Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management has collaborated with United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC), Global Dialogue Foundation Australia and NGO DPI, to launch Unity in Diversity - World Civil Society, India.

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Unity in Diversity

A city-based management school has collaborated with United Nations Alliance of Civilisations to launch the India chapter of the 'Unity in Diversity - World Civil Society'.

The society is being launched with the purpose of aligning efforts of NGOs, private businesses, government and religious organisations towards building inclusive societies at the local and global (UN) level.

Speaking about how the launch will encourage the youth of the city to work towards creating an inclusive society, Akhil Shahani, director, Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management said, "We have recognised 23 colleges in Mumbai which are promoting understanding and harmony among various communities through their work. These colleges will be recognised as 'Unity in Diversity Campuses'. Students from our college along with those from these campuses will advocate the cause of unity within various cultures through educating others through events, social media and other communication platforms."

Hanifa Mezou, senior advisor to UNAOC said, "I will welcome any NGO ready to hear what is happening right now at the UN, what are the new priorities under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how civil society can make a difference. We are going from commitment to results."

The objectives of the of the India launch are: to form a National Steering Committee in India which will coordinate continuous collaboration among civil society, private business sector, governments, religions, spiritual organisations, and work towards building inclusive societies; to establish a grassroots Community Leadership Team which will work with local communities in creating and implementing projects to strengthen civil society via dialogue and understanding; to lay the foundation of the policy of the Indian Unity in Diversity - World Civil Society Assembly and to create the first action plan based on this policy; and to establish collaboration between the UNAOC India Focal Point, UN associated organisations and the India civil society in order to contribute to reaching the UN's SDGs.

Since 2010, the initiative has been launched in 19 countries by numerous civil society partners around the world in collaboration with the Shahani Group, Global Dialogue Foundation and UNAOC to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding.