

Dear Friends,

We hope that this year-end update finds you enjoying the holidays. We also wish that the coming year will be a very healthy, successful, prosperous and happy one for you in all aspects of your personal, family and professional life.

The year behind us was quite challenging. Nevertheless, it resulted in a number of outputs that our WG and its individual members produced. These have been summarized in the WG 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Outlook and presented to the PRME Secretariat, which will hopefully include them in the PRME Annual Report 2019 and Outlook 2020.

The **December 2019 Anti-poverty WG Update** gives you the latest information on the WG activities, as well as a brief summary from the WG Annual Report.

### **Anti-poverty Toolkit Project**

The 6<sup>th</sup> RME Research Conference in Jönköping, Sweden, formally launched the Anti-poverty Toolkit and at the conclusion of a robust panel presentation was officially handed over to the WG for continued development and maintenance. A separate message will provide WG members with both the Toolkit's web address and our next steps in its development.

### **Joint Book(s) Published**

The book, *Global Champions of Sustainable Development*, was published in early December by Routledge. Our WG members have significantly contributed to the content and quality of this outstanding publication by (co)authoring six out of 13 book chapters. **Al Rosenbloom** (USA) coauthored the chapter *What does it mean to be a Latin Family?: Achievements on sustainability of the Multi-Latina Grupo Familia*; **Ijeoma Nwagwu** (Nigeria) wrote a chapter on *Champions of sustainable development in Africa: challenges, successes and lessons learned in Nigeria*; **Diane Kellogg** (USA) contributed the chapter on *Champions of water and sanitation for all*; **Alec Wersun** (UK) authored the chapter *Champions of sustainable development: the university for the common good and Granmeen Caledonian College of Nursing in Bangladesh*; **Susan Kinne** (Nicaragua) coauthored the chapter *Paths to empowerment: a case study of local sustainability from rural Nicaragua*; while **Xuanwei Cao** (China) co-authored the chapter *Poverty eradication and political engagement; a case of sustainable entrepreneurship in China*.

Our WG members **Tay Keog Tan** (USA, Singapore) and **Milenko Gudić** (Serbia) co-edited the book together with **Pat Flynn** (USA), the Co-chair of the PRME Gender Equality WG. Thanks and congratulations to all!

The twin book *Struggles and Successes in the Pursuit of Sustainable Development*, coedited by the same team will come out from press early next year.

### **Promoting Youth-related Activities of our WG Members and Partners**

#### ***A Series of SDG related Workshops in CEE***

Our new member from Brazil, **Flavio Pinheiro Martins**, (University of Sao Paulo) held a series of three sustainability-related workshops for students at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, Belgrade, and University Donja Gorica, Podgorica. The events were hosted by our WG members and partners **Melita Rant** (Slovenia), **Sanja Marinković** (Serbia) and **Marko Nišavić**, Montenegro. The workshop adapted the Business Model Canvas to higher education and

focused on solving socio-environmental problems. The event also helped to identify future collaboration among the institutions involved. For more information, please contact Flavio Pinheiro Martins at [fpmartins@usp.br](mailto:fpmartins@usp.br)

The **2019 International Student Essay Competition** “*Student experience and opportunities for engagement in multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve sustainable development goals*”, led by our WG member **Anastsiya Marcheva** (Bulgaria) has already received over 35 submissions from students in Bulgaria, Colombia, Russia, Ukraine and USA. The deadline has been extended until 31 January 2020. We would appreciate if you could invite your students to get involved in the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the project sponsored by our Working Group. Send you student essays to [an.marcheva@gmail.com](mailto:an.marcheva@gmail.com).

### **Summary of the WG Annual Report 2019 and Outlook for 2020**

- Our Annual Report to the PRME Secretariat highlighted WG activities that have been featured in our bi-monthly Updates this year. These highlights included: Anti-poverty Toolkit project, co-organization of the 6<sup>th</sup> RMER Conference in Sweden, participation in the Roundtable on the future of RME, joint book projects, youth related activities, as well as our WG involvement in the important activities carried out by the PRME Advisory Committee that were aimed at resolving the PRME governance issues.
- Above all, we emphasized our practice of information sharing and promoting collaboration among WG members and partners through dissemination of research and publishing outcomes, individual and institutional best practices, videos, invitations for various international research projects, conferences, call for papers and/or book chapters, invitations for institutional collaboration, travel scholarship, etc.
- In our Outlook for 2020, we emphasized the future work on the Toolkit project, co-organization of the 7<sup>th</sup> RMER Conference to be held in 2020 in Switzerland, as well as of the 8<sup>th</sup> RMER event to take place in China in 2021, along with possible contribution to the PRME Global Forum to take place in New York in June 2020.

### **News from our Members and Partners**

- Our friend, **Petra Molthan-Hill**, Co-chair of the Climate Change Working Group, is sharing with us her tools for the Climate Justice Game and Future Scenarios Card Game which she presented and ran in a series of session at the 6<sup>th</sup> RME Research Conference in Sweden. For more information please contact Petra Molthan-Hill at [petra.molthan-hill@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:petra.molthan-hill@ntu.ac.uk), or **Vanessa Odell**, Education for Sustainable Development Coordinator at NTU Green Academy at [vanessa.odell@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:vanessa.odell@ntu.ac.uk)
- Our WG member **Shirley Yeung**, Head, School of Business, was awarded “Best Professor, Business Studies” from Hong Kong Education Leadership Awards 2019, with Dr. R.L. Bhatia, Founder of World Sustainability as Jury Member. Congratulations!
- Our friend **Flavio Hourneaux Junior** from the School of Economics, Business Administration and Accounting at the University of Sao Paulo is inviting non-peer reviewed papers for publication in the RAUSP Management Journal where he is the editor. Please feel free to contact Flavio Horneaux Jr. at: [flaviohjr@uol.com.br](mailto:flaviohjr@uol.com.br)
- **Mohamed Buheji**, our WG member from Bahrain will attend the MakeLearn/TIIM conference, 20-22 May 2020, Venice, Italy, where "Inspiration Economy" has a special track. After the event Mohamed is willing to deliver lectures at different universities in the region/countries near to Venice about the "Inspiration Economy" and its international impact on communities. For more information, please contact him at: [buhejim@gmail.com](mailto:buhejim@gmail.com)

Looking forward to our future communication and collaboration in 2019,

With the very best wishes for the coming year,

Al Rosenbloom and Milenko Gudić

P.S. Attached please find the latest updated **WG membership list**, which includes 215 members from 173 institutions in 62 countries!