

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)



THE ICFAI UNIVERSITY, SIKKIM
2022 to 2024

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

03.07.2024

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that The ICFAI University, Sikkim (India) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. By integrating these principles into our strategies and operations, we aim to foster a sustainable and responsible environment. Our dedication to the UNGC principles is steady, and we will continually strive to uphold these standards in all aspects of our work.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our University has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jagannath Patnaik', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. Jagannath Patnaik
Vice Chancellor

Part II. Description of Actions

Human Rights

Principle 1: To support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights, following activities were conducted:

- Workshop on Sexual Harassment of Women was conducted on the 3rd May 2022 at the University campus. The Keynote Speaker was Ms. Zola Megi Panel, Advocate, Sikkim State Legal Service Authority. By educating students and staff about sexual harassment, the University is promoting awareness and respect for human rights.
- Motivational workshop on Corporate Peace was attended by staffs of the University at Hotel Ramada, Gangtok, Sikkim (India) on the 20th January 2023. The workshop was organized by International Leadership and Peace Academy. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr Jagannath Patnaik, the ICFAI UNIVERSITY SIKKIM was invited as a Special Guest. This session nurtures a culture of respect, tolerance, and understanding, which supports the broader human rights agenda.

Principal 2: To ensure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses:

- Engaging session on "Right to Vote, Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liyw- I will Vote" campaign was organized by the University on 8th April 2024 in the University campus. This was conducted to ensure human rights and not complicit in any form of abuse.

Labour

Principle 3: To uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the rights to collective bargaining:

- To uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, our University have established Grievance Cell and Student Councils to nurture a respectful environment culture where collective bargaining and everyone can be respected.

Principle 5: Effective abolition of child labour:

- To promote the significant importance of child education and welfare the Deputy Registrar, Mrs Sandhya Rani Pant of The ICFAI University, Sikkim along with the student volunteers of National Service Scheme (NSS Cell) celebrated the "World Health Day" on the 7th April 2024 by paying a visit to Bhojogari Children Home at Gangtok. This Children Home supports 29 girls. The University NSS Students initiated a talks on Menstrual Hygiene and importance of menstrual health and proper usage of sanitary pads. The volunteers distributed essential items like sanitary pads, nutritional drink, lip guards and juices during the event.

Principle 6: Elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

- The NSS Cell student volunteers celebrated the International Women's Day at University campus on 8th March 2024 honoring the strength and talent of women. This was aimed to eliminate discrimination and promote a fair and respectful work and study environment.

Environment

Principle 7: Support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges

- Empowering change through action: Cleanliness Drive: The ICFAI University Sikkim Student NSS Volunteers, led by Ms. Sandhya Pant (Deputy Registrar), William Songrowla (Program Officer), and dedicated student volunteers, conducted an impactful cleanliness drive on 23rd February 2024. Ms. Sandhya Pant addressed the gathering, raising awareness about the environmental impact of plastics and emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness in our surroundings.

Principal 8: Initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility

- The ICFAI University Sikkim celebrated A Day for Mother Earth, Plantation Drive - Each One Plant one on the 7th July 2022 at its campus by planting saplings under the directives of Forest and Environment Department Government of Sikkim. The key theme of the event was: "Celebrating Nature- Say No to Single Use Plastic".
- The University celebrated the World Water Day on the 22nd March 2023. The key note speaker for the event was Shri Ramesh Goyal fondly known as 'Jal Star' of India for dedicating his life towards water conservation.
- To promote greater environmental responsibility, C-20 Sensitization Lecture on Environment Science & Technology for Sustainable Development was organized on the 1st May 2023. Keynote Speaker of the lecture program was Dr. Markandey Rai, Senior Advisor, UN- HABITAT, United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
- In the wake of the devastating flash floods that struck Sikkim on the 4th October 2023, the ICFAI University Sikkim took a proactive step towards aiding the affected communities. The University swiftly mobilized a dedicated NSS student volunteers and faculty/staff team to assess the immediate needs of the affected communities. The University procured and distributed essential supplies to the affected areas. In addition to immediate relief, the university has committed to supporting the long-term rehabilitation effort.
- On 1st October 2023, the University student volunteers and the ECO Club members of the ICFAI University Sikkim in collaboration with SIDBI conducted a cleanliness drive near the Sokaythang hospital gate and in the vicinity of the university. This was conducted with an objective to underscore the power of collective action in adopting a cleaner and healthier living environment.
- On 4-5 November 2023 as a part of Mission LiFE's Zero Waste Initiatives, Eco Club members and students of The ICFAI University, Sikkim, was sponsored by the ENVIS, Forest and Environment Department, Govt. of Sikkim for a nature camp. This

awareness drive was focused on sustainable resource use, energy and water saving, and eliminating single-use plastics. This campaign was successful in highlighting the strong environmental awareness in the rural community of Pangthang (Sikkim) and in building community's commitment to responsible waste management and resource conservation.

- The Eco Club Members of the University organized “Save Wetland Campaign” on the 2nd February 2024 to create awareness on the significance of wetlands in Sikkim.

Principle 9: Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

- **Launch of Energy Club:** The ICFAI University, Sikkim takes a bold step towards sustainability with the launch of its own Energy Club in association with the State Designated Agency Power Department, Government of Sikkim on 3rd May 2023. We are proud to promote energy conservation and sustainability for a better future. The launch event was graced by Mr. Pemba Lepcha, Additional Chief Engineer-Cum Nodal Officer (SDA), and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Jagannath Patnaik, along with staff and students.

By engaging in these diverse activities, the university not only supports the ten principles of the UNGC but also demonstrates a comprehensive commitment to creating a responsible and ethical academic environment.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

1. Human Rights Awareness:

- Talks on Sexual Harassment and Human Values have promoted a safer and more inclusive environment. Students and staff are more aware of their rights and responsibilities, leading to a reduction in incidents of harassment and discrimination.
Number of talks conducted: 3
Total attendance: 500 students and staffs

2. Environmental Responsibility:

- **Community Support Initiatives:** Supporting flood-affected regions has strengthened community ties and demonstrated the university's commitment to social responsibility and human dignity.
Number of district covered: 1 – North Sikkim
Distribution: Food items, sanitary pads, good donated clothing, mattress (1), candles.
- **Cleaning Drives:** These initiatives have increased environmental awareness among students and staff, promoting a culture of sustainability. Participants have developed a deeper appreciation for maintaining a clean and healthy environment, influencing their daily habits and choices.
 - ✓ Number of area covered: 2 (Hospital and Lower Ranka Road)

- ✓ Total attendance: 100 students and staffs
- ✓ Amount of waste collected: 50 Kgs

3. Encouraged the utilization of environmentally friendly technologies

The University could successfully promote and create awareness on the significance of energy conservation and sustainability for a better future.

These outcomes not only reflected the university's commitment to the principles of UNGC but also heightened the tangible benefits of its initiatives to the community and environment.