

WIZMUN 2024
Odisha's 1st Green MUN
VICE CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS
26TH OCTOBER 2024

Namaskar

Good Morning

Chief Speaker Ms. Abha Mishra, State Head UNDP

Principal, The DN Wisdom Tree Global School, Ms. Rita Chatterjee

Secretary General,

Chief Advisor,

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me a sense of fulfilment to be part of **Odisha's 1st green MUN – WIZMUN 2024**. For this, I would like to thank the organising team for building the green concept into WIZMUN, especially at a time when the ravages of Climate Change are literally pushing into the fabric of existence at an alarming pace and in scarier manifestations.

While COP 29, the UN Climate Change Conference begins at Baku on 11th November with world leaders converging to discuss bolder new national climate plans or NDC's, we, as part of the teaching-learning community understand the importance of disseminating the criticalities of the climate crisis among youth, our young citizens who are going to be leaders of critical decades ahead in a troubled world of the future. **WIZMUN 2024** is therefore a call to action to the teacher and student communities and the teaching-learning ecosystem towards reduction of carbon footprint through awareness, discussions, deliberations and debates, in order to create a band of young planet defenders who will accept the need to be responsible for the health of the planet we call our home.

At The DN Wisdom Tree Global School, we have consciously endeavoured to inculcate green ethics in our children from an early age. Right from Kindergarten, our children are enabled to be curious about their immediate environment, whether it's trees, birds, animals, insects, air, water, rain and sunlight. These gentle inculcations are extremely effective in creating awareness about earth and nature in these times when children are fixated on technology and closetted indoors. We have pioneered many green campaigns like Mission Palash, Vrikshbandhan, and Let's light a lamp for Planet Earth this Deepawali, as well as introduced our children to eco-friendly practices like conserving water and electricity, avoiding the use of single-use plastics and thermocol, making holi colour from Palash flowers, using boats made of banana stem in our Kartik Purnima celebrations etc. As an institution, we try to inculcate these practices in our system – this backdrop that you see is made of fabric instead of flex and we believe that this again is one more

step towards reducing carbon footprint. Infact, we were the first in the state to introduce handloom uniform code for our mentors and a handloom sports day dress code for our children way back in March 2018 as a step towards sustainability. Our children and mentors have taken the Wisdom Climate Action Pledge as they lit a lamp for Planet Earth this Deepawali, symbolic of their commitment to heal our planet through 12 easy steps outlined in the Wisdom Climate Action Charter. It was only logical therefore that The DN Wisdom Tree Global School should be hosting the 1st Green MUN of the state and I give credit to the young team who propelled this move. Going forward, WIZMUN stands committed to being a green MUN, a platform that would give the student community an opportunity to align themselves with climate action and biodiversity conservation goals.

The Roadmap to Mission 1.5 degrees centigrade requires an enabling environment globally, and, in this context, educational institutions play a pivotal role. Experts have said that it's too hot to learn – heat waves disrupt continuity of learning, especially in low and middle income economies where schools in remote locations lack ventilation and access to safe drinking water. Unless our centres of learning worldwide consider it their duty to underline the importance of reduced carbon footprint amongst their students, the gap between climate action policy and outcomes would remain open and glaring. No act of decarbonising is too small, every little bit that our children can do to reduce, reuse and recycle will certainly produce a ripple effect that would restore the health of the planet which they will be inhabiting for several decades onwards from here. We are extremely privileged to have the presence of **Abha Mishra, State Head UNDP – the UNDP's Climate Box initiative** that bridges educational gaps and helps teachers integrate environmental topics into their lessons is exactly what we are sincerely endeavouring to do. We hope that we would be able to tick all boxes that would qualify us as a green school because we are committed to cultivating an eco-conscious generation.

I hope that we will see some impactful discussions and vibrant action as the four EB's congregate over the outlined topics. I also hope that the Secretary-General and the Chief Advisor would ensure collation of the points covered in the discussions to bring out a **WIZMUN Student's Climate Action Document** that can be shared throughout the education space.

I thank everyone who has been part of organising WIZMUN 2024.

May the Earth heal. Earth first. Everything else second.

Thank you.