

## **Guest Lecture - CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH THE LENS OF SDG'S**

**Venue:** MCA SMART ROOM

**Date and time:** 12 SEPTEMBER 2023 4:40-6:30 PM

**Resource Person:** Prof. LAWRENCE SURENDRA (Environmental and Development Economist)

Guest Lecture Report:

Professor Lawrence Surendra, an esteemed expert in sustainable development and public policy, delivered an insightful lecture during a seminar focused on the theme of "Healthy citizens, peaceful societies, and a healthier planet." With a wealth of experience in think tanks and a background in Sustainable Development Economics from Ecole des hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Sorbonne University, Paris, Professor Surendra provided valuable insights into key global issues and the importance of partnerships in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The seminar delved into the core idea of promoting healthy citizens, fostering peaceful societies, and preserving the planet's health, as articulated through the SDGs. Professor Surendra highlighted the significance of SDG 17, "Partnerships for the Goals," emphasizing its pivotal role in addressing global challenges collaboratively. Furthermore, Professor Surendra critiqued Western perceptions of biodiversity conservation, shedding light on both soft and hard agendas within the framework of international conventions. He also discussed global issues from the perspectives of nation-states, drawing on insights from past meetings such as the Rio Summit.

Throughout the lecture, Professor Surendra referenced prominent figures in the field, including Anil Agarwal, R.K. Pachouli, and Aditya Narayanan, urging attendees to take note of their contributions for future reference. In addressing pressing environmental concerns, Professor Surendra underscored the destruction of forests and the unveiling of buried treasures hidden for thousands of years. He emphasized the inseparable link between peace and justice, advocating for simplicity in lifestyle choices to promote sustainable living. Regarding climate change, Professor Surendra stressed the urgent need for collective action, emphasizing that combatting climate change requires the participation of individuals, governments, organizations, and NGOs alike. Following the lecture, a thanksgiving speech was delivered by Prof. Dr. Subramaniam, expressing gratitude for Professor Surendra's enlightening presentation. Additionally, students had the opportunity to engage with the speaker, seeking clarification on various topics and sharing their perspectives on the subject matter. Overall, Professor Lawrence Surendra's lecture provided valuable insights into the interconnectedness of global issues and the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing them.

