



THE JENA
DECLARATION

Tuesday, May 6th 2025

TJD CONFERENCE FOR ASIA

Living Sustainability with Joy and Satisfaction

Exploring Key Features, Possibilities
and Obstacles of Joyful Sustainable Acting

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Coordination of the Online Conference:
UNESCO-Chair Global Understanding for Sustainability
Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena
and salve MEDIA GmbH Erfurt (Germany)

[Zoom-Link](#)
Meeting ID: 848 1789 2081
Passcode: 260492
Contact: unesco@uni-jena.de

ABSTRACT

The Jena Declaration emphasizes the need to integrate sustainability through joy and fulfillment. Local initiatives demonstrate that sustainable actions can strengthen communities, revive traditions, and enhance quality of life. Sustainability is not an obligation but an opportunity for a more fulfilling life rooted in solidarity and shared joy. Joy is more than just pleasure – it embodies self-efficacy, confidence, respect, pride, meaning, trust and friendship. By reimagining sustainability through the lens of joyful imagination and practice, this conference seeks to highlight joy as a catalyst for solidarity and self-organization, ultimately enriching sustainability.

Welcome and Introduction

10:00 CET
13:30 IST

Benno Werlen, UNESCO-Chair Global Understanding for Sustainability (Germany)
Garry Jacobs, CEO of the World Academy of Art & Science (USA)
Joanne Kauffman, Independent Sustainability Expert (France)

Section 1

Habits of Joyful Sustainable Acting

Chair: **Benno Werlen and Joanne Kauffman**

10:30–11.30 CET
14:00–15:00 IST

Joint-Session by RWYC **Reconnecting With Your Culture: Experiences in Asia**

The session will explore RWYC's work in Asia, highlighting how joyful and purposeful sustainable action is intrinsically tied to the revitalization of cultural heritage. By embracing local cultural values, RWYC fosters self-efficacy, pride, and collective well-being. The discussion will reflect on the latest RWYC exhibition in Tokyo and Sapporo and present key projects from Japan, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka.

Olimpia Niglio, University of Pavia (Italy) and President RWYC International
Gireesh Kumar, B.H.U. Varanasi and RWYC India
Rana P.B. Singh, RWYC India and President RWYC Asia
Mira Sartika, RWYC Asia (Indonesia)

11:30–12:00 CET 15:00–15:30 IST	Narratives of Joy and Resilience on the Edge Climate change communication through arts and humanities is key to driving action. The presentation explores the lives of Sundarbans communities—seafarers, fishers, shrimp farmers, woodcutters, and honey collectors—impacted by rising seas, storms, and erosion. Through theater, they are portrayed not as victims but as resilient storytellers, teaching others to see beyond their own worlds and fostering a deeper connection to climate realities. Raminder Kaur, GRID Heritage and University of Sussex (GB)
12:00–12:30 CET 15:30–16:00 IST	The “Living Laboratory” Sustainability Model of Assam Don Bosco University The presentation explores how university campuses can integrate sustainability with personal well-being, creating environments that foster environmental awareness and joy. Initiatives like renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable food systems can turn campuses into innovation hubs. Community activities, such as tree planting and workshops, enhance collective purpose. The Assam Don Bosco University demonstrates how the “Living Laboratory” model encourages long-term behavioral change in students, promoting sustainability beyond graduation. Pori Das, Assam Don Bosco University (India)
12:30–13:00 CET 16:00–16:30 IST	BREAK
13:00–13:05 CET 16:30–16:35 IST	Video-Statement by Paul Shrivastava, Co-President of The Club of Rome (Switzerland)

Section 2
Health as Prerequisite for Joyful Sustainability

Chair
Melba Angni, Director of International Affairs and Linkages and TJD Ambassador (Philippines)

13:05–14:00 CET 16:35–17:30 IST	Joint-Session by Earth5R: Connecting Inner and Planetary Sustainability In this presentation, Earth5R demonstrates how sustainability can be a source of joy, fulfillment, and empowerment. We showcase real-world solutions from our global network and highlight the role of youth in the green economy transition. Through case studies and innovative approaches, we show how sustainability can be understood as a path to personal and community transformation. Participants will also experience a 10-minute mindfulness session connecting inner and planetary sustainability. Saurabh Gupta, former monk and founder of Earth5R (India)
14:00–14:30 CET 17:30–18:00 IST	Collaborative Health: The Case of MiMIAT Health MiMIAT offers a free, inclusive app for chronic care, available in multiple languages, helping users manage their health proactively. By focusing on habits like diet and symptom tracking, we promote sustainability principles: mindful resource use, collaboration, and respect for internal and external environments. Our “Health4Community” initiative, in collaboration with local partners like pharmacies and NGOs, creates a resilient support network that embodies joy and self-empowerment. Suraj Kumar Lachmandas, Founder and CEO of MiMIAT Health (Espania)

14:30–15:00 CET
18:00–18:30 IST

Culturalizing Health Care: The Case of Centre of Inclusive Care

The presentation explores two key aspects of sustainability and joy. First, we discuss how mental health interventions can help individuals rediscover joy and motivation, enabling them to actively engage in sustainable actions. Through therapeutic approaches, CIC clients have gained emotional resilience and a renewed sense of purpose. Second, we examine how integrating local cultural values and traditions into mental health care can promote sustainable, joyful behaviors, fostering community support and harmony with nature.

**Fareeha Ziyen, Head of the Special Education Needs
and Senior Holistic Care Officer at Centre of Inclusive Care (Pakistan)**

15:00–15:15 CET
18:30–18:45 IST

BREAK

Section 3

Rethinking Nature as Source of Joy in Times of Planetary Crisis

Chair

**Martin Repohl, Project coordinator UNESCO Chair Global Understanding
for Sustainability (Germany)**

15:15–15:35 CET
18:45–19:05 IST

Rethinking Conservation: Indigenous Ecosophies and the Need for a Global Approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict

The presentation shows how human-wildlife conflict is exacerbated by migration policies and exclusionary conservation strategies that ignore the complex relationship between human communities and ecosystems. While migration supports economic growth, it intensifies habitat encroachment. The study critiques anthropocentric conservation frameworks and advocates for inclusive governance that integrates Indigenous knowledge. Using ecosophy, it calls for a reimagined approach to conservation that aligns with Sustainable Development Goals, mitigating conflict and promoting sustainable coexistence.

Joby Jose, Christ University Bangalore (India)

15:35–15:55 CET
19:05–19:25 IST

The Passionate Piety with Nature for Living Sustainability – A Critical Study on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s Poetics

The presentation explores the literary nature of Goethe, focusing on his poetry and creative process. It examines poems like Wandrers Nachtlied and Des Künstlers Abendlied, highlighting Goethe’s balance of joy and nature. His Faust critiques radical rationalism, promoting emotion, art, and nature as the true moral foundation. Influenced by the Sturm und Drang period and Rousseau’s ideas, Goethe’s early works reflect individuality and spontaneity, laying the foundation for the classical period of Modern German Literature.

Jayshree Singh, Bhupal Nobles University (India)

Outlook: Lessons Learned and Further Cooperations

15: 55 CET
19:25 IST

Statements by TJD Ambassadors

Delwyn Langdon and Jodie O’Sullivan (Australasia)

Anand Radjou (Asia)

Rita Oyoku (Africa)

and the Project Partners

Trisha Badger and Peter Neill (World Ocean Observatory)

Closing Remarks

16:20 CET
19:50 IST

Benno Werlen and Joanne Kauffman

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