

PRE - CONFERENCE PRESIDENTIAL FORUM HOSTED BY SUNCITY SCHOOL

Gurgaon: Gurgaon-based Suncity School hosted a Pre-Conference Presidential Forum which brought together renowned educationists and selected government officials from the United States, China, Southeast Asia, Latin America, Europe, Middle East and India to deliberate on crucial issues affecting the education sector.

The conference aimed at a convergence of stakeholders of education to hold a collaborative dialogue on issues that drive sustainable and inclusive counseling practices geared towards the success of students. The event held at Suncity School commenced with a welcome address by Arjun Puri, the Counseling Head of O.P. Jindal Global University. Dr. Adam Weinberg, a renowned educationist, and President, Denison University led the US delegation at the Presidential Forum.

The session also witnessed discussions on issues such as changing fields of careers in the 21st century, increased interest in the liberal style arts education, cross-border educational partnerships and the like. Approximately 12 senior global university leaders including Presidents, Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, 20-25 senior principals from schools such as La Martiniere, Shiv Nadar School, Mahatma Gandhi International School, TERI Prakriti School, senior government officials and trade organization leaders attended the conference.

"It was an honor to host the



presidential forum at our school in Gurgaon. The event provided an opportunity to bring together renowned educationists to discuss and deliberate on crucial issues of the education sector," said Ms. Rupa Chakravarty, Principal Suncity School.

In a session on liberal art education, Vineet Gupta, Pro Vice Chancellor, Ashoka University said: "The term liberal is itself misunderstood. In India, liberal art is equated with humanities and social science only, ignoring law and technology. Liberal art helps you to question stereotypes and develop the ability to communicate effectively. It also helps you to know when is the right time to stop communicating and start listening instead. It also develops the ability in an individual to solve complex problems."

Professor C Rajkumar, Founding Vice Chancellor, O P Jindal Global University said: "I would like to challenge the proposition of relation between liberal arts and career readiness. Liberal arts will empower children to pursue a bright career as well. Currently, the mindset of students, parents and other relevant stakeholders is the biggest hurdle. In India, we are living in three centuries together, 19th,

20th and 21st century. There is a need to promote diversity and plural mindset. The framework of liberal art education is technology which has an important role to play in improving the quality of life."

The other attendees included Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Chairperson, Board of Governors, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India, Dr. James Scott, Vice Provost, University of Missouri, U.S. Ms. Michelle Whittingham, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, University of California, Santa Cruz, U.S. Professor Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor, Ahmedabad University, India, Ms. Shobha Mishra Ghosh, Asst. Secretary General, FICCI, India, Darshan Singh, Chairman, Welham Boys' School, Vishal Talwar, Dean, BM Munjal University.

The presidential forum hosted by Suncity School was a part of the 3-day conference by IC3. The Conference seeks to make a major impact in enabling school leaders in India to set up infrastructure and policies to guide students to choose and succeed in careers that best fit their ambitions and interests. The conference is being led by a group of 27 high school counselors and principals from India and Southeast Asia, representing 17 cities from 5 countries.

