

Professor Dr. Anantha Duraiappah was appointed as the inaugural director of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), UNESCO's first and only Category 1 Institute in the Asia Pacific in June 2014. He is responsible for developing the Empathy, Mindfulness, Compassion, Critical inquiry (EMC²) model—the Institute's novel approach on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)—to achieving SDG 4 and in particular SDG 4.7. He has positioned the Institute as a forerunner in the development of cutting-edge learning and teaching modules on SEL for students from K-12 to University. A strong believer in personalised learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for good, he developed the inhouse Artificial Intelligence powered General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant learning platform, now being used across many countries.

Professor Duraiappah, an economist by training from the University of Texas at Austin, was the exploratory team leader for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (IPBES) initiative at UNEP, the first director for the UN Inclusive Wealth Report, Co-Chair of the Biodiversity synthesis of the Kofi Annan commissioned Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and now leads the International Science and Evidence Based Education Assessment (ISEE Assessment). He is a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and The World Academy of Arts and Sciences (WAAS) and a visiting Professor in the Urban Institute at Kyushu University, Japan. An author of numerous books, book chapters and peer reviewed journal articles, he continues to publish in the field of education and economics.



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