THE CLIMATE CLASSROOM @COP23

The Climate Classroom @ COP23 is an innovative learning experience, designed for anyone interested in getting up to speed on selected climate change topics through 45-minute lessons and open particularly to delegates of countries facing special challenges (African countries, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries). This is an initiative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and The One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn), in collaboration with UN partners.

ABOUT THE SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland’s international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). In operating with other federal offices concerned, SDC is responsible for the overall coordination of development activities and cooperation with Eastern Europe, as well as for the humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation.

ABOUT UN CC:LEARN

UN CC:Learn is a partnership of more than 30 multilateral organizations supporting countries to design and implement systematic, recurrent and results-oriented climate change learning. UN CC:Learn contributes to the implementation of Article 6 of the UNFCCC on training, education and public awareness-raising, and the 2012-2020 Doha Work Programme. The Secretariat for UN CC:Learn is provided by UNITAR. Funding for UN CC:Learn is provided by the Swiss Government and UN partners.
GET STARTED!

Place the headset comfortably on your head. If you wear glasses or earrings, fix the headset so that you do not feel any discomfort.

Make sure that the microphone does not touch your face or clothes and that it is on the level of your mouth.

To turn on the headset controller press button for 3-4 seconds. You should be able to see the following on the display: speaker icon, headset icon, text “GUEST” and group “12”.

You can control the volume level by pressing the ‘+’ and ‘-‘ signs. It is possible that the sound levels may change during the classroom.

If you would like to speak to the instructor and colleagues, please raise your hand and talk by pressing the talk button as long as you need to speak.

If you need any assistance with the equipment, please contact one of the classroom assistants.
ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Charles Hopkins is currently the UNESCO Chair at York University in Toronto, Canada where he coordinates a global network of teacher education institutions working upon the reorientation of teacher education to address sustainable development.

Charles is also an advisor to the United Nations University (UNU) and a developer of their global Regional Centres of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). His ongoing relationship with sustainability and the role of education, public awareness and training covers a 30-year span.

Formerly, Charles was a superintendent with the Toronto Board of Education and the Co-Director of the Sustainability and Education Academy. He has lectured in over 50 countries.

E-mail: CHopkins@edu.yorku.ca
ABOUT CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT

The promotion of education, training, and public awareness, as well as public participation, public access to information and international cooperation, is key to address climate change, as highlighted in Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.

SUMMARY OF THE CLASS

Key Concepts: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Societal influences, Societal messengers

DISCUSSION:

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is crucial to address climate change within all sectors of society. ESD has four main aspects:

- Access and retention in quality education
- Reorienting existing education to address sustainability
- Building public awareness and understanding of sustainability issues
- Delivering training programs across all sectors

RECENT TRENDS:

- Moving beyond climate change ‘awareness’ and predominantly negative messaging
- Exploring alternatives for effective climate change communication and engagement

KEY MESSAGE:

- ESD is key to promote climate action
- Understand and utilize social sciences, humanities and societal messengers to communicate a clear positive message
- Fuel public understanding and support for enlightened legislation and consumption
- Partner to integrate ESD in national climate change strategies
REFLECTION

- How to enhance the promotion of ESD?
- How to facilitate core messaging and communications strategies?

Fill in the gaps

Article 12

Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change _________, training, public _________, public participation and public access to _________, recognizing the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under this Agreement.

The Paris Agreement, p.16.

Answers: (1) education (2) awareness (3) information
REFERENCES FOR FURTHER LEARNING

PUBLICATIONS

USEFUL WEBSITES
- Education, Training and Public Awareness under Article 6 of the Convention (UNFCCC website)
- Education for Sustainable Development (UNESCO website)

E-LEARNING
UN CC:Learn offers free online courses on climate change. Particularly relevant are Module 2 and Module 6 of UN CC:Learn Introductory e-Course on Climate Change. To access this course and explore other e-learning resources on climate change and related topics, go to: www.uncclearn.org

Find a wide variety of e-learning as well as face to face trainings offered by UNITAR at: www.unitar.org/event

To access all resources and more visit http://www.uncclearn.org/climate-classroom-cop23-climate-empowerment or scan the QR CODE.
SCHEDULE

If you want to take other classes, please check the complete schedule of climate classroom sessions on our website.

www.uncclearn.org/climate-classroom