



Indian Institute of Social Reform & Research

Invites Nominations for The 'IISRR-Award'



[Replica of the IISRR-Award Gold Medal]

The IISRR has introduced the "IISRR-AWARD" from 2023
A Gold Medal a Citation and a Certificate are given to the Recipient(s) of the IISRR-Award

The "IISRR-Award"

As per IISRR proceedings, it has been announced on 18th February 2023 that the "IISRR-Award" would be conferred to an eminent Educationist, Scientist, Social Activist or like other person(s) or an Organization / Institution, or a Group of Persons, preferably once in a year, for his/ her/ their Original and Substantial contributions towards 'Sustainable Development and Societal Reforms'.

Nomination Invited for the 'IISRR-Award'

Any notable Institution/ Person can recommend Nomination, along with a Bio-Data of the Nominee to the IISRR (iisrr09@gmail.com) for the 'IISRR-Award'. After preliminary scrutiny, a Proforma may be sent for final selection. However, decision of the IISRR is final and bindings to all.

Appeal for Sponsorship of the 'Gold Medal'

IISRR invites sponsorship for 'Gold Medal' of the IISRR-Award,
Name of the Sponsor will be duly acknowledged on the back-side of the Gold Medal



Indian Institute of Social Reform & Research

www.iisrr.in <http://www.iisrr.in/journal/>

Conferred

The 'IISRR -Award 2023'



To Professor (Dr.) Jack Holbrook



Visiting Professor, Tartu University, Estonia, UK;

Former UNESCO Expert;

Former President, International Council of Associations for Science Education

https://www.etis.ee/CV/Jack_Holbrook/eng

for his Original and Substantial Contributions Towards
'Sustainable Developments and Societal Reforms'
through Disseminating STEM Education, STEM Literacy and introducing
Innovative Strategies & Techniques in Teaching-Learning Process



Recipient of IISRR -Award 2023

Prof. Jack Holbrook

Visiting Professor, Tartu University, Estonia, UK;

Former UNESCO Expert;

Former President, International Council of Associations for Science Education

https://www.etis.ee/CV/Jack_Holbrook/eng

IISRR -Award 2023: My Feelings

- Prof. Jack Holbrook

I feel honoured and humbled for receiving an award and medal for promoting sustainable development and social reforms through STEM education, promoting STEM literacy and Introducing strategies and techniques in the teaching-learning process.

My efforts in STEM education follow on from the earlier science-technology-society movements especially those promoted through workshops and seminars undertaken under the umbrella of ICASE (International Council of Associations for Science Education), an umbrella organization linking national /regional organizations involved in science education at the school/teacher education level. With today's technological, or is it electronic, society, and the need to promote creativity such as through designing, undertaking an engineering approach to science education, not forgetting components involving calculating and the plotting of graphs in seeking the scientific outcomes, STEM is clearly a more encompassing term for the teaching in the science (or if you must. the biology, chemistry, as well as the physics) classroom. If this is a good indication of interdisciplinary learning through science teaching, then the challenge today is whether it is possible to go one step further and, an addition, embrace, through a transdisciplinary approach, ways of addressing sustainability issues facing the global society. This is science going beyond the classroom and seeking to address sustainability issues within the global society.

Interlinking of organizations to an international network is suggested as both meaningful and seen as most appropriate for IISRR to make its reader aware of the international scene and thus recognizing the role of ICASE as an international umbrella organization. And what better way than to reward ICASE officials who have sought to play a role in linking IISRR internationally through a IISRR metal and certificate of appreciation.

It is thus appropriate for me to congratulate IISRR in taking such a lead and in seeking to develop its impact, gaining worldwide recognition of its journal. This is not an easy task as developing journal articles for a worldwide audience needs to extend beyond a local orientation and ways of operation. It needs to seek the inclusion of international references into local articles and what better way than taking note of ways of interacting with ICASE and its journal called 'science education international'. The ICASE journal is open access on the internet and draws on authors from around the world.



IISRR – Award Giving Ceremony 2023: A Report

- Prof. Sudhakar C. Agarkar

Held on 29th March 2023 at Dubai, UAE, During the 'World Conference on STEM Education' Organized by the 'International Council of Associations for Science Education'

The 'Indian Institute of Social Reform and Research' (IISRR) has instituted the 'IISRR-Award' from this year 2023 to honour a person or an institution working for Sustainable Development and Social Reforms. It includes a 'Gold Medal' and a 'Citation'.

The first person to be chosen for the 'IISRR-Award - 2023' was **Professor Jack Holbrook**, Professor Emeritus at University of Tartu, Estonia. Professor Holbrook is a well-known person in science education. Under the auspices of UNESCO Prof. Jack has undertaken a variety of projects to improve the teaching of science in developing as well as in underdeveloped countries. He has played a pivotal role in establishing 'International Council of Associations of Science Education' (ICASE). This council has been instrumental in building bridges among different organisations in the world working for the betterment of science education at school and college levels.

The ICASE has a practice of organising an international conference to bring together eminent science educators from around the world. The '7th ICASE World Conference on STEM' was held at Dubai (United Arab Emirates) from March 27 to 30, 2023; jointly hosted by the Amity University, Dubai and the British University in Dubai.



Prof. Declan Kennedy, President ICASE is handing over the Certificate of 'IISRR-AWARD' to Prof. Jack Holbrook; Prof. Mia was present

The IISRR has taken this opportunity was to felicitate **Prof. Jack Holbrook** by the first IISRR-Award. The venue of the conference was Amity University located in the Academic Area of the Dubai. The organisers had gladly agreed to spare time during Conference Dinner held on March 29, 2023 for the 'Award Giving Ceremony'. Accordingly, a grand Award Giving Ceremony was held in the Amity University.



Prof. S. C. Agarkar is handing over the 'IISRR Gold Medal' to Prof. Jack Holbrook on behalf of the Indian Institute of Social Reform & Research

Apart from the participants of the conference from different parts of the world the ceremony was attended by **Dr. Zhang Baohui**, ICASE President (2020-23), **Dr. Declan Kennedy**, President (2023-26), **Dr. Sarfaraj Aslam**, Secretary, ICASE, **Mrs. Mary Mullaghi**, Treasurer ICASE, **Dr. Steven Sexton**, Editor, Science Education International, **Dr. Ben Akpan**, Chair of World Conference and other office bearers.

The IISRR / Indian team was represented by Dr. Asit Das, Director, IISRR, Former Dean (SW), University of Kalyani, Dr. Sudhakar Agarkar, Professor (Retired), Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, TIFR Mumbai and Mr. Vasu Prakash, Director, Sri Prakash Educational Institutions, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. After describing the genesis of the award Dr. Declan Kennedy, President Elect, ICASE was requested to hand over the Citation. Dr. Sudhakar Agarkar handed over the Gold Medal to Professor Holbrook on behalf of the IISRR team. The award ceremony was well received.

After accepting the award **Professor Jack Holbrook** thanked IISRR for instituting the award and choosing him as its first recipient. He went further to extend his help to IISRR in its mission to bring in social reform. He, in fact, sent a detailed email message after the conference and put forth some new ideas in science education to be followed by IISRR in the near future.



The 'Citation' of the 'IISRR-Award' is handing over to Prof. Jack Holbrook by Prof. Asit Kumar Das, Director, IISRR in presence of all dignitaries of ICASE



We are tempted to quote some of his thoughts in his own words. *“You made an impact on the conference and got IISRR well publicised. I thank you for the honour you bestowed on me. The question is – what can I do in return? I note from the ICASE declaration, so cleverly put together by Ben Akpan, that the thrust for STEAM education is to promote ‘Education through Science’, rather than ‘Science through Education’.*



IISRR-Award Giving Ceremony: (Standing L to R) ICASE President Elect Dr. Cesar Mora, President Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Asit K. Das, ICASE Journal Editor Dr. Steven Sexton, (Seating R) Secretary, ICASE



IISRR-Award Giving Ceremony: (L to R) Mr. Vasu Prakash, Prof. S.C. Agarkar, ICASE President Elect Dr. Cesar Mora, Dr. Ben Akpan, ICASE World Conference Chair and IISRR Director Prof. Asit Kr. Das

By putting education first, before ‘science’, the ‘changing need’ can be seen as an emphasis away from the conceptual content of science to its even more important thrust for enabling the betterment of society not only in terms of the gaining of declarative knowledge and even operational knowledge, but also for compassionate knowledge.

In these days where sustainable development is a big concern not only operational knowledge but also compassionate knowledge supported attitudes, values and concerns for the society are equally important. Hence ‘education through science’ is not only the environmental learning but also with the economic and the societal considerations and all within the local, regional and global need for development that is guided by sustainability. I see a role for IISRR in joining with ICASE to promote new teaching at the local Kolkata level and the regional India level. May be this is through developing teaching materials, in-service courses, research programmes, etc. Of course, I am willing to see whether I can play a part in this venture. Many many thanks again for all your efforts and for the wonderful showcasing you put me through.”