



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Mahatma Gandhi Institute  
of Education for Peace  
and Sustainable Development

# MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## UNESCO'S FIRST CATEGORY 1 INSTITUTE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC



The Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace & Sustainable Development is UNESCO's first Category 1 Institute in the Asia-Pacific.

The Institute will be a key strategic player in UNESCO's work towards quality Education for All and the transformative shift envisioned for the Post 2015 agenda. The MGIEP takes forward the UN Secretary-General's Education First Initiative and builds on the world's efforts towards the Millennium Development Goals and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

The Institute, as an expert body in this area, and a crucial focal point for policy dialogue, high quality research and innovation, and capacity building, is poised to support a transformation in education which will facilitate the construction of a more peaceful, more sustainable world.





**Irina Bokova,**  
**Director General, UNESCO**

***“Education is what gives individuals the knowledge and values to live in dignity and act for the common good. This is why it is the most basic foundation for building lasting peace and sustainable development.”***

## FOREWORD

**DR KARAN SINGH**

Representative of India on the Executive Board of UNESCO



The setting up by UNESCO and the Government of India of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) in New Delhi has been a significant event, particularly as it is UNESCO’s first Category 1 institute for the Asia – Pacific region. Under the direction of Shri Kabir Shaikh and the Advisory Committee, the foundations for the institution are now complete and the actual work will start shortly.

In this day and age, peace and sustainable development are a pre-requisite for development and the eradication of poverty. Gandhiji’s views in both of these areas are very crucial and it is but appropriate that the institute is named after him. We hope that this will become the nodal institute for peace and sustainable development studies not only in South Asia but all over the continent.

Dr Karan Singh





## THE INSTITUTE

The Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) is UNESCO's first Category 1 Institute in the Asia-Pacific. Established in cooperation with the Government of India, MGIEP has been created to play a leading role in research, knowledge sharing, capacity building and policy formulation in the area of peace and sustainability education. The MGIEP was created by the UNESCO General Conference of 2009, and is a culmination of UNESCO's long history of work in the construction of a more peaceful world. The vision for the MGIEP is rooted in UNESCO's belief in education as the great enabler of development and peace.

The Institute aims to promote, assimilate and generate high quality research to lead the intellectual and policy discourse for education and global citizenship in the Asia-Pacific. As a policy forum, the Institute is unique, as it brings together education, peace, and sustainable development into a single holistic body of effort, facilitating the exchange of knowledge, and linking governments, academic institutions and other organisations in the region. From its office in New Delhi, India, the Institute will be a key focal point for the region. It will function as a clearing house of information, a repository of expertise, and a technical advisory body to governmental agencies, curriculum developers, educators, and institutions on peace and sustainability education.

The MGIEP was named after Mahatma Gandhi, as a tribute to his ideas of non-violence and sustainable living. The President of India and the Director-General of UNESCO jointly announced the establishment of the Institute in November, 2012.





## THE ROLE OF MGIEP

The MGIEP is poised to play a key role in the Post-2015 discourse on education, peace, and sustainable development by leading an intellectual and policy dialogue in this area. The sustenance of our increasingly interlinked world calls for a rethinking of ideas of peaceful coexistence and environmental sustainability. There is urgency to consider a more fundamental transformation – one that is founded on the principles of global citizenship and shared responsibility, and focuses on the vast potential of our youth.

Progress in the field of education for sustainable development has largely been confined to the environmental aspect, and peace education has dealt mainly with armed conflict. MGIEP hopes to widen the discourse and make it multisectoral to include the social, economic, ecological and the environmental facets and make the dialogue more holistic and meaningful. It is also imperative that education for peace and sustainable development is placed at the core of a formal, non-formal, and informal framework at all levels of education.



## CONTEXT

Contemporary Asia-Pacific is a region of vast potential, diversity, and numbers. It is home to a large portion of the world's youth, and also to many conflicts, natural disasters and developmental challenges. There are a variety of initiatives on education, peace, and sustainability, and MGIEP endeavours to provide a focal point to facilitate their interlinkages.

It is therefore very timely, in every sense, that UNESCO's first Category 1 Institute on peace and sustainable development should have come into existence at this particular juncture, and in the Asia-Pacific, and there are great expectations from, and great potential in this institute to become an enabler of policy, information, knowledge, and capacity in this area.



# OUR ACTIVITIES

## MISSION STATEMENT

MGIEP's mission is to orient education systems to place values of equity and sustainability at their very core. We believe that Education for Peace and Sustainable Development should be an integral part of quality education at all levels including formal, non-formal and informal learning. It is MGIEP's conviction that policy and curriculum rooted in the values of peace, sustainability and global citizenship have the potential to resolve our increasingly interlinked developmental and security challenges. MGIEP aims to support the creation and implementation of comprehensive educational frameworks that can influence behaviour to build cultures of peaceful coexistence and long term sustainability.

## ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

The MGIEP will act as an international policy forum for sustained dialogue and intellectual collaboration on policy for education in peace & sustainable development. It will facilitate policy making by producing policy and advocacy briefs and functioning as a technical advisory body for governments. The MGIEP believes that a policy discourse cognizant of the integral link between peace and sustainability will enhance prospects for both in the region.

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

A vital component of the Institute's work is to create awareness in order to enable education systems in the Asia-Pacific to advance the goals of peace and sustainable development. The institute will also be the region's focal centre for dissemination of information on ongoing research, workshops, and related events in the area.



## CLEARING HOUSE

The MGIEP was created to be a clearing house of information and research on education for peace and sustainable development. It shall be a one-stop resource centre for activities, resources, and expertise in the area. The MGIEP database and directory, as well as its own case studies, surveys, and publications will serve as a high quality resource for the Asia-Pacific.

## RESEARCH & CAPACITY BUILDING

The Institute aims to strengthen and facilitate high quality research and exchange of knowledge in the region, by collaborating with institutions, government agencies, universities, and NGOs. It has a key capacity building role, in mapping and supporting the needs of governments, as well as universities, educators and curriculum developers. The MGIEP seeks to support the development of strong and effective peace and sustainability education by serving as an international standard-setting institute.

## NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS

The MGIEP is uniquely situated to facilitate linkages between knowledge communities by creating and maintaining interactive forums and partnerships.



## **CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

The Institute focuses on influencing education systems and policy frameworks through high quality research and policy advice. As the focal point of all information on education for peace and sustainable development in the region, MGIEP has the capacity to link up different partner institutes for sharing research and good practices. The Institute also seeks to commission research and award fellowships to enhance the knowledge base on education for peace and sustainability, and become a laboratory of ideas, to innovate on education policy in ways that have a positive and enabling impact on societies, countries and regions.

## **SETTING THE PACE**

The MGIEP is a policy forum for the Asia-Pacific, supporting a sustained and progressive policy dialogue on transforming education systems, by maintaining virtual networks, directory of experts, coordinating access to information and research, and making information available about all current and future developments on education for peace and sustainable development.

## **NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGE**

MGIEP creates and facilitates knowledge networks – linking experts, institutions, governments, universities, researchers, and pro-fessionals working in education for peace and sustainable development. The Institute, with its unique position of being UNESCO's first Category 1 Institute in the Asia-Pacific utilizes its dynamic networks of university chairs, associated schools, and National Commissions, the on-going work on the Millennium Development Goals, and the Post-2015 development agenda.

## **REPOSITORY OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EXPERTISE**

The MGIEP's mandate resonates with the future developmental agendas envisioned for the Post-2015 context. This is a vision of multi-sectoral, holistic, and unified approach, and a transformative shift. MGIEP is the one stop resource point for experts, professionals, and researchers in the area and the facilitator of linkages between them. Our extensive database will be a key global resource.

## **ENABLER OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

As a technical advisory body to governments, educational institutions and other entities, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, the role of MGIEP is to map and support the needs of member states, assist them in identifying gaps, and help them realize their vision of peace and progress through value based education.





## EDUCATION AT THE CORE

MGIEP believes that education is the base on which we need to lay the foundation for a changed world. Education has the potential to shrink structural differences within regions and outside. Holistic education has the potential of furthering the interest of societies in a just and sustainable way.

The world today is confronted with increasingly interlinked challenges – conflicts over depleting resources fuelled by climate change, inadequate management of natural wealth, unsustainable growth, natural disasters, reconstruction of post-conflict contexts, and armed and structural violence. Peace demands equitable and sustainable environments, rooted in conscientious use of resources and a sense of ownership as citizens of the world. Likewise, any path to sustainable development requires peace, cessation of violence, and a fundamental reconciliation within and between societies. Peace and sustainable development must be built together, to create a world of dignified and equitable livelihoods, prosperity for generations to come, and global collective peace and long term security. MGIEP believes that peace is not just absence of armed conflict. Social and structural inequalities and injustices such as poverty, gender disparities, food insecurity and so on are just as much a threat to peace.

The Institute envisages a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability and global peace through education. It is our endeavour to advance a behavioural transformation as envisioned for the Post-2015 world. Drawing upon the UN's vast experience of working with education as an agent of change, the MGIEP is reinvigorating key guiding principles such as the Delors Commission's recommendations on purposes of education and learning as a comprehensive set of skills.



*Reinvigorating the principles of the  
Delors Commission*





## THE MGIEP FELLOWSHIP

The MGIEP Research Fellowship Programme has been designed to lead innovation and advance cutting edge and socially relevant research on education for peace and sustainable development.

It gives shape to UNESCO & MGIEP's vision of leading an international intellectual discourse which has transformative relevance for policy.

Doctoral and post-doctoral fellows will be selected annually, and offered a fellowship grant for one year for undertaking research on thematic areas, good practice, and innovation in education for peace & sustainable development.

The MGIEP is looking for young innovators, intellectual leaders, and scholars passionate about the vision of a peaceful world.

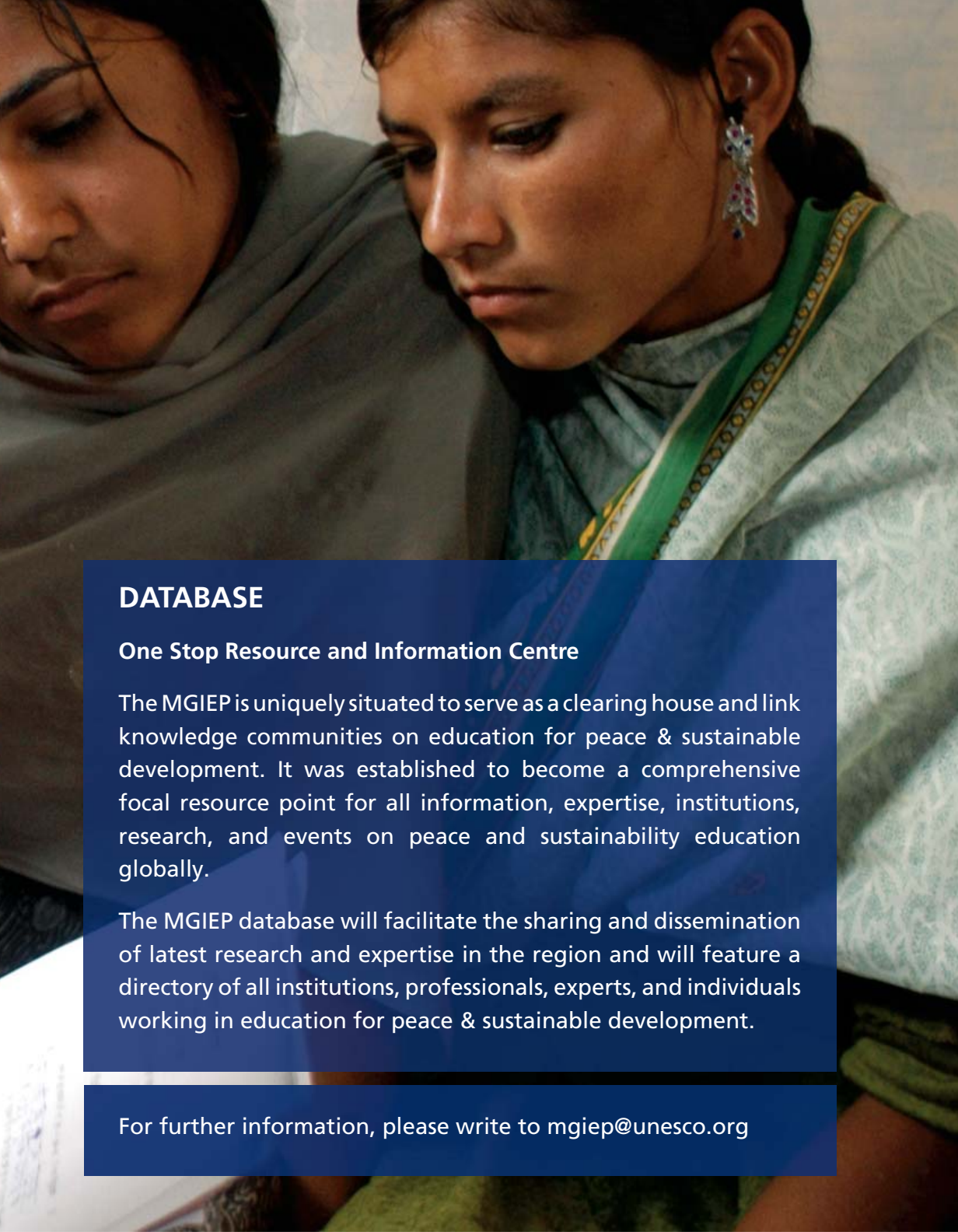
## MGIEP ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES

### INAUGURAL LECTURE, 2014

The MGIEP Lecture series on Peace, Sustainable Development, and the Vision of Mahatma Gandhi, will be an annual event, featuring an eminent global leader to address issues linked with these key themes, and the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy in the contemporary context.

The lectures will explore, through the experiences and knowledge of distinguished speakers drawn from different fields of work, some of the world's most urgent questions of security and development. The series will provide an opportunity to explore Gandhi's ideas of peace and sustainability, far ahead of their time then, and the lessons they have to offer for our collective efforts today.





## DATABASE

### One Stop Resource and Information Centre

The MGIEP is uniquely situated to serve as a clearing house and link knowledge communities on education for peace & sustainable development. It was established to become a comprehensive focal resource point for all information, expertise, institutions, research, and events on peace and sustainability education globally.

The MGIEP database will facilitate the sharing and dissemination of latest research and expertise in the region and will feature a directory of all institutions, professionals, experts, and individuals working in education for peace & sustainable development.

For further information, please write to [mgiep@unesco.org](mailto:mgiep@unesco.org)

## VISION FOR CHANGE

UNESCO believes in the transformative potential of education and intellectual cooperation to advance the goal of a more peaceful, empowered, sustainable, and secure world. As its first Category 1 Institute on Education for Peace & Sustainable Development, the MGIEP is entrusted with the task of supporting this conviction and facilitating the discourse on education, global citizenship, peace, and sustainable development.

Change begins with the transformation of minds. It begins with powerful ideas and policies which can unleash the potential of young billions in the region and beyond. And it begins with education.

At MGIEP we believe that these young billions will lead the creation of a new world - a world founded upon the vision of sustainable growth and collective security, a world of global citizens and shared progress, a world of peaceful peoples and united nations.

*"It is not enough to teach children how to read, write and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies."*

*Ban Ki-Moon*

*Secretary-General, United Nations*





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Mohammed

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**“No education is true education  
unless it is founded in truth and  
non-violence”**

**– Mahatma Gandhi**