



Talk: Sustainability and Education – The Journey and Experiences

Speaker:

David W. Orr, Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics at Oberlin College, Ohio, USA

Date / Time:

August 3, 2012 - 9:00am - 11:00am

Venue:

Auditorium, 10th floor, Pixel A, APU

A Note on the Speaker:

David was born in Des Moines, Iowa and is a Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics at Oberlin College, a liberal arts college in Ohio, United States of America. He has published eight books, innumerable articles, and is a familiar fixture as an essayist in the journal *Conservation Biology*. An ardent campaigner for green buildings and green architecture, David walked the talk by leading the team that designed The Adam Joseph Lewis Center in Oberlin University in 1996. This campus continues to be one of the most evocative examples of responsible and sustainable architecture to date. Thanks to David's efforts Oberlin University emerged as a vital steward of the neighboring area by creating a 20000 acre greenbelt to promote sustainable agriculture and providing human resources to create several more green buildings.

In 'Ecological Literacy', written in 1992, David posited that the disorder of ecosystems reflects a prior disorder of mind, making it a central concern to those institutions that purport to improve minds. In other words, the ecological crisis is in every way a crisis of education. Lastly, the goal (of ecological literacy) is not just mastery of subject matter but enabling the making of connections between head, hand, heart, as well as the cultivation of the capacity to discern systems.

To know more, click on the links below:

<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/essays/ecological-design-intelligence>

http://www.designshare.com/Research/Orr/Loving_Children.htm

<http://www.oberlinproject.org/about/executive-director/david-w-orr>

“The most important discovery of the past two centuries is that we are joined in one fragile experiment, vulnerable to bad judgment, shortsightedness, greed, and malice” - David W. Orr.

Aldo Leopold, an American philosopher of environmental ethics, once said that divisions of people into nations, tribes, ethnicities, language culture, and politics, makes us forget that we are all members and citizens of the biotic community. David W. Orr echoes these beliefs, and has made it his enterprise to constantly remind us of the manifestations of this belief in his writings that span diverse topics in ecology, sustainability, global politics, architecture, and education, to mention a few.