic: Cultures in Uganda
3. Vatan Hojayev
From Turkmenistan
Topic: Interaction between the Cultures of the World

4. Mohd. Ismail Hashime
From Afghanistan
Topic: Cultural Diversity, as a Factor of Comprehensive & Sustainable Development
5. Khatanzorig Enkhbold
From Mongolia
Topic: About Mongolia
6. Jalal Hatim Rashed
From Iraq
Topic: The Diversity of Cultures in Iraq

Session 5

This session focussed mainly on the presentation from delegates. A series of papers were presented with special reference to culture and its importance.

The delegates who presented paper in this session are as follows:

1. Mosomi Enoch Mogendi
From Kenya
Topic- Diversity, The concept of Peace & Love
2. Omwono Gedion Alang'O
From Kenya
Topic- Managing Diversity
3. Ali Amani
From Afghanistan
Topic- Afghanistan
4. Laxmi Poudel & Roshee Larichhane
From Nepal
Topic: Nepal: Diversity & Inclusion
5. Abdul Ahad Nawabi
From Afghanistan
Topic: Afghani Culture
6. Simin Anbarshahi
From Iran
Topic: Intercultural Diversity, Peace & Religion Beliefs
7. Rangina
From Tajikistan
Topic: Tajikistan- Persian Speaking Country of Central Asia
8. Ravinder Kumar Purohit & Vishesh Bansal
From India
Topic: Decaying Heritage
9. Nilu Nilesh Ram & Poonam P. Singh
From Fiji Islands
Topic: Fiji Islands- A Diverse Culture
10. Vasim Abdul
From Yemen
Topic: Culture in Yemen

11. Shivangi Borah, Monali Yadav, Debdutta Sanyal & Aditi Narayani
From India
Topic: A Case Study: Celebrating Intercultural Relationships in Delhi University Complex
12. Sakina Paiman
From Afghanistan
Topic: Women & Culture in Afghanistan
13. Prabhavi Liyanage & Pasanna Jayawardena
From Srilanka
Topic: Culture of Srilanka

Valedictory Function-

The Valedictory Function was attended by Sri.Rajneesh Arora (Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Technical University) as the Chief Guest. Sri. Avinash Rai Khanna, Member of Parliament, as the Guest of Honour of the Valedictory function. Sri. Aniket Kale, Dr. Rashmi Singh, Sri. Sunil Ambekar, Sri. Sanjeev Nigonbam, Sri. Syroos Zaboli were also present on the dais during the Valedictory Function.

The new Central Council of WOSY for the year 2011-2012 was announced. The Central Council were representatives from various chapters who will work for strengthening the activities of WOSY. The seminar was concluded with a consensus that we all we work together with the same spirit and zeal.