

UYRDC goes global : Channelizing sustainable development through Empowered Youths



UYRDC - ISU & community initiative to bring about a progressive change in the Himalayas.
(Youths of Pinder valley connect to the globe & sustainable dreams with ISU)

A LNU funded Scheme : "Global North – South Project"



A first of its kind, an exchange program, in Pinder valley towards a new beginning; embarked by Youths from Global north (Oslo, Norway) with Youths of Global South (Uttarakhand, India).

The program titled "Channelizing Sustainable Development through Empowered Youths" engages professional and vibrant youths from ISU (International Students Union, Norway) with UYRDC (Uttarakhand Youth & Rural Development centre, India) and its serving communities. Based on the approach to involve available skill-sets of the youth to make change happen for reaching program goals the two partners shall dialogue and orient the Youths from the valley and all other stakeholders influencing them towards reaching sustainable livelihoods. The program shall also enable us to strengthen our focus on Youths with shared and valuable dialogue during ISU's visit to Pinder valley. It shall also strengthen program cooperation and association with ISU and its missions.

We are very pleased to be able to connect with Global north and strengthen our mission for a just society. We profoundly welcome our partners from ISU to the lovely Himalayan environs of Pinder valley, Uttarakhand Himalayas, India.

Brief about UYRDC :

Uttaranchal Youth and Rural Development Centre (UYRDC) has been committed to serve Himalayan communities of Uttarakhand with its earnest focus in Pinder valley of District Chamoli. Having served the region for 25 years it seeks to learn and facilitate the youths to bring about progressive change in the region for a sustainable tomorrow as it steps up on new milestones for copying strategies in the fast changing world. The organisation has initiated multidisciplinary subjects from the past. Primarily Education, Health, capacity building, Environment conservation, Agri & Allied endeavours, Disaster, advocacy and study programs.

A Brief about our partners : ISU from Oslo, Norway

"The International Students' Union of Norway is committed to the social, academic and political interests of all international students studying in Norway.

ISU is an independent, democratic, non-profit, non-partisan organization run for and by international students. It has partnership agreement with the Norsk studentorganisasjon ([NSO](#)). ISU also has membership status with Studentenes og Akademikernes Internasjonale Hjelpesfond ([SAIH](#)) - the Norwegian students' and academics' fund focused on fostering education in the developing world, Landsrådet for Norges barne- og ungdomsorganisasjoner ([LNU](#)) - the umbrella organization for youth in Norway, Frivillighet Norge ([FN](#)) - the Association of NGOs in Norway, and a cooperation agreement with Utviklingsfondet Ungdom ([Spire](#)) - the youth organization for the development fund.

The International Students' Union was formed in the late 1970s when a small group of dedicated student activists put their efforts in protecting the welfare and academic situation of international students in Norway. Eventually, in 1981, this became a unified effort and the ISA (International Students Association) was born. The organisation grew - establishing member branches at all the universities in Norway. During its history, the organization has come to be known under different names; first it changed to FSA (Foreign Students Association), then to FSU (Foreign Students Union), and finally to the current name, ISU (International Students' Union). "

Please do visit their website at :

<http://isu-norway.no/index.php>

The details of the project and the visiting group can further be reached here-

http://isu-norway.no/docs/Project_India.pdf

We thank you for taking few moments from your valuable time in read about us & the program,

Namastey & Greetings,

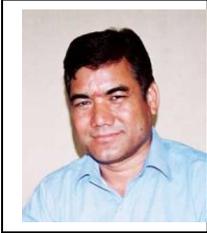
UYRDC Team,

Uttaranchal Youth and Rural Development Centre,
Narainbagar District Chamoli, Uttarakhand State.

A brief write up on chief contributors for the ISU – UYRDC program :

ISU Working group	
	<p>Ben Hunsdorfer comes from Massachusetts, USA, and holds a BS in Agroecology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is currently finishing the first year of the European Master of Agroecology, which is a partnership between the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and ISARA-Lyon in France. He has been traveling to Himalayan communities in Nepal, Sikkim, and Bhutan for 14 years. Ben is very interested in understanding the way rural mountain communities communicate and organize around agricultural activities.</p>
	<p>Michelle Madondo a 25 years old student at University of Tromsø , Norway- comes from Zimbabwe. Her background is in Natural Resource. In her words, "I am a very friendly and easygoing 25 year-old. I am particularly interested and also active in environmental and development projects inclusive of various initiatives concerning women and children. That's why I'm glad to be working with all of you in efforts to make a positive impact on our communities."</p>
	<p>Kat Shiffler is a videographer and journalist. Her background is in radio journalism where among other experiences, she has worked for the first independent radio station of Bhutan, youth-run Kuzoo FM. For the last few years she has been making films about the natural sciences for the University of Nebraska. She is currently a student in the Agroecology masters program at UMB, where her focus is to integrate her experiences in communications into an interdisciplinary field looking at agriculture in the big picture. (Some of her works can be seen here: http://vimeo.com/unlsnr)</p>
	<p>Sajal Roy is a very enthusiastic Bangladeshi boy, who is doing his M.Phil in Gender and Development. His interest areas include gender equality, women empowerment and just development. Among other things, Roy spends his time listening to Rabindra <i>sangeet</i> and watching Satyajit Ray's movies.</p>
	<p>Ashish Singh is the Project Leader of this project. He is finishing his Masters in International Social Welfare and health Policy. Ashish is a firm believer of power of youths. 26 years old Ashish has interests in old bollywood movies, copy-left movement and peace of mind.</p>

UYRDC Team



Dr. Harpal Singh Negi is secretary of Uttarakhand Youth and Rural Development Centre. A visionary youth, he embarked on a mission to spread message of peace and harmony through mountain bicycle expedition in 1984 on world's highest motor able road (Leh), further serving the needs of marginalized communities by selfless service, he stands an inspiration to regional youths. He completed his MA & Phd. in sociology with earnest desire to comeback and serve the cause of Uttarakhand communities. He has been instrumental in facilitating value learning by channelizing volunteerism to youths in the region. Under his able leadership the organisation has accomplished multidisciplinary programs cross sectoral from its inception since 1986 (i.e.25 years). Some of the many programs lately undertaken have ranged from Formal Education, Youth and Women Empowerment, Sustainable livelihood and Environment, Health, Advocacy, Study programs apart from many others with applauding outcomes.



Mr. Siddharth Singh Negi is 37 years, institution coordinator at UYRDC with PGDBM in marketing. Driven within by the zeal to contribute towards rural concerns in his native town (Narainbagar, Chamoli District) he finally embarked the beckoning in community service from his progressive career in cooperate world, year 2003. He has been instrumental in collaborating with regional, national institutions and forward linking organisation efforts with key stakeholders. His efforts by bridging farmer's herbal efforts with overseas buyers have been much appreciated by farmers, scientist and significant traders. He has earnestly been fore fronting community aspirations and channelizing organization support. Documentation, coordination, advocacy, planning and implementation have been his key areas.

UYRDC Staff

The organisation has presently contained 20 valuable Human resource (youths), 13 male and 7 female staff. They have been the building block of various initiatives since organization inception. Some of the many initiatives have been Established Dairy enterprise, Women empowerment through federated SHGs across regional relief, farmer association & organized agro enterprise, successful and quality education to under privileged children, promoting and enabling resource use to rural community and institute centre.

Youthful Photo images of ISU members :

