



**STELLA MARIS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDENTS' HUB
STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI**

World Cities Day Connect 2023

On October 31st, 2023, students and faculty members of the Stella Maris Sustainable Development Students' Hub attended the World Cities Day Connect 2023 Conference hosted by the Sustainable Development Council, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, at Radisson Blu in Chennai. The conference was organised as a part of the Global Observance of World Cities Day and was a one-day initiative dedicated to advancing the development of smart cities throughout India.

The conference brought together visionary leaders and pioneers of sustainability to discuss and debate topics pertinent to the development of urban spaces and smart cities throughout India. The event saw the confluence of ideas from delegates of different educational institutions, guests, stakeholders, thought leaders, political leaders, experts, and ambassadors who are all deeply involved in the process of making India's cityscape sustainable, inclusive, and sensitive to diverse needs.

The SMSD Students' Hub was represented by faculty members Dr Sugi and Dr Amritha N and students Sriya Reddy and Meghana Sri who took part in discussions, formed new connections with likeminded people, and established communication with notable leaders of today's world.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address from the SDG Advocate for MyWorld 2030, and UNDP Asia Pacific President, Dr. Datchanamoorthy from the Sustainable Development Council. His opening remarks were followed by addresses from notable personalities such as the Vice President of Hindustan Group of Institutions, Dr. Susan Verghese; Shri. Antony Lobo, the Consul General of Spain in Chennai; Shri. V. Nandakumar IRS, the Commissioner of Income Tax, Department of Revenue, and Ministry of Finance of the Government of India; Dr. Beena Philip, the Hon'ble Mayor of Kozhikode Municipal Corporation; and Dr. J Radhakrishnan IAS, the Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation; amongst other respected guests.

The enlightening perspectives shared by Dr. Beena Philip and Dr. J Radhakrishnan provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities in urban governance and sustainable development, which were further enriched by real-life examples of successful implementations. The interactions with esteemed speakers and fellow participants have inspired the SMSD Students' Hub to continue their efforts in driving positive change and contributing to the advancement of sustainable urban development.

A wide range of inspiring action plans, agendas, and problem-solving schemes were brought to light by individuals at the conference, and the SMSD representatives took part in various informative discourses on the essence of our dynamic cities and the innovative yet sustainable technologies needed in order to envisage a better urban world for the future.



SMSD Students' Hub Students and Staffs with Dr J Radhakrishnan IAS, Commissioner, The Greater Chennai Corporation