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Message

Today, the entire world is passing through a difficult phase. The ecological crisis and ecological misconduct linked to environmental pollution including climate change induced adverse effects, deforestation, land-use changes, natural disasters and lop-sided economic development has reached to unprecedented dimensions. The recent Amazonian and Australian wildfires, and once in a century floods in our own state of Kerala - a part of Western Ghats - a global biodiversity hotspot are testimony to this fact. The Himalaya - the highest and youngest mountain chain of the world on whose rivers, almost 1.5 billion human populations survives are warming almost 3 times that of the global average is a serious concern. How to handle the melting Himalayan glaciers with cascading effects in terms of floods, landslides, erosion and increasing desertification on the one hand, and the sea-level rise as a result of warming of the Arctic and the Antarctic glaciers with disrupting effect on the hydrological cycle and increasing cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons along with the submergence of low-lying islands such as Maldives, Mauritius and Madagascar on the other hand are some of the daunting challenges. All such challenges require the Global Leaders and the International community to work for human-centred pragmatic and scientific solutions on an urgent basis.

Backed by Fourth Industrial Revolution with digital technologies taking the lead in physical and biological world and Slowbalisation taking a critical lead in economic systems, the humanity today witnesses a kind of existential crisis though the human welfare, livelihoods and human survival remains the centre of all SDGs.

In this background, the 'World Environment Summit – 2020' going to be organized at Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi on 18-19 January 2020 by ESDA with our College as a knowledge partner is not only timely, but also the most important and a needed event. I am sure, the academic deliberations and consultations during this International Conference would provide an enriching platform to all concerned with Environment to move towards green solutions that may come handy as a policy document to the national and state governments.

I am happy to extend my best wishes to the Organizing Committee Members with Dr. S.S. Chawla as the College Convenor and Dr. Jitendra Kumar Nagar as the Organizing Secretary. I also take this opportunity to congratulate all the partner institutions from India and abroad for the smooth and successful organization of this International Conference.

With best wishes,

(Principal, Dr. G.K. Arora, 15 Feb. 2020)