

WORLD ORGANISATION OF STUDENTS AND YOUTH

5TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: INCREASING INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG YOUTH

Date: 19th & 20th February, 2011

Day 1

Inauguration Function

With the purpose to understand the benefits of diversity and to appreciate the process of intercultural understanding, the 5th Seminar which was hosted at Chandigarh was inaugurated at the Law Bhavan, Sector 37, Chandigarh at 11.00 am. The Chief Guest of the Inaugural Function was Mr. Sunil Gulati, Principal Secretary, Finance Commission of Haryana State Government accompanied by Mr. Satpal Gosain, Deputy Speaker of Punjab Legislative Assembly. The function was also graced by Chairperson Dr. Rashmi Singh, Secretary General Mr. Aniket Kale and Mr. Sunil Ambekar, National Organising Secretary of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Central Advisory Council of WOSY, Mr. Sanjeev Ningombham (Convener of the Seminar), Mr. Syroos Zaboli (Co-Convener), Mr. H. S. Baath (Chairman, Reception Committee), and Mr. Munish Sabharwal (Secretary, Reception Committee) and Mrs. Nalini (Regional officer of ICCR). The Inaugural Function was attended by 230 delegates from more than 37 Countries and local Government Officials, Public Persons and Members of WOSY also marked their presence.

The Function began by the welcome speech of the Chairman of Reception Committee, Mr. H. S. Baath. The Convener Mr. Sanjeev Ningombham briefed about the objective, nature and importance of the Seminar and the theme. Mr. Aniket Kale elaborated about WOSY, mission and vision of WOSY; he also shared about the development of WOSY in different chapters in India. In his address to the delegates present, Mr. Sunil Ambekar, the chief speaker of the function explained about the importance of students' activities, students' movement and its essential role in the nation-building. Mr. Sunil Gulati, the Chief Guest of the function, in his speech, appreciated the initiative taken by WOSY. He explained the universalism of culture and explained the basic streamline that the shades of the cultures in the world are different but they all share the same core values and beliefs. Dr. Rashmi Singh, delivered the key-note address. Mr. Munish Sabharwal concluded the function by giving vote of thanks.

Session 1

After a short break of Lunch, 1st session of which the theme was Intercultural Understanding, a Guarantee for Global Peace, happened in the English Auditorium of Punjab University. The Main Speaker of the Session was Mr. Sushil Pandit (ex-Chairperson of WOSY). Mr. Sushil Pandit spoke on various aspects of culture; he further added that celebration of cultural diversity can lead to better understanding of cultural diversity. He said that all different cultures share one source of energy while developing. The session was chaired by Mr. Somprakash (Retd. IAS Officer). He gave a concluding 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 2

The second session on the same day revolved around the topic - Culture Matters. Mr. Sunil Ambekar, the main speaker of the Session talked about the relation between Culture & the Economy. He said that each culture has resulted into its own pattern of economy or economic structure, which is suitable for the development of that particular culture. But it is the fact that the Universal economic structure may not be significant for the world development. It's the symbiotic association between culture and economy.

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 Mephram
From Bhutan
Topic: Gross National Happiness

Group Discussion

The third session held was of the Group Discussion. There were 3 groups made up distributing equal number of delegates in each one of them. The three groups discussed about different culture related issues, shared their opinions, shared their experiences, etc. The group discussion lasted for 1 hour.

Cultural Programme

A cultural programme was held on Day 1 evening. Different performances from many different countries took place. A comprehensive list of countries from which the performances took place are as follows:

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

Day 2

Session 4

The fourth session of the seminar was about the Philosophy of the culture. This session was presided by, Mr. Susheel Gupta, the main speaker of the session. While 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 was dedicated to the paper presentations of the delegates.

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, Debductta 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 Mr Rajneesh Arora (Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Technical University) as the Chief Guest. Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna was the Guest of Honour of the Valedictory function. Mr. Aniket Kale, Dr. Rashmi Singh, Mr. Sunil Ambekar, Sanjeev Nigonbham, Syroos Zaboli were also present on the dias during the Valedictory Function.

The changes in the Central Council of WOSY were announced in the function. And the new council members and the new Secretaries of the Central Council were announced. At the end the people who took efforts to make the Seminar a grand success were congratulated and appreciated.