



NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL CULTURE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Learning about while learning with.

The Global Culture Education Initiative (GCEI) serves as a platform for students grades 6-12 from around the world to collaborate, innovate, and take action to create a sustainable future.

WELCOMING OUR NEW COHORT II SCHOOLS!

We are thrilled to announce that seven new schools are ready to embark on their journey with our Cohort II, bringing with them an abundance of enthusiasm and fresh perspectives. These schools, located across the United States, Colombia, Portugal, Kenya, Tanzania, India, and Nepal, represent a rich tapestry of cultural diversity. This diversity will be an incredible asset, offering our students a unique opportunity to interact, learn from one another, and work together towards our shared goals of international mindedness and environmental stewardship.

In this cohort, approximately 40 students will be focusing on the vital topic of Water. They will begin by pooling together their existing knowledge, then dive into researching and discovering new insights. By closely observing the water-related challenges in their own communities, they will share their findings and experiences with one another, fostering a collaborative environment. Together, they will plan and implement solutions aimed at improving the water challenges identified within their respective communities.

Please join us in welcoming the following schools to our GCEI community:



Basic School
Vallis Longus
Porto (Portugal).



Chattanooga
Preparatory School
Chattanooga (USA).



Kibera Girls
Soccer Academy
Nairobi (Kenya).



Delhi
Public School
Rishikesh (India).



Preludio
School
Bogota (Colombia).



Shree Mangal Dvip
Boarding School
Kathmandu (Nepal).



Tumaini Model
Open School
Tabora (Tanzania).

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE INCREDIBLE
WORK AND POSITIVE IMPACT THAT
WILL COME FROM THIS DIVERSE AND
DEDICATED GROUP OF STUDENTS.**

WELCOME ABOARD, COHORT II!



INTERNATIONAL MEETING (JUNE 25TH)

At the recent international meeting, GCEI students delved into the theme of 'Energy' and shared their insights from recent activities. The students from Tibetan Homes Foundation, India, presented a video highlighting their use of solar energy and their efforts to promote energy conservation among their peers. Annfield School engaged their students through poster-making competitions aimed at raising awareness about energy wastage. Doon International Public School, India, went a step further by producing podcasts that discussed the energy crisis both locally and globally. GD Goenka World School planned a visit to TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) and began developing a plan for an 'energy audit' of their school. Meanwhile, Hopetown Girls School concentrated on measuring their individual carbon footprints, with results that were quite revealing.



NEW GCEI WEBSITE

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our newly revamped GCEI website! This updated site now reflects more accurately who we are, our vision, and our mission, as well as our unwavering commitment to a student-centered approach.

One of the highlights of the new website is the enhanced visual experience. We've incorporated more photographs that vividly convey the vibrant activities and initiatives taking place within GCEI. These images offer a closer look at the dynamic learning environments, community engagements, and the kind of impactful work that defines our organization.

We invite you to explore the new website at www.gcei.net and see for yourself how it embodies the spirit and values of GCEI. As we continue to evolve, we welcome your feedback and suggestions on how we can make our website better. Your input is invaluable as we strive to improve and ensure our online presence serves the entire GCEI community effectively.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts!



WELCOME TO
**GLOBAL CULTURE
EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

2023-24 COHORT I HIGHLIGHTS

The theme for Cohort 1 for the year 2023-2024 was 'Energy'. Though the theme seemed challenging at first, it was surprising how easily the GCEI students were able to de-mystify it! They explored fossil fuels and renewable energy, the global issues surrounding energy and all their readings raised questions such as, 'how much energy do I use every day?', 'why don't/can't we use more renewable sources of energy?', 'what is my role in conserving energy?', or 'how can moving away from fossil fuels contribute to the planet's health?

But this was not enough for our young 'sustainability warriors'! They needed to 'Act'! So in order to spread awareness within their own communities they resorted to creating comic strips, and street plays, poster making competitions or challenges such as, 'who uses the least amount of energy?' within the school. One school started 'Meatless Mondays' and another, an energy audit of the school, and yet another, started podcasts!

On the 13th of April the first Regional meeting of the GCEI was held at Hometown School, India. Apart from the host school, it was attended by the latest school to join

Cohort 1, Tibetan Homes Foundation, Annfield School and Doon International Public School. GD Goenka World School did not attend.

Riddhima Pandey a high-schooler and an environmental activist who had shared the UN stage with Greta Thunberg, was the Keynote speaker. She spoke of her concerns about the environment, about how she made protection of the environment her mission, after the horrific floods in her home state in 2013, and how she balanced academics and activism! Needless to say, the audience were spell bound and full of queries!

The rest of the day was spent in interactive sessions where students shared ideas, presentations and phone numbers!

The GCEI has succeeded in creating a global group of environmentally aware youngsters, committed to spreading the message of sustainability locally and globally. They are taking on leadership roles in their own communities and it is hoped that they will continue to be part of the change they want to see!

2024-25 AREAS OF SERVICE



COHORT I: SHELTER

Point 11 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is Sustainable Cities.

In keeping with this, GCEI students would be encouraged to explore if their city/ town is sustainable or not. They could study why the city floods during the rains? Or why there is not enough water or electricity for all?

They could explore the slums in their city and the issues of the slum dwellers be it cramped spaces, sanitation or more! Or they could explore what happens to the homeless in their city.

Students could also be encouraged to explore areas such as traditional homes in their part of the world and how they 'naturally' kept homes, warm or cool, as the case may be. They could further compare these with apartments in modern cities, or their own homes today and assess them for the use of energy.

These are merely suggestions. From past experience, the GCEI has found that the students develop their own 'areas of service' based on the guidelines provided, but go far, far beyond!



COHORT II: WATER

We're thrilled to announce that this year, GCEI students of Cohort II will dive into a vital and impactful Area of Service: Water!

This year's adventure will be nothing short of amazing as students embark on a journey to deepen their understanding of water, its importance, and its challenges. They'll start by exploring what they already know about this precious resource, then ask new questions to fuel their research. With a keen eye, they'll observe water-related issues in their communities, from shortages and pollution to access barriers and beyond.

But that's not all! Our students will collaborate with peers from seven schools across the globe, sharing insights, tackling challenges, and crafting innovative solutions together. This global network will enrich their learning experience and amplify their impact, bridging cultures and ideas in the pursuit of a more sustainable future.

Here's to a fantastic year of exploration, collaboration, and making a real difference! We can't wait to see the incredible work they will accomplish. Best of luck to all our amazing students—let's make waves together!

NEW PARTNERSHIP!

GCEI JOINS UNESCO'S GREENING EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP!

We are delighted to announce a significant new partnership between GCEI and the UNESCO Greening Education Partnership (GEP). This collaboration is a major step forward in our commitment to addressing the climate crisis through education.

About the Greening Education Partnership:

The Greening Education Partnership is a global initiative that takes a holistic approach to support countries in tackling the climate crisis by leveraging the power of education. As a collaborative platform, GEP brings together governments, inter-governmental organizations, civil society, youth, academia, and the private sector to drive coordinated and comprehensive action. The goal is to prepare every learner to acquire the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary to combat climate change and promote sustainable development. For more details, visit the [UNESCO Greening Education Partnership](#).

We are proud to display the GEP logo on our website under the “Our Partners” section, symbolizing this important alliance.



BUILDING MORE PARTNERSHIPS

To enhance our visibility and interconnectedness as a non-profit organization, it is vital that we continue to build and showcase partnerships on our website. If you have any suggestions for other organizations or programs we could partner with, please let us know, and we'll be happy to explore them.



EXCITING NEW EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

AGES OF GLOBALIZATION COURSE

We are thrilled to announce that, through our partnership with Solve Climate by 2030 at Bard College, GCEI has been invited to participate in an exciting new initiative launching in September 2024. Co-hosted by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Columbia University, and other leading organizations, this initiative will be introduced during a high-level Pre-Summit of the Future event in New York and is open to all GCEI schools.

Introducing the Ages of Globalization (AOG) Course:

The Ages of Globalization is a free, multidisciplinary, and interactive course designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to address today's sustainable development challenges. Inspired by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs' work, the course blends world history, science, geography, and technology, bringing history to life through UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Students will engage with video-based content, lesson plans, and a final capstone project, exploring humanity's interconnectedness and critical lessons on sustainability.

UN at Your Doorstep:

In addition to the course, students will have the unique opportunity to participate in live dialogues with global leaders and UN officials. This series will focus on the biggest challenges of our time, including climate change, poverty, inequalities, and more, emphasizing how young people can take action.

We encourage all GCEI schools to take advantage of this extraordinary educational opportunity!



GOALS FOR SECOND TERM 2024

MAY AUG

- Finish our website: ACHIEVED!
- Launch our Instagram account: POSTPONED FOR THIRD QUARTER
- Close the yearly process with Cohort I: THE LAST INTERNATIONAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN SEPT. 26TH.
- Recruit 8 new schools for Cohort II: 7 SCHOOLS HAVE JOINED!
- Build one or more partnerships with other organizations: ACHIEVED!
- Fundraise to cover the financial needs for 2024-2025: PENDING...

GOALS FOR THIRD TERM 2024

SEPT DEC

- Launch our Instagram account
- Build one or more partnerships with other organizations

FUNDRAISE TO COVER THE FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR 2024-2025:

As we prepare for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, we want to express our deep gratitude for your generous contributions to our fundraising efforts. However, we have not yet fully achieved our financial goal, and we still need your support to ensure that GCEI can continue its vital work throughout the entire year.

Your contributions are essential not only for sustaining the educational programs in both of our current Cohorts but also for supporting the growth of a new Cohort, set to launch in September 2025. This expansion is a crucial step in furthering our mission and extending our impact.

We kindly ask those who are able to consider making a donation or sharing our cause with others who may be interested in supporting GCEI. Every contribution, no matter the size, will help us continue to provide quality education and expand our reach. For more information on how you can support us, please visit the donations section of our website at <https://gcei.net/get-involved-3/>

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our mission.