

A REPORT ON Sc3- Student Climate & Conservation-2023

2023, Yet again after a spell of pandemic we, The_Marians' comprising of Dr.Biswajit De Creative Director of MPS, Sidra Zaman and myself, Moonmoon D Chaliha HOD Science are here at the 10th annual Sc3 Congress representing our school for the third time. Our school is the National Coordinator School for the Green School Alliance, USA. Sc3 is organized by a partnership between GSA and the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) of the U.S. Fish and Wild life Services. The mission being able to connect and empower students Worldwide to lead to the transformation for a sustainable climate resilient future.

The objective of Sc3 is to empower students to become effective leaders who can better serve their schools and communities and to equip them with the skills, knowledge and tools to address climate change and natural resource conservation challenge.

We had the opportunity to see, hear and interact with eminent speakers like - **Steve Chase, Mike Dudash, Rob Watson, Pete Dominic, Karyn Knox, Dr. Mamie Parker** and of course our very own **Dr. Biswajit De**, a proud moment for us.

This educational and memorable trip happened because of the belief, trust, confidence and constant support of **Ms. Nellie Ahmed**, Founder & Managing Trustee, MPS a dynamic lady with a vision and ever supportive **Ms. Mausumi Mahanta**, Principal MPS, heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks for the opportunity given to us.

My Reflection & Learning Outcome

QUOTING THEODORE ROOSEVELT:

“The Conservation of Natural Resources, is the fundamental problem, unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others.”

‘The need of the hour’

Well, firstly a dream come true to get the opportunity to visit U.S. This trip is more meaningful compared to other foreign trips, this is a trip with purpose.

Sidra Zaman (Fellow student) and myself, Moonmoon D Chaliha (Fellow Faculty) embarked on our journey on 7th July 2023 to Delhi Intl. Airport and on the same night at 9:20pm to Dubai and finally reached Washington Dulles Intl. Airport at 8:40am on 8th July.

Ahh!! What a feeling of euphoria!! we were tired, exhausted but with a lot of anticipation cleared immigration after more than 2hours of que.

We received warm welcome from Raskal Tuberville, Abrah Cate Steward and Alving Duong all Fellow faculties. We were taken to beautiful Shepherdstown where we had tasty American lunch and began our drive to NCTC (National Conservation Training Centre- West Virginia).

We were taken to our beautiful accommodation. I was hosted at Aldo lodge and was warmly shown the nitty gritty by Suki Dewey, Fellow faculty and veteran conservationist who was kind enough to take me around the beautiful campus, simply “Abode of Nature”.

1. Saturday July 8—The Journey Begins

Dr De and two fellow Indian students from Bombay arrived and we all faculty teachers gathered at the “Roosevelt Room “room. It was called Faculty Big Circle for pizza dinner and introduction and to answer the Big question put forward by-

Tod Cossairt, Faculty coordinator

“How will we work together this week to provide an informed and empowering collaborative experience for Sc3 youth leaders and ourselves.”

We discussed and made strategies. I was in Katty Perry’ s group along with Jo Johnson, two wonderful people. Katty had attended Sc3 conference in our school.

2. Sunday July 9—Welcome

Students from different parts of the country started pouring in, we gave them T-shirts, documents and took them to their respective lodges.

The teachers training session 1 & 2 began in the I- East Classroom.

We sat together to view, sign up for activities, River Waiver (bond signing for Kayaking in The Potomac River) OST (Open Space Technology Review), skills workshop and student welcoming session.

That very evening in the Auditorium Ms.Margaret (Peg) Watson declared the congress open. She is President, Green School Alliance, ‘A lady with a mission. Very friendly, warm and empathetic.’

I developed a friendly bond with her. Steve Chase (Director at U.S. Fish and Wild life Service gave us an enlightening speech.

3. Monday July 10—The Big circle

Students and we teachers answered the big OST question and accordingly the theme of the workshop was obtained. That evening’s speaker, our very own

Dr. De, who as Plenary speaker, gave a presentation on his environmental journey through photography. A proud moment. Sidra Zaman gave a confident speech.

4. Tuesday July 11—Watershed ‘It’s all connected’

A day etched in my memory as I did Kayaking for the first time, as there was no double seated kayak for me, I was trained on spot and I paddled in the pristine water of the beautiful Potomac river and covered a distance of 6 miles along with the students and teachers. In the evening, we had a presentation by the plenary speaker.

5. Wednesday July 12—Our stories matter

A day of workshops, pollination from one workshop to the other followed by presentations by eminent speakers.

6. Thursday July 13—Making it count

The students had to gather information and prepare presentations for the final day.

7. Friday July 14—Sharing the wisdom

The final day of preparation, brain storming, sittings, practice for the final presentation gently guided by us, the faculty teachers.

We felicitated the important people with traditional tokens we carried from Assam and in return we received special gifts. Each presentation given had a message and was awesome. I got the opportunity to give a speech on the journey of our school in the field of conservation of environment. The day ended with bonfire night, a moment of gratitude, fun and retrospection.

8. Sunday July 15—Sharing the gratitude

A day of awards and closing ceremony and to head back home with new learning, knowledge to share and good byes.

What impressed me was the very focused nature of the students, their attitude, compassion, clarity and clemency they felt for each other and their Faculty Teachers.

MY TAKE AWAY FROM SC3 CONFERENCE 2023

1. We need to add one more R...REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, REFUSE & RETHINK
2. 20TH CENTURY SUCCESS WAS ABOUT OPTIMIZING COMPONENTS.
3. 21ST CENTURY SUCCESS WILL BE ABOUT SYSTEMS.
4. Share a frame of thinking and approach to branding and set the seeds that conservation and climate opportunities can work together.
5. All people at all times to have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food—'food security'.
6. We need circular thinking to replace linear ideas.

PATHWAY: HOW TO GET FROM THE PROBLEM TO THE SOLUTION

- Break it up into manageable pieces
- Eradicate the Problem from our life
- Live the solution
- Advocate the pathway
- Be realistic

BE MAD...BUT SOLUTION-ORIENTED

Be inspirational

- Be multifaceted
- Be practical
- Be honest
- Beware “The cause of problem is solution

SOLUTIONS ABCD's

- Address the problem at an appropriate scale
- Be specific
- Collect data
Especially data that does NOT agree with your thesis bias
Does Physics care?
“must have” vs “nice to have”

PSP- RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

1. **P**roblem
2. **S**olution
3. **P**athway
4. **N**eed all three

Having only two is frustrating and ultimately a waste of time.

THE OST (Open Space Technology) Principles that impressed me.

***Whoever comes are the right people:** “You came for conservation even if you are the only one, it shows you care and you will be able to initiate action.”

***Whatever happens is the only thing that could have:** Let go of your expectations: forget about could and should and focus on now .

***Whenever it starts it is the right time:** The creative spirit has its own time, and our task is to make the best contribution when the flow of creativity strikes.

***When it’s over, it’s over:** Creativity has its own rhythm. When “you think it’s over go on to the next thing you have passion for”.

What impressed me was that it was the alumni who conducted some of the workshops.

1. Abrah Cate Steward – Protecting Our Food Web
2. Raskal Turbeville – Soil Food Web through Microscope
3. Aida Orozco Jiminez – An Exploration of Environmental Justice
4. Eric Estroff – Selling your Idea: Eco Entrepreneurship & Marketing
5. Jacqui Painter – Climate and Community-Running a Campaign

Workshops were also conducted by-

Rob Watson – Circular Economy & Green Buildings

Dr. Biswajeet De – Conservation Storytelling through Photography

Jeff Sharpe – Principles of Climate Simulation & Climate Modeling

Courtney Horner – Design Develop and Deliver: Action Planning Toolkit & START(Sustainability Tracking Tool & Road map)

Liz Cossairt – Art and Nature on the NCTC campus

Every conservationist spoke about finding a balance between

CONSERVATION, COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND COMMERCE - 4C’s

Dr. Mamie Parker, PhD said ---

SHOW UP

SPEAK UP

ASK

ENGAGE/ LISTEN

BE PRESENT AND COMMITTED

Experiences adventurous memorable eventful:

1. Kayaking by myself on The Potomac River.....named after the American Indian peoplePatawomeke people.

Paddling over the pristine green waters of Potomac river will remain etched in my memories....I learnt on spot and did paddling for a stretch of 9 miles....didn't know I had so much determination and courage a non-swimmer too.....

2.Meditation....Conducting a workshop on Nichiren Buddhism and Chanting “NAM MYOHO RENGE KYO” with American students and Teachers.....I met AIDA Fellow faculty who chants too.

Meaning “I devote myself to the UNIVERSAL LAW” I felt this was my mission - To conserve and protect ENVIRONMENT following the Universal law for the future generations.

Thus, all good things must come to an end and on 15 July we left NCTC with new experiences, learning, insight gained we boarded the shuttle to the Dulles Airport to head back to our respective destinations. A happy journey as I sat beside Margaret Watson and relived the beautiful time we had.

I, again, take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to magnanimous...Ms. Nellie Ahmed, Founder and Trustee, Maria's Public School for having given us this opportunity and believing in us.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Ms. Mausumi Mahanta, Principal, MPS for her constant support and inspiration.

Ms. Moonmoon D Chaliha

HOD – Science

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A memorable glimpse from Sc3 – NCTC, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA