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SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE
REPORT

FIELD VISIT UNDERTAKEN ON 21ST APRIL 2023

UNDER THE EUROPEAN UNION CLIMATE JUSTICE

LAW, GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME UNDER JEAN MONNET

CHAIR, SIU, EUC-LAMP CO FUNDED BY EU

ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH

VRUKSHMITRA ECO WARRIORS (NON-GOVERNMENTAL

INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION)

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INTRODUCTION

A BRIEF PREFACE ON THE COURSE

The current program on the European union climate justice law, governance, management and policy certificate program under Jean Monnet chair, SIU, EUC-LAMP co funded by EU has been constituted with desired efforts to impart in-depth knowledge on Laws relating Climate Justice, Governance and Management Policy of European Union while emphasizing upon the general framework of the EU. The program provides a rare chance for faculty and students to study European and other contemporary legislation in detail and in comparison.

The course material covered, the practical experience provided, and overall evaluation pedagogy have all been carefully designed to enable students become familiar with ideas and practices that are used around the world. In this way, the course is taken up by a variety of illustrious, top-tier instructors, including Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar Director, Symbiosis Law School, Dean (Faculty of Law), Symbiosis International (Deemed University) and prestigious Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC-LAMP co-funded by EU) , Prof. (Dr.) Om Prakash, Deputy Head and Associate Professor, at Symbiosis Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability (SCCCS), Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Lavale, Pune, Prof. (Dr.) Albert Ruda, Dean of Law, University of Girona (Catalonia, Spain), Prof. (Dr.) Iur. Winfried Huck, Brunswick European Law School (BELS), Ostfalia University of applied sciences, Germany and Dr. Dimitrios Parashu, Research Associate, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany .

The ten-credit, value-added course has been carefully designed to broaden students' horizons by exposing them to a diverse range of lecturers from European Faculties and an extended interdisciplinary curriculum. Additionally, the training offers a chance to talk about practical ideas and their practicality with regional stakeholders.

The topics include Green philosophy and Ethics including green lifestyle, food security, precautionary principle, sustainability, Climate Justice, Law, Policy and Governance with focus on EU and Asia India, China and ASEAN, EU and India Energy Law Including Energy Audit, carbon credits and trading, Clean Air Law in Europe and Asia, Climate Change and Global Sustainability Including Mitigation, Adaptation, Indigenous People and Resilience, biodiversity, Green Compliances for

Businesses Industries including green businesses, green markets, Science, Technology, Innovation and Business Practices relating to climate change, Waste Management Policy and Law including Hazardous Waste Management.

OBJECTIVE AND BACKGROUND STUDY IN CONNECTION TO EU TO THE FIELD VISIT

On the auspicious occasion of the International-Earth-day, globally celebrated on 22nd April, a tree plantation drive was organized by the EUC-LAMP. The field visit was designed as an initiative to advocate awareness and training program by student groups to march ahead in the propagation of climate change, justice and law.

The said initiative was organized by the Environmental committee college, namely, the ECCON cell (Environmental-Conservation Cell) in collaboration with the Animal Liberation Committee and Rotaract club of the college. While the Environmental committee stand forefront as torchbearers in utilizing legal analysis to resolve environmental problems and promote the idea of sustainable development. They aim to promote their initiatives and agendas via conduct of various activities such as movie screening, Guest Lectures, Workshops, Field Visits, Nature Walks etc. Further, the Animal Liberation committee of the college, aims to impart awareness on animal cruelty and alongside propagate animal welfare and rights. The Committee envisions absolute liberation of animals from the shackles of exploitation and pain and envisages a better world for them. Also, the Rotaract club of the college has actively engaged in providing valuable and life changing services to the society and bring about thought-provoking initiatives in the world through a professional group of Rotaractors. Apart from the committee and cell members various other environmental enthusiasts, professors and faculty in charges of the committees were also present. They also actively contributed and encouraged the student's groups by providing the required morale.

Thus, the objective of the drive includes harnessing best possible results from confederation of like-minded student initiatives alongside setting an example of student initiatives and resultant positive synergy for the posterity. Various initiatives in EU such as EU4Climate also advocates on partnership mechanisms for combating climate change. With reference to the background study, much before the conduct of the plantation drive, the relevant modules on the climate resilience were covered to make

the students understand the exigent desideratum for such initiatives alongside the need to advocate for crème de la crème legal statutes mandating strict adhering to climate justice and combat mechanism. Further, with reference to the plantation drive, notice was provided via bulk mail, intimating the students on the proposed plantation drive.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PLANTATION DRIVE

1. Increase the tree cover in the area.
2. Raise awareness about the environmental benefits of trees among the surrounding areas.
3. Encourage community participation in tree planting and conservation efforts.
4. Create a sense of ownership and responsibility for the planted trees.
5. Educate the community about the importance of taking care of trees and the environment.
6. Build a network of volunteers and stakeholders committed to long-term environmental sustainability.
7. Promote the use of sustainable resources and practices.

OVERVIEW OF THE FIELD VISIT CONDUCTED

The field visit proposed for a tree plantation drive in the wagoli hills. Around 100-120 students along with faculty members participated for the plantation drive. The initiative has been propounded by The Green Sunrise Hill group. The initiative has been begun by a group of IT professionals with a desired intention of increasing the green cover across the wagoli hills. The ensured that there were water channels and even went to extent of setting up tanks on top of the hill to ensure that there were sufficient irrigation techniques in place to water the plants. Much before the setup of such mechanisms, it is noteworthy mentioning that the volunteers have themselves watered the plants from by carrying water in small tit-bits from the grounds / plain to the hill region. Further, Mr. Chandrakant Naktode, the founder of the group, during interaction explained on how even during the lockdown care was taken towards ensuring watering the plants during summer. Thus, even despite the difficulties brought on by the virus and the lockdown, the Vrukshamitra eco warriors persisted in their efforts to protect the environment. While iterating a small brief about the organization, it may be pertinent to mention that it was established in

2016 with the main intent and aspirations of adding more vegetation to the region's arid highlands. Since then, the organization has contributed by having more than 10,000 plants in more than 50 native kinds been planted in the in and around areas. Around 10 volunteers, water the plants each workday meticulously, and more volunteers join on weekends. Volunteers take turns doing this. The Forest Police are also with the group at all times to provide support. The organization presently has more than 3000 volunteers and frequently collaborates with academic institutions, professional associations, and businesses. The campaign was launched with much required scientific and academic research assistance for execution, according to Nature, with the assistance of the forest department. With respect to itinerary or the schedule of the tree plantation drive, all the sstudents and faculty members assembled at 5:45am at the Symbiosis Law School Campus. Post that, the departure of Bus took place at 6:15am followed by the Bus arrival at Wagholi Hills at 6:45 AM. Further, all the Students and faculty members assembled at Wagholi Hills at 7:00am. This was followed by the esteemed. Director Ma'am address to the students from 7:00am to 7:10am. After the session, all the students and faculty members proceeded to the venue and tree plantation began from 7:15am to 9:30am. Roughly around 10:00am, the departure from the venue began and finally the arrival at Symbiosis Law School Pune was at 10:30am.

STUDY UNDERTAKEN DURING THE FIELD VISIT

The following study was undertaken during the field visit:

1. Irrigation channels, pipeline mechanism and various techniques of water conservation such as rain water harvesting and storage of water in the tanks.
2. Secondly, the aspects of mob uniformity efforts as an apscet towards climate rescilience, the need for the upcomming generations to take onus on the leadership towards climate change was stressed upon.
3. Thirdly , the orgnisers also informed the students about the variou skinds of plants that are water consuming and the need to plant more of less water consumption areas .
4. Also, the aspect of weeds, their disadvantages in removing nutrition from other plants and the need to eradicate weeds was also stressed upon.
5. Also, as a part of the drive, another aspect upon which a lot of stress was laid upon was the aspect of maintaining and increasing green cover responsibility. How each one of them can ensure the sane by maintain their community and can together achieve a lot of success was

reiterated.

6. The program also served as an enriching experience for various students for whom such field trip in hill and plantation was a first-time experience engaging with the soil and initiative towards nature connect.
7. Further they iterated the importance of waste management. The team has entirely cleaned the area and maintained it spic and span without a single plastic or non-biodegradable waste. The entire vegetation cover was frequently inspected to remove any such toxic substance from going under the soil. The chain impact starting from deforestation – climate rise – Global warming and the correction mechanism via more vegetation – more oxygen and les of carbon dioxide was explained.

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN POST VISIT

Apart from the insightful lectures and address by various professionals, few key learnings include:

- 1) Understanding of need for plants and how they help in curbing down the effect of climate change by absorbing the carbon dioxide.
- 2) Testing the more water absorbent versus less water absorbent plants to ensure that only low water absorbent plants are planted in more numbers. Plants such as cactus, absorb more water and hence may not be very suitable to plant in hilly region.
- 3) Monsoon should be used for collection of water. Rain water harvesting and various other water tapping mechanisms can be deployed to ensure that water collected during the monsoon is utilized throughout the year.
- 4) Further, the aspects if waste management also prove to be very helpful in keeping the surrounding clean. Community activities and free will volunteering in turns can be sought after to ensure that there is increased and frequent and consistent upkeep and maintained of the vegetation cover.

CONCLUSION

The plantation drive was highly enlightening and broadened everyone's horizons. On the one hand,

this trip provided a tremendous chance for education amidst breathtaking scenery, and on the other, it helped establish moral and ethical conscience towards the environment. Most of the students, from urban cities, had an natural extravaganza left to explore and all the more feeling incredibly honored to have travelled with the esteemed faculties and much experienced and socially reformative organization. Students were further inspired to take climate action seriously by realizing that every member is an environmental enthusiast. In addition to serving as a remarkable college memoir, thinking back on the moments shared will one day also enshrine the commitment and duty to climate action taken by all the participants.

GALLERY

1. PHOTOGRAPHY DEPICTING ORIENTATION SESSION AT HILLTOP, WAGHOLI FOUNTAIN, SIU.



2. PHOTOGRAPHY DEPICTING PLANTS DECKED UP FOR THE DRIVE.



3. PHOTOGRAPHY DEPICTING POST PLANTATION NATURE WALKS.



4. PHOTOGRAPHY DEPICTING GREEN COVER ACHIEVED BY ECO WARRIORS.



5. PHOTOGRAPHY DEPICTING ORIENTATION SESSION ON DRIVE



6. PHOTOGRAPHY DEPICTING COLLECTION OF WASTE MATERIAL

