

Building Information Resilient Society in the Changing Information Ecosystem

A two-day international conference on *Building Information Resilient Society in the Changing Information Ecosystem*, jointly organized by the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK) and the University of Calcutta (CU), was held on 27 and 28 March 2024 at the Centenary Building, College Street Campus of CU, India. Sanjoy Kar from IDSK was one of the coordinators of the conference. The conference was premised on the recognition of information's pivotal role in connecting people, fostering understanding, and empowering individuals, thus contributing to the creation of a more interconnected and harmonious society.

The conference featured six primary subthemes, each addressing crucial aspects of information resilience. Participants engaged in discussions ranging from building data-resilient communities to leveraging frontier technologies for societal well-being. Topics included data governance, crisis management, the role of information centers, and the intersection of information resilience with sustainable development goals (SDGs). There were five plenary sessions and ten technical sessions. Thirty-eight papers were presented at the conference from around the globe, both in physical and virtual modes. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for researchers, academics, and practitioners to exchange ideas and knowledge in the emerging area and develop effective strategies that enhance the capacity of information ecosystems to withstand and overcome future crises while maximizing societal benefits even during non-crisis periods. Dr. Animesh Kumar, Head of the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Office in Bonn, Germany, delivered the keynote address on risk-informed development and climate action. Professors Olha Nimko, Baskaran Angathevar, and Sascha Dov Bachmann offered valuable perspectives on refugee food security, SDG implementation, and the impact of war on energy systems, respectively.

Eminent speakers from around the globe shared their insights and expertise during the conference. The speakers included Animesh Kumar (Head of the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Office in Bonn, Germany), Sayantan Mandal (IIT Jammu, India), Souran Chatterjee (University of Plymouth, UK), Olha Nimko (Virginia Tech, US), Baskaran Angathevar (Universiti Malaya, Malaysia), Sascha Dov Bachmann (University of Canberra, Australia), Vira Ohorodnyk (Kyiv National Economic University, Ukraine), Mariia Markina (Kyiv National Economic University, Ukraine), and Doronina Iryna (Technical University Munich, Germany). The sessions were chaired by Diganta Mukherjee (SOSU, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata), Gorky Chakraborty (IDSK), Subrata Mukherjee (IDSK), Sabuj Kumar Chaudhuri (CU), Saswata Ghosh (IDSK), Lakshminarayan Satpati (CU), Durga Sankar Rath (Vidyasagar University), Anup Kumar Das (JNU), Jiban K Pal (ISI, Kolkata), Arun Kumar Chakraborty (NSOU), Susmita Chakraborty (CU), Rabisankar Giri (Presidency University), and Nihal Alam (Aliah University).