

HSDN Annual Report 2025



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HSDNI OVERVIEW

VISION + VALUES

- Attain sustainable development goals through collaborative movement
- Complementary regard for human and environmental subjects

MISSION

Promote socio-cultural, economic and environmental well-being for all from grassroots to global level

OBJECTIVES

- **Generate Ideas** through local experiences and spread it globally
- **Identify and engage to the projects** related to the organization's goals
- **Accumulate efforts** to mentor or make projects successful within jurisdictions
- **Support** for class neutral development of policies
- **Communicating activities** of the organization and giving feedback to stakeholders
- **Expanding network** and cooperation worldwide to secure greater success in sustainable development



Executive Director's Report

The 2024–2025 year has been a period of steady growth, meaningful collaboration, and renewed purpose for the Holistic Sustainable Development Network International (HSDNI). In a global context marked by environmental uncertainty, social inequality, and economic pressure, HSDNI has continued to advance its mission of promoting holistic, inclusive, and community-driven approaches to sustainable development.

Throughout the year, our work remained grounded in the understanding that sustainability is not solely an environmental concern, but an integrated framework encompassing social equity, cultural continuity, good governance, and human wellbeing. This perspective guided our research initiatives, community programmes, and international partnerships.

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the successful delivery of HSDNI's 9th Sustainability Collaborative Conference, held at Toronto Metropolitan University in May 2025. The conference, themed Inclusion and Diversity for Sustainable Society, brought together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders to engage in critical dialogue across three key areas: inequality and discrimination, public health, and good governance. The strong participation and high quality of discussion reaffirmed HSDNI's role as a trusted convener of interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral sustainability conversations.

In parallel, HSDNI continued preparations for the 10th Sustainability Collaborative Conference, scheduled to take place at the University of Bristol, United Kingdom. This international collaboration has strengthened our global research networks and expanded opportunities for public consultation on law, Indigenous sustainability, and inclusive governance frameworks.

Beyond academic engagement, community-based programming remained central to our work. Through the Toronto Bangla School, HSDNI supported a wide range of cultural, educational, and family-oriented activities that fostered social cohesion, intergenerational learning, and cultural preservation within the Bangladeshi-Canadian community. Events such as International Mother Language Day, Pohela Boishakh and Pitha Uthsob, Family Day, children's summer activities, and Victory Day celebrations served as platforms for community connection, volunteer engagement, and youth development.



This year also saw meaningful progress in environmental education and grassroots action. Through a community leadership grant, a group affiliated with HSDNI successfully delivered a Good Parenting event and a waste segregation education workshop, engaging families and children in practical sustainability learning. In addition, HSDNI completed a government-funded summer student placement, strengthening our administrative capacity and supporting youth employment.

Our knowledge dissemination efforts continued through *The Trajectory of Sustainable Development* journal, which remains a core platform for interdisciplinary sustainability research. The journal has now published 15 issues across 9 volumes, reflecting contributions from diverse global perspectives. Planning also advanced for the launch of a new magazine, *Sustainable Development Review*, scheduled for publication in 2026.

Organizationally, HSDNI focused on strengthening governance and operational capacity. New Board members were recruited with expertise in media, technology, and documentation, enhancing the organization's ability to communicate its work effectively and support future growth. Our activities throughout the year were made possible through collaboration, volunteer commitment, and the continued support of partner organizations. While most programming remains community-funded and partnership-driven, strategic grant support has enabled targeted expansion of our outreach and educational initiatives.

Looking ahead, HSDNI enters the coming year with a strong foundation and a clear direction. Planned activities include additional journal and magazine publications, the continued development of the PROYASHEE Eco-Village project in Bangladesh, major cultural and community events, and the 11th Sustainability Collaborative Conference scheduled for May 2026 at Toronto Metropolitan University. These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to inclusive sustainability, international cooperation, and community empowerment.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Board of Governors, programme coordinators, volunteers, partners, and community members whose dedication and collaboration have made this work possible. It is through collective effort that HSDNI continues to grow as a platform for learning, dialogue, and action. I look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Jannatul Islam

Executive Director
Holistic Sustainable Development Network International (HSDNI)



Message from the Chair of the Board

The past year has been one of reflection, resilience, and renewed commitment for the Holistic Sustainable Development Network International (HSDNI). At a time when global challenges—ranging from climate instability to widening social inequalities—continue to test our collective capacity for cooperation, HSDNI has remained steadfast in its belief that sustainable development must be inclusive, community-centred, and action-oriented.

As Chair of the Board, I am proud of the organization’s continued growth and impact across research, community engagement, and international collaboration. Throughout 2024–2025, HSDNI strengthened its role as a platform that brings together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and community members to examine the interconnected nature of environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Our work this year reaffirmed a core principle of HSDNI: sustainability cannot be achieved in isolation. It requires dialogue across disciplines, cultures, and lived experiences.

One of the year’s key highlights was the successful delivery of the 9th Sustainability Collaborative Conference at Toronto Metropolitan University. Centered on Inclusion and Diversity for Sustainable Society, the conference fostered critical conversations on inequality, public health, and good governance. The participation of national and international speakers, academic institutions, and community organizations reflected the growing relevance and credibility of HSDNI’s convening role. In parallel, our preparations for the 10th Sustainability Collaborative Conference at the University of Bristol further strengthened our international partnerships and research networks.

Equally important has been the organization’s sustained commitment to grassroots and community-based initiatives. Through the Toronto Bangla School, HSDNI continued to support cultural preservation, intergenerational learning, and social cohesion among immigrant and diaspora communities. Community events such as International Mother Language Day, Pohela Boishakh, Family Day, and children’s educational programmes served not only as cultural celebrations, but as vital spaces for inclusion, identity, and collective wellbeing.





This year also marked progress in capacity-building and governance. The Board undertook steps to strengthen its structure through the recruitment of members with expertise in media, technology, and documentation, enhancing HSDNI’s operational effectiveness. We are grateful for the dedication of our Board members, volunteers, partners, and staff, whose commitment ensures that the organization continues to operate with integrity, transparency, and purpose.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I extend my sincere appreciation to our Executive Director, programme leads, collaborators, and supporters. Your collective efforts have sustained HSDNI’s mission and expanded its reach. As we look ahead, the Board remains committed to supporting initiatives that advance inclusive sustainability, deepen community engagement, and foster meaningful global partnerships.

The challenges before us are complex, but they also present opportunities—to learn, to collaborate, and to act. HSDNI will continue to embrace these opportunities with humility, determination, and a firm belief in the power of collective action to build a more just and sustainable future.

Dr. Nasima Akter

Chair, Board of Governors
Holistic Sustainable Development Network International (HSDNI)



BOARD MEMBERS



Dr. Nasima Akter

First Director and Chair

Dr. Nasima Akter is an experienced environmental researcher with a PhD in Environmental Technology and Management. She previously worked with BRAC in Dhaka, where she helped develop Bangladesh's Medical Waste Management Rules and contributed to national environmental policies. She has led and participated in international environmental projects across Asia, Eastern Europe, the United States, and Canada. A Certified Canadian Environmental Professional, her expertise includes waste management, site assessment and reclamation, research and development, and education and training. She has published 34 academic journal articles and currently serves as Executive Director of Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services in Toronto.



Swapan K. Sarker

Treasurer

Mr. Sarker is a Canadian CPA who graduated in Marketing from the University of Dhaka and practiced Chartered Accountancy for over 10 years with Basu Banarjee Nath & Company. He is an active advocate for minority rights within the Bangladeshi Hindu community and has been involved with progressive democratic initiatives in Canada, including Udichi and the Bangladeshi Hindu Minority Alliances. His interests include gardening, fishing, travelling, storytelling, and social work.



Dr. Sanjoy Chaki

Vice Chair

Sanjoy Chaki is a journalist, broadcaster, digital marketer, content creator, and social advocate based in Toronto, Canada. He is associated with Climate Channel—where he has a leadership role—and has a substantial professional network and online presence. His work includes journalism and media related to climate action, community issues, and social advocacy. He has engaged with public figures on climate issues, including meetings with Canadian political leaders to discuss climate action initiatives. Chaki also produces content across social platforms and is recognized as a media consultant and advocate in various community and environmental contexts.

BOARD MEMBERS



Rabeeya Tasnim

Secretary

Rabeeya Tasnim is a Board Member and Project Manager with the Holistic Sustainable Development Network (HSDN) International in Toronto. She is actively involved in sustainability and community-based initiatives and has contributed to academic and professional events, including presenting at the 8th Sustainability Collaborative Conference 2024. She also works as an Exam Invigilator at the University of Toronto. Rabeeya is currently a fourth-year undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, majoring in Population Health with minors in Psychology and Environmental Science. Her academic and professional interests align around public health, sustainability, and community development.



Rafi Dowla

Member

Rafi Dowla is a technology entrepreneur and the Co-Founder and CEO of PremiseHQ SaaS Inc, a software company. He is a serial entrepreneur with around 15 years of international experience in innovation, technology strategy, and cloud solutions. His professional focus includes driving product vision, business growth, and leveraging technology for scalable solutions.



Ashraful Begum

Member

Ashraful Begum is a bilingual, dedicated early childhood professional with a strong academic and teaching background. She holds BS and MS degrees in Physics from the University of Dhaka and completed a Diploma in Early Childhood Education at Centennial College. She is a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) at Lullaboo Nursery and Childcare Centre and has prior experience as a Physics Lecturer at the World University of Bangladesh. Her skills include inquiry-based learning, child development, health and safety, inclusion, and collaboration. Ashraful has extensive placement and volunteer experience in childcare settings and is an active member of AECEO and OCBCC.



About Holistic Sustainable Development Network International (HSDNI)

Holistic Sustainable Development Network International (HSDNI) is a Toronto-based, non-profit organization committed to advancing sustainable development through inclusive learning, interdisciplinary dialogue, and community-driven action. The organization was established with the understanding that sustainability is not confined to environmental protection alone, but is inseparably linked to social equity, cultural integrity, economic stability, and good governance.

HSDNI operates on a holistic framework that views human societies, natural environments, and economic systems as interdependent components of a single, integrated system. Decisions and actions taken in one sphere inevitably affect outcomes in the others. As such, HSDNI promotes approaches to sustainability that are participatory, context-sensitive, and grounded in both academic research and lived community experience.

The organization's mission is to provide an inclusive platform for research, dialogue, and practical initiatives that explore the complex relationships between human activity and its social and environmental impacts. HSDNI seeks to bridge the gap between theory and practice by bringing together scholars, policymakers, professionals, students, and community members to co-create knowledge and solutions that are locally relevant and globally informed.

HSDNI's work spans research dissemination, academic engagement, community education, and cultural programming. Its flagship initiatives include the publication of *The Trajectory of Sustainable Development*, an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal focused on sustainability studies, and the organization of the annual Sustainability Collaborative Conference, which convenes national and international participants to examine pressing sustainability challenges through themes such as inclusion, diversity, public health, governance, and social justice.





Community engagement is a core pillar of HSDNI's activities. Through initiatives such as the Toronto Bangla School, the organization supports cultural preservation, intergenerational learning, and social cohesion within immigrant and diaspora communities. Educational workshops, youth-focused programming, and family-oriented events further reflect HSDNI's commitment to grassroots empowerment and inclusive participation.

HSDNI also places strong emphasis on collaboration and partnership. The organization works with universities, community organizations, and international partners across Canada, Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, and beyond. These partnerships support research collaboration, policy dialogue, capacity-building initiatives, and community-based projects, including the PROYASHEE Eco-Village initiative focused on vulnerable populations.

Guided by principles of inclusivity, integrity, and cooperation, HSDNI remains committed to fostering sustainable societies through knowledge-sharing, community leadership, and collective action. The organization continues to evolve in response to emerging global and local challenges, while remaining firmly rooted in its belief that meaningful and lasting change begins with informed, engaged, and empowered communities.

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Overview

Holistic Sustainable Development Network International (HSDNI) is governed by a Board of Governors that provides strategic oversight, fiduciary responsibility, and policy direction in accordance with the organization's mission and incorporation requirements. The Board plays a central role in ensuring that HSDNI operates with transparency, accountability, and a clear commitment to inclusive and ethical governance.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is composed of individuals with diverse professional backgrounds and expertise, including sustainability research, community leadership, media, technology, finance, and documentation. This diversity of skills strengthens the Board's ability to guide the organization's interdisciplinary and community-focused mandate.

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the Board met formally to review organizational performance, approve strategic priorities, oversee financial matters, and support capacity-building initiatives. In response to identified operational needs, the Board undertook a targeted recruitment process to strengthen expertise in media, technical support, and documentation. As a result, new Board members were appointed and roles were formally assigned to enhance organizational effectiveness.

Board officers during this period included:

- Chair, responsible for providing leadership to the Board and ensuring effective governance
- Vice Chair, supporting the Chair and contributing to strategic oversight
- Treasurer, overseeing financial management and reporting
- Secretary, responsible for records, documentation, and compliance
- Members, contributing to governance, strategic planning, and organizational support

Board Meetings and Oversight

Board meetings are conducted in accordance with established governance procedures, including agenda approval, conflict of interest declarations, review and approval of minutes, and formal motions. Key matters addressed during the reporting year included governance strengthening, programme oversight, financial administration, conference planning, and strategic partnerships.

The Board also reviewed and supported major organizational milestones, including the successful delivery of the 9th Sustainability Collaborative Conference, preparations for international conferences, journal publications, community programmes, and administrative compliance related to staffing and funding.

Management and Operations

The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of HSDNI, implementation of Board-approved strategies, coordination of programmes, and representation of the organization in external partnerships. The Executive Director works closely with the Board to ensure alignment between operational activities and strategic objectives.

HSDNI operates with a lean organizational structure that relies on collaboration, volunteer engagement, and partnership-based delivery. Programme coordinators, volunteers, and community leaders play a critical role in planning and implementing activities, particularly in community education, cultural programming, and conference organization.

Commitment to Good Governance

HSDNI is committed to principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, inclusivity, and ethical decision-making. The organization recognizes that strong governance is essential to maintaining public trust, supporting effective partnerships, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of its work.

As HSDNI continues to grow, the Board remains focused on strengthening governance systems, improving internal capacity, and supporting leadership development to ensure the organization is well-positioned to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities in sustainable development.

Programmes and Core Activities

Holistic Sustainable Development Network International (HSDNI) delivers its mandate through a combination of regular and irregular programmes designed to advance sustainability research, community education, cultural continuity, and inclusive dialogue. These programmes reflect HSDNI's holistic approach, integrating environmental, social, cultural, and governance dimensions of sustainable development.

Overview of Programmes

HSDNI's programmes are structured to balance long-term institutional initiatives with responsive, community-driven activities. Regular programmes provide continuity in research dissemination, academic engagement, and cultural education, while irregular programmes allow flexibility to respond to emerging community needs, funding opportunities, and collaborative initiatives.

Together, these programmes serve diverse audiences, including researchers, students, policymakers, families, youth, and immigrant and diaspora communities, both in Canada and internationally.

Regular Programmes

Academic and Research Engagement

A core component of HSDNI's work is fostering interdisciplinary research and dialogue on sustainability. This is achieved primarily through the organization's peer-reviewed journal and its annual Sustainability Collaborative Conference. These platforms support knowledge-sharing across disciplines and geographies, encourage inclusive research practices, and promote critical reflection on sustainability challenges and solutions.

Community Education and Capacity Building

HSDNI regularly supports educational and awareness-building activities that translate sustainability concepts into practical, accessible learning. Workshops and training sessions address topics such as environmental responsibility, waste segregation, parenting, wellbeing, and social inclusion. These programmes emphasize participation, experiential learning, and community leadership.

Cultural and Youth Programmes

Through the Toronto Bangla School, HSDNI delivers ongoing cultural and educational programming focused on language preservation, heritage education, and intergenerational engagement. Activities are designed to support children and youth development while strengthening community identity and social cohesion.

Irregular and Special Initiatives of Programmes

In addition to its regular programmes, HSDNI undertakes a range of irregular initiatives that respond to specific opportunities or community needs. These include blog publications, social and environmental awareness campaigns, wellness-focused activities, and collaborative events delivered in partnership with community organizations and academic institutions.

During the reporting period, HSDNI-supported initiatives included a Good Parenting event and a waste segregation education workshop, delivered through a community leadership grant. These activities engaged families and children in practical learning while reinforcing broader sustainability and wellbeing objectives.

Collaborative Programme Delivery

Collaboration is a defining feature of HSDNI's programme delivery model. The organization works closely with universities, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and international partners to co-design and implement programmes. This approach strengthens programme relevance, expands reach, and supports knowledge exchange across cultural and institutional contexts.

Most programmes are delivered through shared resources, volunteer contributions, and partnership-based funding, reflecting HSDNI's emphasis on cooperation and collective action.

Programme Impact and Reach

Across its programmes, HSDNI has reached diverse audiences through conferences, publications, workshops, cultural events, and youth activities. While programme formats and scales vary, all activities are guided by a commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and community empowerment. Through its programmes and the dedication of its partners and volunteers, HSDNI continues to create spaces for learning, dialogue, and action that contribute to more equitable, informed, and sustainable societies.

Publications and Knowledge Platforms

Publications and knowledge dissemination form a central pillar of Holistic Sustainable Development Network International's (HSDNI) mandate. Through academic publishing and public-facing platforms, HSDNI supports critical inquiry, interdisciplinary dialogue, and the exchange of ideas that advance holistic and inclusive approaches to sustainable development.

THE TRAJECTORY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (JOURNAL)

The Trajectory of Sustainable Development is HSDNI's flagship peer-reviewed academic journal and a core platform for sustainability research and scholarship. Formerly published as the Journal for Worldwide Holistic Sustainable Development (JWHSD), the journal reflects the organization's evolving vision while maintaining continuity in its scholarly mission. The journal holds ISSN registration in Canada and is published online to ensure broad accessibility.

The journal emphasizes interdisciplinary and social science-oriented perspectives on sustainable development, encouraging contributions that explore the interconnected social, environmental, economic, and governance dimensions of sustainability. It serves as a forum for researchers, practitioners, and students to share original research, critical analysis, and applied insights that bridge theory and practice.

To date, The Trajectory of Sustainable Development has published 15 issues across 9 volumes, reflecting contributions from diverse geographic regions and disciplinary backgrounds. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis, and the journal's open-access format supports inclusive participation and global knowledge exchange. The journal's continued growth demonstrates HSDNI's commitment to fostering rigorous, accessible, and policy-relevant sustainability scholarship.

MAGAZINE PUBLICATION: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

In addition to academic publishing, HSDNI is expanding its knowledge platforms to reach wider audiences beyond academia. The organization is preparing to launch a magazine titled Sustainable Development Review, with the first issue scheduled for publication in January 2026, followed by a second issue planned for July 2026.

The magazine is designed to complement the journal by providing accessible, practice-oriented content for community members, practitioners, policymakers, and students. It will feature reflections on sustainability initiatives, community experiences, policy discussions, and emerging issues, bridging academic knowledge with lived realities and applied practice.

DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND OUTREACH

HSDNI also supports knowledge dissemination through digital platforms, including blogs and online publications that highlight sustainability-related themes, community initiatives, and collaborative projects. These platforms allow for timely engagement with emerging issues and provide space for voices that may not be represented in traditional academic publishing.

By combining scholarly publishing with accessible knowledge-sharing formats, HSDNI ensures that research and ideas are not confined to academic circles but are shared in ways that inform community action, policy dialogue, and public understanding.

COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Across all its publication platforms, HSDNI is guided by a commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and intellectual integrity. By supporting open-access publishing, interdisciplinary contributions, and diverse perspectives, the organization seeks to democratize knowledge and strengthen the role of research and dialogue in advancing sustainable and equitable societies.

Sustainability Conferences and Academic Engagement

Sustainability conferences and academic engagement are central to Holistic Sustainable Development Network International's (HSDNI) role as a convenor of interdisciplinary dialogue and collaborative action. Through its Sustainability Collaborative Conference series and related academic initiatives, HSDNI creates inclusive spaces for researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders to examine complex sustainability challenges and develop shared understandings and solutions.

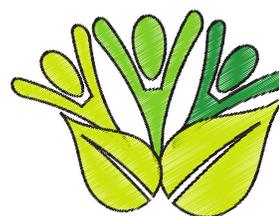
Sustainability Collaborative Conference Series

HSDNI's Sustainability Collaborative Conference is the organization's flagship academic and professional forum. Since its inception, the conference series has grown into an internationally recognized platform that promotes interdisciplinary scholarship, inclusive research practices, and dialogue across social, environmental, legal, and governance dimensions of sustainability.

To date, HSDNI has successfully delivered ten Sustainability Collaborative Conferences across Canada and internationally. Each conference is structured to encourage meaningful exchange through research panels, keynote remarks, public consultations, and collaborative meetings. The conferences emphasize accessibility, diversity of perspectives, and engagement across disciplines and regions.

9th Sustainability Collaborative Conference (Toronto, Canada)

The 9th Sustainability Collaborative Conference, held in May 2025 at Toronto Metropolitan University, marked a significant milestone in HSDNI's academic engagement. The conference focused on themes of inclusion and diversity for sustainable societies, bringing together scholars, professionals, and community representatives to explore pressing global and local challenges.



Conference sessions addressed key areas including inequality and discrimination, public health, food safety, labour and human rights, governance, and inclusive development. The event provided a forum for critical discussion, interdisciplinary exchange, and the strengthening of research and community networks. Strong participation and engagement underscored the relevance of HSDNI's convening role within Canada's sustainability research and policy landscape.

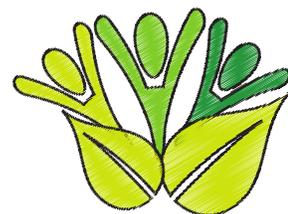
10th Sustainability Collaborative Conference (University of Bristol, United Kingdom)

Building on the success of previous conferences, HSDNI partnered with academic institutions and international organizations to host the 10th Sustainability Collaborative Conference at the University of Bristol in September 2025. The conference theme, Diversity and Inclusion for Sustainable Societies, reflected HSDNI's continued commitment to centering equity, pluralism, and social justice within sustainability discourse.

The conference featured multiple research panels, keynote addresses, and a public consultation focused on law and Indigenous sustainability. Participants examined issues spanning climate change, biodiversity, labour rights, public health, energy, and governance, with particular attention to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches. The public consultation component supported the development of research networks and future collaborative projects in the area of Indigenous sustainability and legal frameworks.

Academic Partnerships and Research Collaboration

HSDNI's conference activities are complemented by broader academic engagement and partnerships with universities, research centres, and scholars in Canada and internationally. These collaborations support joint research initiatives, student engagement, public consultations, and knowledge exchange across disciplines and regions.

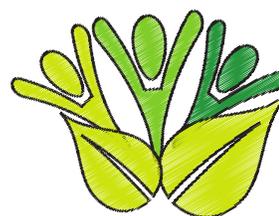


Through its conferences and academic partnerships, HSDNI facilitates dialogue that bridges theory and practice, connects global perspectives with local realities, and supports emerging scholars alongside established researchers. This engagement strengthens the organization's contribution to sustainability scholarship while ensuring that academic work remains responsive to community needs and policy contexts.

Role of Conferences in Advancing HSDNI's Mission

The Sustainability Collaborative Conference series exemplifies HSDNI's holistic approach to sustainable development. By integrating academic research, policy dialogue, and community perspectives, the conferences advance inclusive sustainability thinking and foster networks that extend beyond individual events.

As HSDNI looks to the future, sustainability conferences will remain a cornerstone of its academic engagement strategy, supporting ongoing learning, collaboration, and action toward more equitable and sustainable societies.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES



Community education and capacity-building are central to Holistic Sustainable Development Network International's (HSDNI) approach to sustainable development. The organization recognizes that long-term sustainability depends not only on policy and research, but also on informed, empowered communities with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to engage in social, environmental, and cultural decision-making. Throughout the 2024–2025 reporting period, HSDNI supported and facilitated educational initiatives designed to translate sustainability concepts into practical, accessible learning experiences. These initiatives emphasized participation, experiential learning, and inclusivity, with a particular focus on children, families, newcomers, and immigrant communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICAL SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING

A key focus of the year was environmental awareness and responsible waste management. Through a community leadership grant, a group supported by HSDNI successfully delivered a waste segregation education workshop, engaging children and families in hands-on learning activities. Participants were introduced to practical methods of sorting household waste and understanding the environmental impacts of everyday consumption choices.

The workshop used interactive formats, including physical sorting activities and games, to ensure learning was age-appropriate, engaging, and culturally accessible. By focusing on practical action rather than abstract concepts, the initiative helped participants develop skills that can be applied immediately within their homes and communities.

FAMILY, PARENTING, AND WELLBEING INITIATIVES

HSDNI also supported community-based initiatives focused on family wellbeing and positive parenting. A Good Parenting event was delivered during the reporting period, providing parents and guardians with opportunities to engage in dialogue about child development, communication, and supportive family environments. These initiatives recognized the role of families in shaping social wellbeing and community resilience.

By addressing parenting and wellbeing within a broader sustainability framework, HSDNI reinforced the idea that social sustainability is inseparable from environmental and economic considerations.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Children and youth engagement remained a priority across HSDNI's community initiatives. Educational activities were designed to encourage creativity, teamwork, and active participation, helping young participants develop confidence, social skills, and a sense of responsibility toward their communities.

Through games, competitions, arts-based activities, and group learning, children were introduced to themes of environmental responsibility, cultural identity, and cooperation in ways that were accessible and enjoyable. These initiatives contributed to early awareness-building and supported the development of future community leaders.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

HSDNI's community education initiatives were delivered through strong volunteer involvement and collaborative partnerships. Volunteers played a critical role in planning, facilitation, and delivery, gaining leadership experience while supporting community learning.

By creating opportunities for community members to take active roles in programme delivery, HSDNI strengthened local capacity and reinforced a culture of shared responsibility and collective action.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Through its community education and capacity-building initiatives, HSDNI continues to support learning that is grounded in lived experience, cultural context, and practical application. These initiatives complement the organization's academic and research activities by ensuring that sustainability knowledge is accessible, relevant, and actionable at the community level.

As HSDNI moves forward, community education will remain a key pillar of its work, supporting inclusive participation, social cohesion, and the development of skills necessary for building more sustainable and resilient communities.

Toronto Bangla School: Cultural and Community Development

The Toronto Bangla School plays a central role in advancing Holistic Sustainable Development Network International's (HSDNI) commitment to social sustainability, cultural preservation, and community cohesion. Operating as a key community-based initiative under HSDNI, the school serves as a space for language education, cultural transmission, and intergenerational engagement for Bangladeshi-Canadian families and the broader diaspora community.

Through its programming, Toronto Bangla School contributes to sustainable development by strengthening cultural identity, fostering social inclusion, and supporting the wellbeing of children, families, and volunteers.

Cultural Preservation and Language Education

A core objective of Toronto Bangla School is the preservation and promotion of the Bengali language and cultural heritage. Language education is approached not only as an academic exercise, but as a means of maintaining identity, collective memory, and community continuity among younger generations growing up in Canada.

By creating opportunities for children to learn, perform, and express themselves in Bangla, the school supports cultural literacy and reinforces the importance of linguistic diversity as a component of inclusive and sustainable societies.

International Mother Language Day

One of the school's most significant annual events is the observance of International Mother Language Day (Ekushey February). During the reporting period, the event brought together students, families, and community members to honour the 1952 Language Movement martyrs of Bangladesh.

The programme included student performances, poetry recitations, songs, art activities, and a communal meal. Children participated in creative stations themed around Ekushey February, fostering age-appropriate learning about history, sacrifice, and the value of linguistic rights. The event served both as a moment of remembrance and as an educational experience that connected historical struggle to contemporary cultural identity.

Pohela Boishakh and Pitha Uthsob

Toronto Bangla School also organized celebrations of Pohela Boishakh (Bengali New Year) and Pitha Uthsob, highlighting traditional food, music, dance, and cultural expression. Students performed songs and dances, while families gathered to share traditional meals such as panta ilish and a variety of pithas.

These events emphasized intergenerational participation and community bonding, reflecting rural and cultural traditions of Bangladesh in a diasporic context. By recreating these shared cultural experiences, the school strengthened social ties and fostered a sense of belonging among participants.

Family Day and Children's Summer Activities

During the summer period, Toronto Bangla School hosted Family Day and Children's Summer Activities, bringing together children, parents, and volunteers in an outdoor community setting. Activities included games, competitions, art, singing, recitation, and group challenges organized by age group.

Prizes and recognition were provided to participants and volunteers, reinforcing encouragement, participation, and appreciation. These activities supported children's social development, confidence-building, and teamwork, while also providing families with opportunities to connect and strengthen community relationships.

Victory Day and Arts-Based Programming

The school also marked Victory Day (16 December) through arts-based programming, including children's art competitions themed around Bangladesh. These activities encouraged creativity, self-expression, and learning about national history and identity. In addition, a virtual Victory Day programme was organized to ensure participation and continuity during periods when in-person gatherings were limited.

Community Engagement and Volunteerism

Toronto Bangla School's activities are made possible through strong volunteer involvement and community leadership. Parents, guardians, educators, and youth volunteers contribute their time and skills to programme delivery, event organization, and cultural education.

Through this collective effort, the school functions not only as an educational institution, but as a community hub that nurtures cooperation, mutual support, and shared responsibility.

Contribution to Social Sustainability

By promoting cultural continuity, youth engagement, and inclusive participation, Toronto Bangla School advances HSDNI's broader vision of holistic sustainable development. Its programmes demonstrate how cultural and social initiatives contribute to resilient, connected, and empowered communities.

As part of HSDNI's ongoing work, Toronto Bangla School will continue to serve as a cornerstone of community development, cultural education, and intergenerational learning within the sustainability framework.

COLLABORATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration is a foundational principle of Holistic Sustainable Development Network International's (HSDNI) approach to advancing holistic and inclusive sustainability. The organization recognizes that complex social, environmental, and governance challenges cannot be addressed in isolation, and that meaningful progress depends on cooperation across institutions, disciplines, sectors, and communities.

Throughout the 2024–2025 reporting period, HSDNI strengthened and expanded its network of national and international partnerships to support research, community engagement, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.

International Partnerships and Global Engagement

HSDNI maintains active collaborations with partners across several countries, reflecting its commitment to global perspectives and transnational learning. A key international initiative is Sustainability Global, developed in partnership with organizations in Nigeria. This collaboration focuses on social development activities and knowledge exchange related to sustainability challenges in diverse contexts.

Another major international partnership is the PROYASHEE Polli Eco-Village initiative, originating in Bangladesh with collaborative links to the United Kingdom and Canada. This project supports vulnerable elderly individuals and children who lack adequate care and resources. During the reporting period, planning and coordination continued for infrastructure development, healthcare access, and long-term sustainability programming, with the first office building scheduled for construction in early 2026.

HSDNI is also developing a research-focused partnership with the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, aimed at advancing collaborative work on climate change, disaster management, vulnerability assessment, and apprenticeship programmes. This partnership reflects HSDNI's emphasis on evidence-based approaches and capacity building in regions most affected by environmental risk.

Academic and Research Partnerships

Academic collaboration remains central to HSDNI's mission. The organization works closely with universities and research institutions to support conferences, public consultations, student engagement, and interdisciplinary research.

During the reporting period, HSDNI partnered with Toronto Metropolitan University in hosting the 9th Sustainability Collaborative Conference and continued preparations for future academic programming. Internationally, partnerships with academic institutions in the United Kingdom supported the organization of the 10th Sustainability Collaborative Conference and public consultations on law and Indigenous sustainability.

HSDNI also supports student groups and emerging researchers at both the University of Toronto and Toronto Metropolitan University, fostering youth engagement, mentorship, and applied learning opportunities in sustainability-related fields.

Community and Non-Governmental Organization Partnerships

At the community level, HSDNI collaborates with a range of organizations to deliver culturally responsive and accessible programming. These partnerships strengthen outreach, enhance programme relevance, and support shared resource use.

Key community partners include Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services, Access Alliance, and Tamil Civic Society. Through these collaborations, HSDNI contributes to community education initiatives, cultural programming, environmental awareness activities, and social wellbeing projects. Additional partnerships with academic and research-focused organizations, including EnSciMan and the Centre for Food Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University, further support interdisciplinary engagement and applied sustainability research.

Collaborative Approach to Programme Delivery

HSDNI's partnerships are characterized by shared planning, mutual respect, and a commitment to co-creation. Rather than operating through a centralized delivery model, the organization emphasizes partnership-based implementation, volunteer engagement, and community leadership. This approach enhances programme sustainability, responsiveness, and local ownership.

Most collaborative activities are supported through shared resources, in-kind contributions, and collective funding arrangements, reflecting HSDNI's emphasis on cooperation over competition.

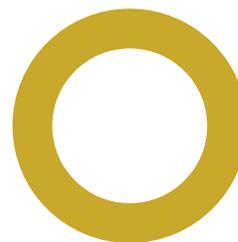
Strengthening Networks for Sustainable Impact

Strengthening Networks for Sustainable Impact

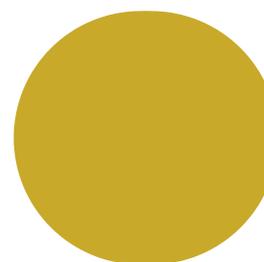
Through its collaborative and strategic partnerships, HSDNI continues to build networks that connect research, policy, and community practice. These partnerships amplify impact, support innovation, and ensure that sustainability initiatives are informed by diverse perspectives and lived experiences.

As HSDNI moves forward, strengthening existing partnerships and developing new collaborative relationships will remain a priority in advancing inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development at local, national, and global levels.

Funding, Resources, and Financial Overview



Holistic Sustainable Development Network International (HSDNI) operates through a collaborative, partnership-based funding model that emphasizes shared responsibility, community support, and prudent resource management. As a non-profit organization committed to inclusive and community-driven sustainability initiatives, HSDNI prioritizes transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of financial and human resources.



Funding Sources

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, HSDNI’s activities were supported through a combination of collaborative partnerships, community promoters, and targeted grant funding. The majority of the organization’s regular and community-based programmes were delivered through shared resources and contributions from partners, volunteers, and promoters, particularly those associated with the Toronto Bangla School.

This year marked an important milestone in external funding, as a group affiliated with HSDNI successfully received a Community Leadership Grant of \$5,000. The grant supported the delivery of a Good Parenting event and a waste segregation education workshop, enabling the organization to expand its outreach and deliver focused community education initiatives.

In addition, HSDNI secured and successfully completed a government-funded summer student position, supporting youth employment while strengthening the organization’s administrative and programme capacity. This initiative required the establishment of payroll and related administrative systems, further enhancing HSDNI’s operational infrastructure.

Publications and Programme Support

HSDNI’s academic and knowledge dissemination activities continue to operate through cost-efficient and collaborative models. The Trajectory of Sustainable Development journal and related online publications are supported through the voluntary contributions of editors, reviewers, and authors. The journal is published online, allowing the organization to minimize overhead costs while ensuring broad accessibility and global reach.

Similarly, planning for the upcoming Sustainable Development Review magazine is being undertaken with a focus on sustainability, collaboration, and efficient use of resources.

Human Resources and Volunteer Contributions

HSDNI operates with a lean organizational structure that relies heavily on volunteer engagement and community leadership. Board members, programme coordinators, educators, and event volunteers contribute significant time and expertise to support the organization's activities. This volunteer-driven model enhances community ownership while allowing HSDNI to direct financial resources toward programme delivery and capacity building.

The organization's Executive Director oversees day-to-day operations, programme coordination, and partnership development, working closely with the Board of Governors to ensure alignment between financial decisions and strategic priorities.

Financial Oversight and Accountability

Financial oversight is provided by the Board of Governors, with specific responsibility held by the Treasurer. The Board reviews financial matters, administrative requirements, and funding-related decisions to ensure responsible financial management and compliance with organizational and regulatory obligations.

HSDNI is committed to maintaining sound financial practices that support long-term sustainability, organizational stability, and public trust. As the organization continues to grow, efforts remain focused on diversifying funding sources, strengthening administrative systems, and enhancing financial resilience.

Looking Ahead

While HSDNI continues to operate primarily through collaborative and community-supported funding, the organization recognizes the importance of securing additional grants and partnerships to support future growth. Planned initiatives—including international conferences, publications, and community programmes—will be pursued with careful consideration of financial sustainability and resource capacity.

Through strategic use of funds, strong volunteer engagement, and effective governance oversight, HSDNI remains well-positioned to advance its mission and expand its impact in the years ahead.

Impact Highlights and Outcomes

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, Holistic Sustainable Development Network International advanced its mission through integrated academic, community, and cultural initiatives. While programme formats varied in scale and scope, collectively they contributed to measurable social, educational, and institutional outcomes aligned with holistic sustainable development.

Academic and Knowledge Impact

HSDNI strengthened its role as a platform for interdisciplinary sustainability scholarship and dialogue. Through its journal publications and Sustainability Collaborative Conferences, the organization supported:

- The dissemination of peer-reviewed, open-access research addressing social, environmental, legal, and governance dimensions of sustainability
- Increased opportunities for interdisciplinary and transnational collaboration among scholars, practitioners, and students
- Public consultations that contributed to emerging research networks, particularly in the area of law and Indigenous sustainability

These activities enhanced the visibility and accessibility of sustainability research while supporting evidence-informed discussion across academic and policy-oriented audiences.

Community Education and Skills Development

Community-based education initiatives delivered tangible learning outcomes for participants, particularly children, families, and immigrant communities. Environmental education workshops increased awareness of practical waste segregation and everyday environmental responsibility. Parenting and wellbeing programmes supported dialogue around family relationships, communication, and child development within culturally responsive settings.

Participants engaged in hands-on, experiential learning that emphasized practical application, reinforcing knowledge retention and encouraging behaviour change at the household and community level.

Youth Engagement and Development

HSDNI's programmes consistently prioritized children and youth engagement. Through educational workshops, cultural events, arts-based activities, and games, young participants developed:

- Increased confidence in public performance and creative expression
- Greater awareness of cultural heritage, language, and history
- Early exposure to concepts of environmental responsibility, cooperation, and community participation

These outcomes support long-term social sustainability by fostering informed, engaged, and confident future community members.

Cultural Preservation and Social Cohesion

Through Toronto Bangla School programming and community events, HSDNI contributed to the preservation of linguistic and cultural heritage while strengthening social cohesion within the Bangladeshi-Canadian diaspora. Events such as International Mother Language Day, Pohela Boishakh, Family Day, and Victory Day created inclusive spaces for intergenerational interaction, volunteerism, and shared cultural expression.

These initiatives reinforced community identity, reduced social isolation, and supported a sense of belonging among participants.

Organizational and Governance Outcomes

Internally, HSDNI achieved important organizational outcomes during the reporting period. Governance capacity was strengthened through the recruitment of new Board members with complementary expertise, improving the organization's ability to support communication, documentation, and technical needs. Administrative systems were enhanced through the successful management of a government-funded summer student position, supporting operational resilience and compliance.

Partnership and Network Growth

HSDNI expanded and deepened partnerships with academic institutions, community organizations, and international collaborators. These partnerships enabled shared programme delivery, knowledge exchange, and efficient use of resources. Collaborative approaches amplified impact while fostering mutual learning and long-term relationships.

Overall Impact

Collectively, HSDNI's activities during the reporting period contributed to:

- Greater access to sustainability knowledge across academic and community contexts
- Increased community participation in education, culture, and environmental awareness
- Strengthened institutional capacity and governance foundations
- Expanded collaborative networks supporting inclusive and holistic sustainability

These outcomes reflect HSDNI's continued commitment to advancing sustainable development through knowledge-sharing, community empowerment, and collective action.

Future Plans and Strategic Outlook (2026)

As Holistic Sustainable Development Network International looks ahead to 2026, the organization remains committed to strengthening its role as a platform for inclusive sustainability research, community education, and international collaboration. Building on the foundations established during the 2024–2025 period, HSDNI’s strategic outlook emphasizes consolidation, responsible growth, and deepened impact across its core areas of work.

Publications and Knowledge Dissemination

Knowledge-sharing will continue to be a central focus of HSDNI’s activities. In January 2026, the organization plans to publish the first issue of Sustainable Development Review, a magazine designed to complement HSDNI’s academic journal by providing accessible, practice-oriented content for broader audiences. A second issue of the magazine is scheduled for publication in July 2026.

In addition, The Trajectory of Sustainable Development journal will continue its regular publication cycle, with the next issue scheduled for August 2026. These publications will further HSDNI’s commitment to open-access knowledge, interdisciplinary dialogue, and the integration of research with community and policy-relevant perspectives.

Conferences and Academic Engagement

HSDNI will continue to prioritize academic engagement and collaborative dialogue through its Sustainability Collaborative Conference series. The 11th Sustainability Collaborative Conference is scheduled to take place on 19–20 May 2026 at Toronto Metropolitan University. The conference will build on previous themes of inclusion, diversity, governance, and sustainability, while creating space for new research, emerging scholars, and community perspectives.

Conferences will remain a key mechanism for fostering interdisciplinary exchange, public consultation, and international collaboration, reinforcing HSDNI’s role as a convener within sustainability scholarship and practice.

Community and Cultural Programmes

Community-based initiatives will continue to play a vital role in HSDNI’s work in 2026. Planned activities include the celebration of International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2026, followed by Pohela Boishakh and Pitha Uthsob scheduled for April 2026. These events will continue to support cultural preservation, intergenerational learning, and community cohesion through the Toronto Bangla School.

HSDNI also plans to host the 11th Children’s Summer Activities and Family Park Day in July 2026, providing opportunities for youth engagement, family participation, and volunteer involvement in a community-focused setting.

International Projects and Partnerships

At the international level, progress is planned for the PROYASHEE Polli Eco-Village initiative. The construction of the project's first office building is scheduled for February 2026, marking an important step in establishing infrastructure to support services for vulnerable elderly individuals and children in Bangladesh. Regular medical check-ups and support services are also planned as part of the project's ongoing development.

HSDNI will continue to strengthen partnerships with academic institutions, community organizations, and international collaborators to support research, capacity building, and programme delivery.

Organizational Development and Sustainability

Looking ahead, HSDNI remains focused on strengthening its organizational capacity, governance systems, and financial resilience. Efforts will continue to diversify funding sources, enhance administrative processes, and support volunteer and leadership development. These priorities are intended to ensure that the organization remains responsive, accountable, and sustainable as its activities expand.

Strategic Outlook

HSDNI enters 2026 with a clear strategic direction rooted in collaboration, inclusivity, and holistic thinking. While global and local sustainability challenges continue to evolve, the organization remains committed to fostering informed dialogue, empowering communities, and supporting practical action.

By aligning research, community engagement, and cultural initiatives within a unified sustainability framework, HSDNI aims to deepen its impact and contribute meaningfully to more equitable, resilient, and sustainable societies in the years ahead.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND APPRECIATION

The achievements of Holistic Sustainable Development Network International during the 2024–2025 reporting period were made possible through the collective commitment, generosity, and collaboration of many individuals and organizations. The Board of Governors and management extend sincere appreciation to all those who contributed their time, expertise, and resources in support of HSDNI's mission.

Volunteers and Community Members

HSDNI's work is deeply rooted in community participation. Volunteers and community members played a vital role across all areas of programming, including conferences, cultural events, educational workshops, publications, and organizational support. Their contributions ranged from programme planning and facilitation to documentation, logistics, mentorship, and outreach.

Particularly through the Toronto Bangla School, parents, guardians, educators, youth volunteers, and community leaders demonstrated sustained commitment to cultural preservation, youth engagement, and community wellbeing. Their willingness to give time and effort strengthened social cohesion and ensured that programmes remained inclusive, accessible, and responsive to community needs.

HSDNI also acknowledges the dedication of volunteers who supported academic and knowledge-sharing initiatives, including peer reviewers, editors, and contributors whose work upheld the quality and integrity of the organization's publications.

Partners, Sponsors, and Supporters

HSDNI extends its gratitude to its academic, community, and international partners whose collaboration enabled the successful delivery of programmes and initiatives throughout the year. Universities, research centres, community organizations, and international collaborators contributed expertise, platforms, shared resources, and institutional support that enhanced the reach and impact of HSDNI's work.

The organization also acknowledges supporters who contributed financially or in kind, including those involved in collaborative funding arrangements, community promoters, and grant-supported initiatives. Support from funding partners, including the Community Leadership Grant and government-funded employment initiatives, strengthened HSDNI's capacity to deliver targeted education and community programming.

HSDNI is grateful for the continued trust and engagement of all partners and supporters and looks forward to strengthening these relationships in pursuit of shared sustainability goals.

THEME: PUBLIC HEALTH SUSTAINABILITY

HSDNI'S 9TH SUSTAINABILITY COLLABORATIVE CONFERENCE

SUB-THEMES:

2025

DATE & TIME:

9.30 am - 4.30 pm

13 & 14 May, 2025

LOCATION:

Toronto Metropolitan
University, DCC, 7th Floor,
Collab Space

CONTACT US:

+1 (437) 345-6722

hsdn2014@gmail.com

<https://www.hsdni.org/>



**Toronto
Metropolitan
University**

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



DAY 1 SESSION 1

9:30 AM	EVENT START (REGISTRATION, SETTING TABLE & BREAKFAST)		
10:00 AM	LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	VIDEO PLAY	
10:10 AM	OPENING SPEAKER	DR. NANCY WALTON	Opening the conference
10:25 AM	WELCOME SPEAKER	DR. NASIMA AKTER	Introduction to HSDNI and future expectation of the collaboration and cooperation
10:35 AM	CHAIR	DR. SHAFI BHUIYAN	CHAIR'S OPENNING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKERS
10:45 AM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	DR. HELAL HOSSAIN DHALI	Diasporas and the Rise of Right-Wing Extremism: The Role of Decolonial Education in Countering This Threat
11:10 AM	SPEAKER	Qazi Shafayetul Islam	Awareness and Attitudes towards racism and discrimination within Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Iranian, and Nigerian communities in Toronto
11:25 AM	SPEAKER	JANNATUL ISLAM & UMME TASNEEM HYDER	Education and Allyship to combat racism and discrimination
11:40 AM	SPEAKER	DR. MAHBUB HASAN, URBI KHAN & ANUVA HASAN	Advancing Racial Justice Through Youth Leadership and Community Engagement - Insights From the Together End Racism Toronto Campaign.
11:55 AM	SPEAKER	ANCHAL BHATIA	Understanding Canadian policies to combat racism and discrimination
12:20 PM	SPEAKER	PRISCILLA MIUCCIO	Bridging Barriers: Addressing Healthcare Access And Vaccine Hesitancy Among Spanish-Speaking Seniors In North York

LUNCH BREAK & NETWORKING

DAY 1 - SESSION 2

1:20 PM	CHAIR	NEETHAN SHAN	CHAIR'S OPENNING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKERS
1:50 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	DR. FAHIM QUADIR	Deconstructing the Myths of Good Governance: The West's Civilizing Mission and the Imperative of Linking Democracy with Social Development
2:10 PM	SPEAKER	AKM KHAIRUL ISLAM	The Bad Governance and Cronies in the Bangladesh State: The Political Economy of Neo-Patrimonial Plunder
2:30 PM	SPEAKER	DR. MAHATABUDDIN	Protecting Farm Data under Intellectual Property Law
2:45 PM	SPEAKER	DR. REDDI SEKHARA YALAMALA	Leveraging Participatory and Collaborative Governance in Renewable Energy Partnerships among Indigenous Communities, Canada

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



DAY 2 - SESSION 2

1:45 PM	CHAIR	DIANE DYSON	CHAIR'S OPENNING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKERS
1:55 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	DR. MUSTAFA KOC	Deconstructing the Myths of Good Governance: The West's Civilizing Mission and the Imperative of Linking Democracy with Social Development
2:20 PM	SPEAKER	DR. CHETHIKA GUNASIRI	Leveraging Urban Agriculture to Address Food Insecurity Among Urban Poor Communities: A Case Study from Colombo, Sri Lanka
2:35 PM	SPEAKER	DR. AMANDA WEDGE	Technology for Food Justice: A web-based and mobile application for food bank users and food bank operators.
2:50 PM	PANEL SPEAKER	DR. SARA EDGE	Arrell Chair in Food, Policy & Society, and Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, Environment & Geomatics at University of Guelph
3:00 PM	PANEL SPEAKER	DR. SUTAMA GHOSH	Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Toronto Metropolitan University.
		Q & A	

VOLUNTEER CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION AND CLOSING

**HSDNI AT TMU PRESENTS:
HSDNI'S 9TH SUSTAINABILITY COLLABORATIVE
CONFERENCE-2025**

**Inclusion and Diversity for
Sustainable Society**

**TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY, CANADA ON 14
MAY 2025 (DAY 2)**

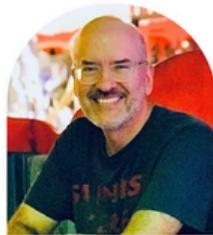
Session: Public Health

OPENING SPEAKER



DR. ANDREW LAURSEN
GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
ENVIRONMENTAL APPLIED
SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT,
TORONTO METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY

CHAIR



CLIFF LEDWOS
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AT ACCESS ALLIANCE
MULTICULTURAL HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



NATASHA BEAUDIN
SOCIAL PRESCRIBING PROJECT
LEAD AT ALLIANCE FOR
HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES.



DR. JAY SHAW
TIER 2 CANADA RESEARCH
CHAIR AND ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY AT
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Session: Good Governance

CHAIR



DIANE DYSON
RESEARCHER & PUBLIC POLICY
ADVOCATE, PAST CHAIR, HSDNI

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DR. MUSTAFA KOC
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY AND DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR
STUDIES IN FOOD SECURITY, TORONTO
METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY



DAY 1 — 13 MAY 2025

Theme emphasis: Racism, discrimination, governance, and structural foundations of public health sustainability

OPENING CONTEXT (DAY 1)

Day 1 established the normative and structural framework for the conference. Speakers emphasized that public health sustainability cannot be separated from:

- Racism and discrimination
- Political and legal governance structures
- Historical power imbalances
- Community trust in institutions

The day deliberately moved from social harms → governance failures → systemic solutions, grounding sustainability in social justice rather than technical efficiency alone.

SESSION 1: RACISM & DISCRIMINATION (BCS SESSION)

Core focus

Racism and discrimination were framed as determinants of health that directly shape access to care, mental health outcomes, civic participation,

Key discussions and findings

1. Diasporas and Right-Wing Extremism

- Right-wing extremism was discussed as a growing threat in Canada and other Western democracies.
- Diaspora communities—particularly Asian, Jewish, and Muslim populations—were identified as frequent targets of hate crimes and exclusionary narratives.
- Decolonial education was presented as a preventive strategy that:
 - Challenges colonial knowledge hierarchies
 - Counters misinformation and racialized fear
 - Builds critical civic literacy within communities

2. Community-Based Evidence on Racism

- A large community-based qualitative study (over 400 participants) examined awareness and attitudes toward racism among Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Iranian, and Nigerian communities in Toronto.
- Findings showed:
 - Overall low awareness of anti-racism laws and policies
 - Significant generational divides, with youth demonstrating higher awareness than seniors
 - Disparities between communities, with Nigerian and Iranian respondents reporting higher awareness and willingness to seek help



3. Education, Allyship, and Youth Leadership

- Youth-led anti-racism initiatives were presented as models for sustainable social change.
- Programs emphasized:
 - Training youth ambassadors
 - Producing digital toolkits
 - Promoting allyship rather than performative inclusion
- The role of community organizations in mentoring youth leadership was highlighted as critical to long-term sustainability.

4. Legal Frameworks and Access to Justice

- Racism against South Asian communities in Ontario was examined through:
 - The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
 - Ontario Human Rights Code
 - Anti-Racism Act, 2017
- Speakers emphasized the gap between legal rights on paper and lived access to justice, especially for newcomers unfamiliar with reporting mechanisms.

Why this session mattered

This session reframed racism as a public health crisis that erodes:

- Mental health
- Institutional trust
- Social cohesion
- Intergenerational well-being

Without addressing racism structurally, public health interventions remain incomplete.

SESSION 2: GOOD GOVERNANCE

Core focus

Good governance was examined not as an abstract ideal, but as a precondition for sustainable health, economic stability, and environmental protection.

Key discussions and arguments

1. Critique of “Good Governance” Narratives

- Western governance models were critiqued as historically rooted in colonial “civilizing missions.”
- Speakers argued that governance reforms often:
 - Prioritize procedural democracy
 - Ignore social development and equity
 - Serve donor interests rather than local needs
- The democracy–development link was presented as contingent, not automatic.

2. Political Economy of Bad Governance

- Bangladesh was used as a case study to demonstrate how:
 - Neo-patrimonial governance
 - Crony capitalism
 - Weak accountability
 - Undermine democratic consolidation and sustainable development.

- Governance failures were linked directly to:
 - Economic instability
 - Social inequality
 - Public distrust
 - Health system fragility

3. Law, Technology, and Agricultural Sustainability

- The protection of farm data under intellectual property law was discussed as an emerging sustainability issue.
- Concerns included:
 - Farmer data ownership
 - Privacy risks in AI-driven agriculture
 - Inadequacy of existing IP regimes
- Speakers argued that legal frameworks must evolve to protect farmers' autonomy in the digital agricultural economy.

4. Indigenous Governance and Renewable Energy

- Renewable energy partnerships with Indigenous communities were presented as examples of governance done right.
- Key factors included:
 - Respect for treaty rights
 - Shared ownership and revenue
 - Participatory decision-making
- Sustainability was framed as impossible without reconciliation and Indigenous self-determination.

Why this session mattered

Governance was positioned as health infrastructure. When governance fails, public health outcomes deteriorate regardless of medical innovation or funding.

DAY 2 — 14 MAY 2025



Theme emphasis: Public health delivery, community access, and food systems

SESSION 3: PUBLIC HEALTH (ACCESS ALLIANCE SESSION)

This session examined how public health systems function—or fail—at the community level, particularly for immigrants, refugees, and marginalized populations.

Key discussions and insights

1. Social Prescribing

- Social prescribing was introduced as a model that integrates:
 - Medical care
 - Social supports
 - Community engagement
- Rather than treating illness in isolation, patients are connected to:
 - Social programs
 - Cultural activities
 - Community resources
- This approach was framed as essential for health equity.

2. Role of Community Health Centres

- Community Health Centres (CHCs), especially Access Alliance, were highlighted as:
 - Frontline institutions for marginalized populations
 - Sites of both service delivery and advocacy
- Their work addresses social determinants of health such as:
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Immigration status
 - Language barriers

3. Cultural Competence in Care

- Multiple presentations addressed gaps in culturally competent care, particularly in:
 - Postnatal care for South Asian immigrant women
 - Mental health services
- Barriers included:
 - Language gaps
 - Lack of provider training
 - Systemic bias
- Speakers emphasized the need for intersectional, gender-responsive healthcare models.

4. COVID-19 and Compounded Vulnerabilities

- Research on immigrants and refugees with cancer, mental health issues, and addiction disorders showed how crises magnify existing inequities.
- These populations were often excluded from mainstream studies and emergency planning.

5. Overlooked Public Health Issues

- Paternal mental health during the perinatal period was discussed as an under-recognized issue with major implications for:
 - Family dynamics
 - Child development
 - Long-term mental health outcomes

Why this session mattered

Public health sustainability depends on access, trust, cultural relevance, and community-based delivery, not solely on biomedical solutions.

SESSION 4: FOOD INSECURITY

Food systems were examined as political, social, and technological systems central to public health and dignity.

Key discussions and arguments

1. Food as a Political Tool

- Access to food was discussed as historically weaponized through:
 - Sanctions
 - Trade embargoes
 - Selective humanitarian intervention
- Speakers emphasized the need to apply universal human rights principles consistently.

2. Urban Agriculture and Food Security

- Urban agriculture was presented as a strategy to:
 - Improve food access for urban poor populations
 - Enhance community resilience
- Challenges such as lack of space and infrastructure were acknowledged.

3. Technology for Food Justice

- A digital platform for food bank users and operators was presented as a solution to:
 - Fragmented information
 - Inefficient coordination
 - Dignity-eroding access barriers
- Technology was framed as a tool that must be equity-driven, not merely efficient.

4. Food Sovereignty and Equity

- Food insecurity was linked to migration, racialization, and structural inequality.
- Community-led food systems and self-determination were emphasized as sustainable alternatives.

Why this session mattered

Food insecurity was framed not as scarcity, but as policy failure and inequality, making it a core public health sustainability issue.



The 10th Sustainability Collaborative Conference at the University of Bristol

Theme: Diversity and Inclusion for Sustainable Societies

10th-12th September 2025, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

Welcome. This conference will take the form of remarks, research panels, a public consultation and other meetings held over three days. Panelists will have 15 minutes each to present their research and then a combined 15 minutes to answer questions at the end of each session. For the remarks, public consultation and other meetings, please feel free to ask questions at any point.

The public consultation is open to conference participants and other colleagues researching issues relevant to the intersection of law and Indigenous sustainability, such as decolonization, Indigenous inclusion, Indigenous reconciliation, pluriversality and two-eye seeing, as applicable to diverse sustainability issue areas, including but not limited to climate change, energy, mining, biodiversity, water, health and so on. Participants should be ideally interested in discussing opportunities for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects and outputs involving colleagues from diverse research fields and disciplines.

Day 1, 10 September 2025, 10am-4.30pm

Opening Remarks, 10am-10.15am

1. Temitope Onifade, University of Bristol
2. Jannatul Islam, Holistic Sustainable Development Network International
3. Margherita Pieraccini, University of Bristol

Comfort Break, 10.15am-10.20am

Panel 1: Sustainability Principles and Knowledge, 10.20am-11.20am

4. Natalia Szablewska and Wannette Van Eg Dom – Tuinstra, The Open University UK, Legal pluralism beyond the Anthropocene
5. Jenny Hatchard, University of Exeter, and collaborators from other universities, Principles for inclusive, sustainable and collaborative research
6. Nneka Angela Oseji and Yinka Martins Omoniyi, Federal University Lokoja Nigeria, Green information literacy and sustainable libraries

Comfort break: 11.20am-11.30am

Panel 2: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, 11.30am-12.50pm

7. Alice Venn, University of Bristol, Climate and low carbon future in Bristol
8. Opeyemi.A. Gbadegesin, University of Ibadan, Climate and biodiversity law in sub-Saharan Africa
9. Cristian Heredia Ligorria, University of the West of England, Climate legislation in the Caribbean
10. Ngozi Joy Maduafor, Nile University Nigeria, Gender and environmental sustainability



Comfort break: 12.50pm-1pm

Lunch, 1pm-2pm

Panel 3: Nature, Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity, 2pm-3pm

11. Patricia Blardony Miranda, Eliza Hostin Silva and Mireia Bes Garcia, University of Bristol, Resilience through nature
12. Chetana Rukshani Karunatilaka, University of the West of England, Wildlife trade
13. Cristiano d'Orsi, University of Johannesburg, Cultural diversity in Africa

Comfort break: 3pm-3.10pm

Panel 4: Corporations, Labour, and Human Rights, 3.10pm-4.30pm

14. Tonia Novitz, University of Bristol, Labour, human rights and sustainability
15. Mariia Domina, University Paris Nanterre, Regulatory and private law aspects of corporate social responsibility
16. Bolanle Titilayo Adejugbe, Koladasi University, Corporate and business communities
17. Malon Muronzi, International Organization for Migration of the United Nations, Women farmers, sustainable agriculture and food security in Zimbabwe

Announcements and Closing, 4.30pm

18. Temitope Onifade, 4.30pm

Day 2, 11 September 2025, 10am-4.30pm

Panel 5: Inequality and Discrimination, 10am-11am

19. Bolutito Ayobami Iyanda, University of Bristol, AI coding bias and health justice
20. Tomasz Chłapowski, Independent scholar, Legal inequality and religious discrimination in Polish law
21. Osamede Osasu, Independent Consultant, Indigenous women, energy and mining

Comfort break: 11am-11.10am

Panel 6: Politics and Safety, 11.10am-12.10am

22. Alexander Ayeson Epu, Nasarawa State University, Policing for inclusive development in Nigeria
23. Sunday Abimbola Abodunrin, University of Ibadan, Oyinlola Abodunrin, Osun State University, Andy Edim Assam, Palacky University Olomouc, and Ariyo Ojo, University of Ibadan, Disability representation in Nigeria politics
24. Jannatul Islam, Holistic Sustainable Development Network International, Food safety Training & certification in Bangladesh

Announcements and Closing, 12.10am-12.30pm

25. Jannatul Islam
26. Temitope Onifade



Lunch, 12.30pm-1.30pm

Public Consultation: Law and Indigenous Sustainability, 2pm-4pm

27. Opening and Agenda, Temitope Onifade, 2pm-2.30pm

28. Consultation on Law and Indigenous Sustainability Research, All Interested Participants, 2.30pm-4pm

The purpose of this consultation is to learn more about the intersection of law and Indigenous sustainability research in the UK with the aim of creating a small research network to collaborate on projects and outputs in this area. We will draw on the experience of the participants within and beyond the UK to consider what this area of research currently looks like in the UK and brainstorm what works, what does not work, and the gaps that need filling. Participants do not need to prepare anything before the consultation.

29. Closing, Temitope Onifade, 4pm-4.30pm

Day 3, 12 September 2025, all day

This day is reserved for colleagues who want to organize additional meetings or collaboration while at Bristol.

Day 1: Sustainability, Environment, and Human Rights

Opening Remarks

The conference opened with reflections on the urgency of rethinking sustainability through inclusive, collaborative, and globally informed frameworks. Speakers emphasized that sustainable development cannot be achieved through siloed disciplines or dominant knowledge systems alone. Instead, meaningful progress requires integrating interdisciplinary scholarship, lived experience, and diverse epistemologies, including Indigenous and community-based knowledge. The opening remarks set the tone for the conference by framing inclusion not as a supplementary concern, but as a core condition for sustainable outcomes.

Panel 1: Sustainability Principles and Knowledge

This panel focused on the conceptual and normative foundations of sustainability. Presentations critically examined legal and epistemic frameworks operating beyond the Anthropocene, questioning dominant models that prioritize extractive or technocratic approaches. Speakers highlighted legal pluralism and participatory research as essential tools for addressing environmental and social challenges in equitable ways.

A key theme was access to knowledge. Discussions on green information literacy and sustainable libraries underscored the role of information infrastructures in enabling informed environmental decision-making. Ensuring equitable access to environmental knowledge was presented as a prerequisite for democratic participation and long-term sustainability.

Panel 2: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Panel 2 addressed climate change across multiple scales, illustrating how local, regional, and global responses intersect. Case studies included low-carbon transition strategies in Bristol, climate and biodiversity governance in sub-Saharan Africa, and legislative approaches to climate change in the Caribbean.

Speakers also foregrounded gender dimensions of climate change, emphasizing that environmental impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptive capacities are not evenly distributed. The panel highlighted how gender-responsive policies and inclusive governance structures are critical for effective and just climate action.

Panel 3: Nature, Biodiversity, and Cultural Diversity

This panel explored the interdependence between ecological systems and cultural practices. Presentations examined nature-based resilience strategies, the social and environmental challenges associated with the wildlife trade, and the role of cultural diversity in shaping sustainable development pathways, particularly in African contexts. The discussion emphasized that biodiversity conservation cannot be separated from cultural preservation. Sustainable environmental governance must account for local traditions, values, and knowledge systems that have historically supported ecological balance.

Panel 4: Corporations, Labour, and Human Rights

Panel 4 examined sustainability within economic, corporate, and labour frameworks. Presentations addressed the intersections between labour rights, human rights, and environmental sustainability, including both regulatory and private law approaches to corporate social responsibility.

Speakers discussed the role of businesses as key actors in sustainability transitions, while also critically examining accountability mechanisms. A focused discussion on women farmers in Zimbabwe highlighted the links between sustainable agriculture, food security, and gender equity, demonstrating how labour rights and environmental sustainability are mutually reinforcing.

Day 2: Inequality, Governance, and Public Safety

Panel 5: Inequality and Discrimination

This panel addressed structural and systemic inequalities that undermine sustainable development. Presentations explored bias in artificial intelligence systems and its implications for health justice, religious discrimination within Polish legal frameworks, and the lived experiences of Indigenous women in the energy and mining sectors. A central theme was environmental justice. Speakers emphasized that sustainability initiatives that fail to address discrimination and exclusion risk reproducing existing inequalities, rather than resolving them.

Panel 6: Politics and Safety

Panel 6 focused on governance, representation, and public safety as dimensions of sustainability. Topics included inclusive policing practices in Nigeria, disability representation in political institutions, and food safety training and certification frameworks in Bangladesh.

These discussions highlighted the role of institutions in shaping equitable access to safety, health, and political participation. Sustainable societies were framed as those that ensure inclusive governance and regulatory systems responsive to diverse community needs.

Public Consultation: Law and Indigenous Sustainability

A dedicated public consultation session created space for open dialogue on law and Indigenous sustainability research, particularly within the UK context. Participants shared insights on gaps in current legal and research frameworks, discussed challenges faced by Indigenous communities, and explored pathways for ethical and collaborative research engagement.

The session emphasized the importance of co-creation, respect for Indigenous sovereignty, and long-term relationship-building. It also identified opportunities for developing a collaborative research network to support future interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects.

Day 3: Collaboration and Networking

The final day was reserved for informal meetings, networking, and collaborative discussions. Participants used this time to develop research partnerships, explore joint publications and funding opportunities, and strengthen interdisciplinary and international networks. This day reinforced the conference's emphasis on sustained collaboration beyond the event itself.

Conclusion

The 10th Sustainability Collaborative Conference successfully advanced critical dialogue on diversity and inclusion as essential components of sustainable societies. By foregrounding legal pluralism, social justice, Indigenous knowledge, gender equality, labour rights, and inclusive governance, the conference demonstrated that sustainability is inseparable from equity and participation.

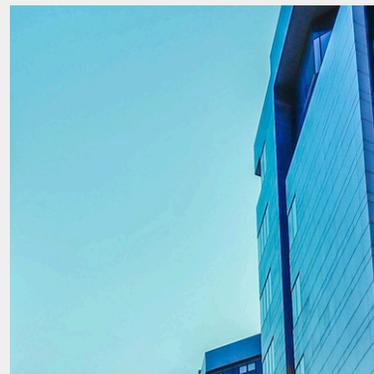
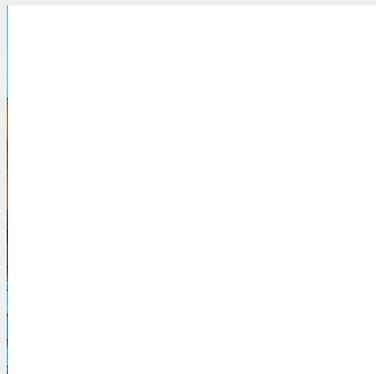
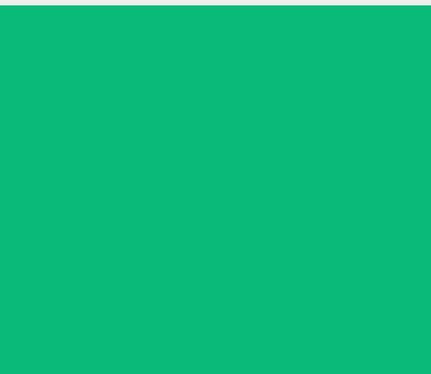
The conference provided a robust platform for interdisciplinary knowledge exchange and fostered meaningful connections among scholars and practitioners. It also laid the groundwork for future collaborative research, policy-relevant outputs, and sustained international cooperation in the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development.

Waste Segregation and Environmental Awareness Workshops

The Games and Challenges: Learning Waste Sorting workshop was an interactive educational session designed for children to introduce the basics of sustainable waste management in a fun and accessible way. The workshop focused on helping participants recognize and correctly sort everyday waste into three main categories: recycling (blue bin), compost (green bin), and garbage (black bin). Visual examples and simple explanations were used to help children understand what types of materials belong in each bin, such as clean and dry recyclables, food scraps and organic waste, and non-recyclable items.

The core purpose of the workshop was to build environmental awareness and practical life skills among children through active participation rather than passive learning. This was achieved through a team-based game where participants worked together, rotated roles, and made collective decisions about waste sorting. The competitive and reward-based structure (points and prizes) was used to reinforce correct sorting behaviour, encourage teamwork, and make sustainability concepts engaging and memorable. Overall, the workshop aimed to foster early habits of responsible waste disposal while promoting cooperation, problem-solving, and environmental responsibility in a child-friendly setting.





Organizational Information and Contact Details

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HSDNI welcomes collaboration, research engagement, community partnerships, and public inquiries. Further information about the organization's programmes, publications, and events is available through its website or by contacting the organization directly.