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2023



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

Organized by



Hosted by



In Association with



# World Anthropology Congress

9-14 AUGUST 2023



Hosted by: Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar, India

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(From L) Professor N. Nagaraju, Vice Chancellor, G.M. University; Professor Bidhu Bhusan Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Sambalpur University; Professor Shalina Meheta, Vice President, UIAF; Professor A.B. Ota, Advisor, UNICEF; Professor P.C. Joshi, Chairman, WAC-NAAC and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi; Professor K. K. Basa, Chairman, NMA and Director, ASI; Mr. Satya S Tripathi, Chancellor, KISS-DU; Professor Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice Chancellor, KISS-DU and President UIAF; Professor R.K. Mutatkar, Patron, UIAF; Professor Sabita Acharya, Vice Chancellor, Utkal University; and Professor S. Gregory, Member Secretary, UIAF at the inaugural session of World Anthropology Congress 2023 at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) in Bhubaneswar on 9th August 2023.



## Message from Prof. Achyuta Samanta Founder, KIIT & KISS

Esteemed Scholars and Distinguished Participants of the World Anthropology Congress 2023,

It is an honor and a privilege to extend a heartfelt welcome to Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed to be University, where we are proud to co-host World Anthropology Congress from August 9-August 14 2023 in partnership with the United Indian Anthropology Forum (UIAF), Utkal University, University of Delhi, and Sambalpur University.

Our theme, "Anthropology in Public Sphere: Indigeneity, Social Justice, Sustainability, and Global Peace," resonates deeply with the challenges and opportunities that our world faces today.

Anthropology, as the study of humankind's diverse cultures and societies, holds the power to illuminate pathways towards a more equitable and harmonious global community.

At KISS, this conviction is woven into our ethos, as we endeavor to provide indigenous communities with the reins of education and knowledge. Guided by visionaries, Professors of Practice, Tribal Advisory Council, we have committed ourselves to preserving and honoring indigenous wisdom while facilitating meaningful exchanges that nurture both tradition and progress.

As we convene to deliberate on vital topics, your presence lends weight to our collective pursuit of a better world. We are honored to be your hosts and are dedicated to ensuring your comfort throughout your stay.

In this unique gathering, I am confident that your contributions will not only enrich our understanding of anthropological principles but also inspire actionable steps towards social justice, sustainable development, and global peace. The insights shared and bonds formed during this congress will undoubtedly shape the way forward. And as you depart, may you carry a part of KISS in your hearts.



## WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS Kicks Off at KISS-DU

The World Anthropology Congress (WAC) commenced at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences Deemed to be University (KISS-DU) in Bhubaneswar on 9th August 2023, coinciding with the 'International Day of the World's Indigenous People'. Speakers highlighted the pivotal role of KISS in empowering tribal communities. The theme of

the Congress is 'Anthropology in the Public Sphere: Indigeneity, Social Justice, Sustainability, and Global Peace'. It is hosted by by KISS-DU and organised by United Indian Anthropology Forum (UIAF) in collaboration with the Utkal University, Sambalpur University, and University of Delhi.

"KISS is a symbol of empowerment of the marginal sections of the society. It stands for world peace and tranquility," said the Chairman of the National Monument Authority and Director of ASI Prof K K Basa. Joining as the chief guest of the occasion, he said, Anthropology gives voice to the marginalised and the oppressed sections. Tribals have lived a life of balancing nature and indigenous culture and the mainstream society should take inspiration from them and their way of living, he added.

The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta, in his message, said that Anthropology holds the power to illuminate pathways towards a more equitable and harmonious global community. "At KISS, this conviction is woven into our ethos, as we endeavour to provide indigenous communities with the reins of education and knowledge. Guided by visionaries,



Professor K. K. Basa, Chairman, NMA and Director, ASI ceremoniously inaugurating the Congress by lighting the lamps in the presence of other distinguished delegates.

Professors of Practice, Tribal Advisory Council, we have committed ourselves to preserving and honouring indigenous wisdom while facilitating meaningful exchanges that nurture both tradition and progress," he said.

The Chancellor of KISS-DU, Mr. Satya S Tripathi said, the Congress is more than a conference for KISS which is an exercise in humility and humanity. KISS, he added, is the "most significant social experiment happening on the planet as it is home to 60,000 indigenous children."

Former VC of the University of Delhi Prof P C Joshi, who is also the Chairman of the WAC-NAAC, lauded the imitative of Dr Samanta in establishing KISS, saying that thousands of tribal students are getting education because of the realisation of his dreams.

He described KISS as a holistic institution looking at the overall personality development of children.

VC of Utkal University Prof. Sabita Acharya said, the Department of Anthropology will also be hosting WAC sessions on Sunday. On the occasion, VC of Sambalpur University Prof. Bidhu Bhushan Mishra welcomed the delegation to his campus which will also be hosting the post-WAC conference.

VC of KISS-DU Prof Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice Chancellor of G M University Prof. N Nagaraju, Patrons of UIAF Prof R K Mutatkar and Prof P K Mishra, Vice President UIAF Prof Shalini Mehta, and Advisor UNICEF Prof A B Ota also spoke on the occasion, while Member Secretary UIAF Prof S Gregory proposed the vote of thanks.



Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS extended a warm welcome to the delegates with his heartfelt audio-visual message. Owing to preexisting commitments, he was unable to attend the inaugural session in person.



Mr. Satya S Tripathi, Chancellor, KISS-DU addressing the delegates.



# WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), the world's largest fully free and fully residential institute for indigenous students, is proud to host the World Anthropology Congress (WAC), the largest annual assembly of professional anthropologists from all over the world. This prestigious event celebrates the power of Anthropology to foster a more compassionate and peaceful world.

## THEME

Anthropology in Public Sphere: Indigeneity, Social Justice, Sustainability and Global Peace

## Distinguished Plenary Speakers



**Professor Shalva Weil**  
Seymour Fox School of Education,  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel



**Professor Partha Majumdar**  
Former Director, National Institute of  
Biomedical Genomics, India



**Professor Charlotte Ann Roberts**  
Department of Archaeology,  
Durham University, England, UK



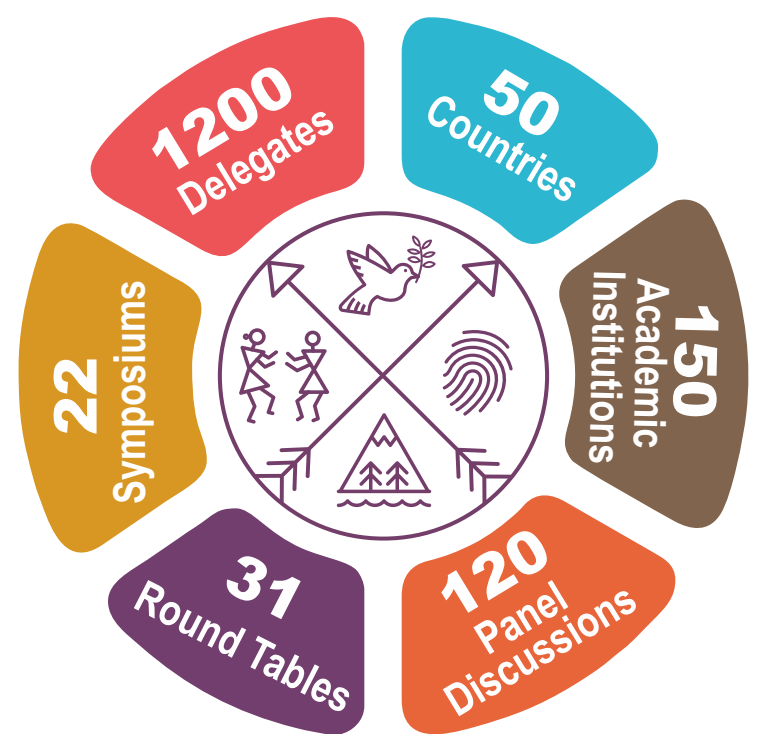
**Professor Stanley Ulijaszek**  
Emeritus Professor of Human Ecology,  
University of Oxford, UK



**Professor M. Cameron Hay-Rollins**  
Professor and Chair, College of Arts and  
Science, Miami University, Oxford Ohio, USA



**Professor Amareswar Galla**  
UNESCO Chair on Inclusive Museums and  
Sustainable Heritage Development,  
Anant National University, Ahmedabad, India



# Technical Sessions **9th August 2023**



## THEME

Anthropology in Public Sphere: Indigeneity, Social Justice, Sustainability and Global Peace

## About Host Institution

# Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)



*“Education is the third eye of a child.”*

--Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS

9% of India's population is tribal. Despite the constitutional promise of social justice, the tribal population in India lives in deplorable conditions in the dense forests and remote hinterlands. In Odisha, over 22.8 percent of the population is tribal and live in utmost poverty with low literacy rates, rampant child marriage and superstition, and no access to school and healthcare facilities. Poor infrastructure, teacher absenteeism, lack of toilets, and pressure to handle siblings bedevil the education system in tribal areas in India and Odisha.

In such a scenario, Dr Achyuta Samanta came up with a revolutionary initiative with his strong passion & commitment, called Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), aiming to empower tribal communities through education. Right from his poverty-stricken childhood to his struggle-filled youth, he has worked towards arresting poverty & hunger, the two social ills that he faced from the age of five to twenty. When he thought of establishing a self-financing institution, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), he also started implementing to bring to fruition his dream, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) to bring a smile on the faces of thousands of indigenous children.

In 1992-93, India was just starting to integrate with the global economy and

progress in education was missing in Odisha, let alone education for tribal children. It was a grey area where the Government chose not to intervene and private organisations could not muster up the courage to create waves of change. It was at that time, with limited or no finances, KISS was founded by Dr Achyuta Samanta with a belief that education can empower the people. It was not an easy start and he had to overcome several setbacks. The first ten years were extremely difficult for him and his team. The common man considered KISS' initiative as an intrusion. However, he continued overcoming all adversities and the rest is history.

But his thought process was very clear and based on two important pillars - a) Procedural - Free education from KG to PG and beyond in a fully residential campus b) Substantive - A unique financial model for the sustainable functioning of KISS, contributed by the stakeholders of KIIT, another institution founded by him KISS started with 125 poor indigenous students in 1992-93 and has now grown in scale and scope, catering to 80,000 indigenous children. Of these, 30,000 students study at the main campus in Bhubaneswar, 40,000 are alumni and 10,000 study at 10 satellite centres of KISS across Odisha. It has indirectly impacted over eight million tribal children and youth. The students come

from 62 different tribal groups within the region, of which 13 are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

In its course of inception, evolution and existence, KISS has been promoting quality, holistic education, girl child empowerment, vocational and life skill education, healthcare, scientific temper and humanism and sustainable development. It has arrested naxalism, hunger and malnutrition, child labour and trafficking, early girl child marriage and dropout to a large extent. The contribution of KISS in the field of sports is immense. KISS has groomed around 5000 sportspersons who have participated and excelled in prestigious national and international events.

Since 2015, KISS has been accorded Special Consultative Status by UN ECOSOC. It is associated with UNDPI and has worked in close collaboration with many agencies of the UN including UN Women, UNFPA, WFP, UNDP, UN Volunteers, UNICEF and other international organisations to implement the common objectives. KISS proudly adheres to a 3E approach - Educate, Enable, Empower while ensuring that the model prioritises indigenous control of education, to preserve the culture, heritage and traditions of India's diverse tribal communities and fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in its entirety. The institution aims to reach over 2

million directly in the next decade with a dedicated vision of 'no child should be deprived of education because of poverty'.

**Dr Achyuta Samanta came up with a revolutionary initiative with his strong passion & commitment, called Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), aiming to empower tribal communities through education. Right from his poverty-stricken childhood to his struggle-filled youth, he has worked towards arresting poverty & hunger, the two social ills that he faced from the age of five to twenty.**