

WORLD UNIVERSITY LEADERS FORUM

at the

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, DAVOS

PANEL DISCUSSION

on the theme:

Universities in Global Governance:

*Advancing the SDGs through Knowledge,
Policy, and Partnership*

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THE LAUNCH OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2025 *by*
O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2026 | 3:00 PM

Venue: Talstrasse 52, Cresta Sun Hotel
Davos, Switzerland



**PROFESSOR
MARVIN KRISLOV**
President
Pace University
New York, USA




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Assistant Chancellor for
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**PROFESSOR
C. RAJ KUMAR**
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**PROFESSOR
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Provost & Deputy Vice Chancellor
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**PROFESSOR
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Dean, Keio University Graduate
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Tokyo, Japan



**DR. ASHWIN
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Executive Director
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London, UK

WORLD UNIVERSITY LEADERS FORUM

The World University Leaders Forum (WULF), an initiative of O.P. Jindal Global University, India, is a democratic and inclusive global platform connecting university leaders worldwide. Rooted in India’s civilisational ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, WULF fosters dialogue, collaboration and collective action to advance higher education, global equity and sustainable development.

PANEL ABSTRACT

This high-level panel examines universities as strategic actors in global governance for advancing the SDGs. It explores how research, education, policy engagement, and cross-sector partnerships can generate measurable impact, showcasing the JGU Sustainable Development Report 2025 as a scalable model for coordinated, accountable university-led SDG action.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR C. RAJ KUMAR

Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana, India

Professor C. Raj Kumar, a Rhodes Scholar, is the Founding Vice Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University and a globally respected leader in higher education reform and international law. Educated at Oxford, Harvard, Hong Kong, and Delhi, he has built JGU into a globally ranked multidisciplinary university. His scholarship and policy engagement emphasize constitutionalism, human rights, global justice, and the role of universities in advancing democratic governance and the Sustainable Development Goals worldwide.

PROFESSOR MARVIN KRISLOV

President, Pace University, USA

Professor Marvin Krislov is President of Pace University, a distinguished legal scholar, and an American academic leader. A Rhodes Scholar, he previously served as president of Oberlin College and as vice president and general counsel at the University of Michigan, where he played a central role in landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases on educational diversity. He also served as acting solicitor for the U.S. Department of Labor and as associate White House counsel. He is a graduate of Yale College, the University of Oxford, and Yale Law School.

PROFESSOR SHERINE FAROUK

Assistant Chancellor for Global Partnerships & Impact, Abu Dhabi University, UAE

Professor Sherine Farouk is Assistant Chancellor for Global Partnerships and Impact at Abu Dhabi University, leading international collaboration and high-impact initiatives. With over 25 years of experience across the UAE, UK, and Egypt, she is a recognized leader in sustainability and climate action. Her work focuses on climate disclosure, responsible management, and sustainable development. A sought-after speaker and academic leader, she holds a PhD from London Metropolitan University, UK.

PROFESSOR JOANNA NEWMAN

Provost & Deputy Vice Chancellor, SOAS University of London, UK

Professor Joanna Newman is Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor of SOAS University of London and a leading voice on global citizenship and decolonisation in higher education. A scholar of European history and the first female Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, she champions interdisciplinary learning and international partnerships, embedding the Sustainable Development Goals across teaching, research, and engagement to advance sustainability, inclusion, and global cooperation.

PROFESSOR MASA INAKAGE

Dean, Keio University Graduate School of Media Design, Tokyo, Japan

Professor Masa Inakage is Dean of Keio University Graduate School of Media Design in Tokyo and a leading figure in experience design and media innovation. Educated at Oberlin College, California College of the Arts, and Keio University, he directs multiple international research initiatives, including Keio Media Design Research Institute and Keio-NUS CUTE Center. As CEO of Media Studio, Inc., and advisor to global organizations, he advances Dream Driven Design to imagine playful, human-centered future societies.

DR. ASHWIN FERNANDES

Executive Director, QS Quacquarelli Symonds, London, UK

Dr. Ashwin Fernandes is Executive Director at QS Quacquarelli Symonds and a global authority on higher education strategy, rankings, and internationalization. He works closely with university leaders, governments, and multilateral organizations to advance evidence-based policy and institutional improvement. Instrumental in QS initiatives on sustainability, employability, and global mobility, he emphasizes data, transparency, and partnerships as critical enablers of universities’ contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals.