

## WAPS Knowledge Sharing Forums - A Summary

### Dr Sunil Abrol

World Academy of Productivity Science ( WAPS ) has been organizing every quarter panel discussions with subject matter experts across Globe to deliberate on various themes linked to UN sustainable Development Goals. These virtual panel discussions are organized at WAPS Knowledge Sharing Forum (KSF). KSF events are organized by WAPS team comprising of Ms. Anita Tang (USA), Dr Sunil Abrol (India) and Remi Dario (Nigeria).

In all the three events held so far, Mr. Remi Dario acted as the Anchor and Moderator and welcomed the speakers and participants. He set the theme for the day's discussion and introduced the speakers to the audience. Dr Sunil Abrol welcomed one and all for sparing their time for the event and gave an overview of WCPS and WAPS and their activities aimed at promotion and development of productivity movement across Globe. Ms Anita Tang thanked all speakers and participants at the close of the events and summarized the key message shared by three speakers.

The first Knowledge Sharing Forum was held on September, 17, 2022 on the theme " Productivity Strategies for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals ". Dr Arun Kumar Rath, Former Secretary, Govt. of India, Ms. Detoun Ogwo, Development and HR practioner Nigeria, and Dr. Gaspare Manos, Co-founder, Adtones Ltd., UK, were the panelists.

The views shared by the three panelists are summarized below :

#### Dr Arun Kumar Rath :

- Economic growth and productivity are intrinsically linked.
- Development to focus on Economic sustainable development, Environment, Reduction in Risks and Hazards and Social-Community participation.
- COVID 19 whipped off 4 yrs of poverty eradication.
- 100 million people migrated due to COVID 19.
- Wages have become stagnant since COVID 19.
- Need for Social Security for one and all.
- Business corporations need to be more responsible to society.
- Climate change challenges caused by Green House effect need attention.
- Principles of Economic, Social and Governance (ESG) need focus for sustainable development.
- Need for local laws and their enforcement besides commitment of the Govt.
- ESG criteria to be followed by all nations.
- Need to phase down use of coal.
- Need to develop carbon credit economy.
- Civil Society to advocate sustainable development.
- Need to de incentivize excessive use and consumption of energy.

#### Ms. Detoun Ogwo :

- Nigeria has challenges related to Education, Poverty, Health, employment etc.
- Challenge of output per worker vs quality of life of average citizen.
- We need to have bias for action.
- Need for economic transformation both in public and private sectors.

- National productivity low despite great planning documents.
- Need for benchmarking to leap frog .
- Need for continuous monitoring and improvement.
- Need for self introspection to identify areas for improvement.
- Need for evidence based planning for achieving SDG's.
- Everyone to understand need for productivity at individual and national level.



### **Dr Gaspare Manos :**

- Need to link productivity with sustainable development.
- Productivity works better when linked to community.
- Bye in of people necessary for achieving productivity.
- Productivity increases with linkages with Economic, Social Environmental fields.
- Cheaper and faster is recipe for disaster.
- Biggest challenge for Sustainable development goals is , Who pays for it.?
- Need to use Social media for dissemination of SDG message.
- Mobile phones can be great tool for reaching out to the last man.
- Productivity is linked to Finance and politics.
- Public policy has great role in achieving SDG's.

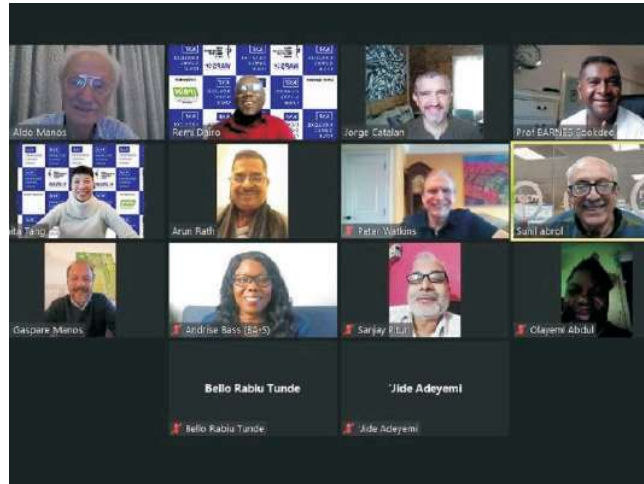
The second Knowledge Sharing Forum was held on December, 8, 2022 on the theme " Climate change- implications for you and me ". Mr. Jorge Catalan, Leader in organic food movement ,Mexico, Dr Andrise Bass,Chair, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Kenya/ USA, and Dr Aldo Manos, Climate change expert, Italy/Kenya, were the panelists.

The views shared by the three panelists are summarized below :

### **Mr. Jorge Catalan :**

- Do local but Global
- We may not be able to live where we live today.
- Manufacturers of plastic bottle and huge CO2 are sponsors of COP27.
- 37% of Global energy consumed by Agriculture sector.
- Need to follow sustainable development practices in agriculture sector.

- Do not fight with nature
- Focus n Bio diversity.
- We care for oil and not soil
- Need for soil protection. Avoid insecticides.
- Use local produce and seasonal produce to reduce consumption of oil and refrigeration.



### **Ms. Andrise Bass :**

- Human action causing climate change
- There is not enough action towards climate change.
- Climate change is a Human Right.
- Floods destroy humanity .
- Countries do not have plans or budget for climate impact events.
- Collaboration is the way forward
- All of us guilty of climate change
- Solutions today are too small
- People to take action their level without waiting for Govt. support and initiative.
- Action required towards food security, trafficking , migration and health care.

### **Dr Aldo Manos :**

- Need to change Gross Domestic Production to Gross Domestic Pollution as a measure of economic development of nations.
- Focus on job creation leading to pollution.
- Lack of understanding between technology and society.
- Scientists should stay in labs and not influence public policy.
- Gap in what we know and what we do.
- We have reached tipping point.
- We are speeding down highway to death.
- Future of earth is in danger.
- People should elect politicians who will save both earth and jobs.
- Innovations in mobile technologies can be used to communicate with people need for saving earth.

Third in the series KSF panel discussion was held on the theme" Making Education Vocational for Greater Employability ".Ms. Abolaji Osime , CEO and owner Global International College, Nigeria, Prof. P.B.Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Amity University India and Dr Carolyn Watters, Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University, Canada were the panelists.



The views shared by the three panelists are summarized below :

### **Ms. Abolaji Osime :**

- Need for industry involvement in education
- There is lack of internship opportunities for students
- Need to connect students to the world of work
- Teachers Faculty need to be trained to impart skills to students
- Skills need to be made aspirational for students to become employable
- Need for making education blended -both hands on and contextual
- Curriculum to be modified to make it competency based
- Need for Career Coaching for students
- Introduce Project based learning for all disciplines
- Give students creativity skills
- Educational institutes to focus on demand side
- Education to focus on future needs

### **Prof. P.B. Sharma :**

- Education need not focus on employability
- Education for Peace, Harmony , Sustainability and Well Being
- Education to make students Future ready
- Students need to learn Personal skills
- Focus of education should be to make students outstanding human beings
- Skilling for connecting to world of work and future challenges
- Learning by doing should be the mantra
- Need for mass entrepreneurship
- Learning to focus on knowing and how to apply
- Education to go beyond STEAM( Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics ).

**Dr. Carolyn Watters :**

- Need for personal development and focus on skills in education
- Preference should be for self employment against jobs
- Set up more community colleges
- Introduce Apprenticeship in all courses
- Need for re/ up skilling of work force to make them employable
- Search for future employability skills for changes in curriculum
- On line learning to boost reach- overcome credibility challenge
- Need to develop ecosystem for credits for on the job learning
- Create pathways for those who do not have qualifications
- Need for National strategy for credit transfer
- Need for collaboration between Academia, industry Society and Govt.
- Introduce Learning Management Information Systems
- Integrate ICT in learning
- Reduce duration of courses / Micro learning.

Panel discussions followed by questions from the moderator, and audience.