Dear Friends,

Hope you are fine and safe at the start of this new and quite specific academic season.

As the fall teaching season commences, we begin our **Working Group Update August 2020** with something different: A renewed commitment to the importance of poverty eradication through management education and the responsibilities we have, as a community of scholars, to continue tackling this issue through our work and this Working Group.

Poverty is increasing, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic is having a disproportionate effect on middle and low-income individuals – including students.

- The World Bank estimates that global poverty rates will rise for the first time since 1990. This increase erases three decades of gains in poverty reduction.
- The World Bank also forecasts that between 71 million and 100 million individuals will fall back into the ranks of the extreme poor.
- Latin America will lose about 26.5 million jobs, according to the Inter-American Development Bank. Income inequality within countries is increasing.
- The Indian economy shrank by 23.9% from April to June. Migrant works were disproportionately affected. They not only saw their jobs vanish but also brought the virus to the rural areas when they returned home.
- Enrollment will drop by 25% in universities throughout Colombia, according to research done by the Laboratory of Economics of Education (LEE), Pontifica Universidad Javeriana, Bogota.
- A *New York Times* article (September 4, 2020) says, "At a public university in the city of Manizales, Colombia, one professor said it was costing her architecture students the price of one week of groceries to connect to the internet via cellphone for a single day of classes. Some students said they were going hungry to pay for data."

As we prepare for upcoming academic year, the mission of our Working Group has never been more relevant: To raise the issue of the poor and the marginalized in the courses we teach and in the scholarship we conduct AND to find creative ways to engage students given the extraordinary pressures they are experiencing during these most uncertain times.

Looking Forward
We feel encouraged to see from this Update that our WG members, as well as our friends and partners, are active in relating their work to the above. We also feel a need for a new round of both internal and external consultations to explore how we, as the Working Group, could further realize our mission. We will be asking for your ideas and will present some of our own shortly.

7th Responsible Management Education Research Conference, Chur, Switzerland, 19-21 October
The organizers of the 7th RME Research Conference on "*The Promise of Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Responsible Management Education and Moving forward with the SDGs,* inform us that they have received submissions from more than 120 scholars, junior researchers, PhD students and practitioners from all over the world. Among them are our WG members and other participants who provided inputs for the **Anti-poverty WG conference track**.

Each day, the program starts at 1pm CEST (Swiss time) and each session will last 60 minutes. This is done to retain audience attention. The program includes also interactive breaks and social events to make sure that a lively exchange is possible. Presenters and other participants should register here by 30 September and pay the registration fee of CHF 50. Following this, they will receive individualized admission links, which will provide them with access to the conference throughout the event.

Anti-poverty Toolkit Gets Its Sustainability Mindset Sister!

Following the launch of the Anti-poverty Toolkit, our WG members from Radford University were invited to create a similar Toolkit for the PRME Sustainability Mindset Working Group. The Sustainability Mindset Toolkit was developed by our WG members **Tay Keong Tan** and **Anna Ogan.** Organized around the 12 Sustainability Mindset Principles, the free, open-resource platform is very helpful in supporting our work in the Decade of Action and the shift towards online learning. Both the Sustainability Mindset Toolkit and our Anti-poverty Toolkit are linked together because of the complementary and inter-dependent relation of these two issues.

Working Group Supporting Members' and Youth related projects

Our WG continues co-sponsoring the International Student Essay Competition organized my our WG member **Anastasiya Marcheva** and D.A. Tsenov Academy, Svishtov, Bulgaria. The topic of this year's edition is Youth Entrepreneurship – Current State, Problems, Opportunities On behalf of our WG, we particularly welcome contributions related to the role that youth entrepreneurship could play in poverty alleviation and the advancement of the SDGs.

Our WG Annual Report 2019 and Outlook for 2020 Published

PRME has just published their Annual-Report 2018-2019. The document includes also our WG Annual Report 2019 and Outlook for 2020.

News from our Members and Partners

- Our WG member **Ali Awni** (Egypt) continues with his series of Post Covid-19 related webinars organized by the Gerhart Center, the American University, Cairo. On 9 September the speaker will be renown Prof. **Henry Mintzberg**, McGill University, Canada, who will focus on *Rebalancing Society: The Role of Schools of Business, and the Healthcare Systems during Covid 19 and beyond*. To register for free, please **Click here.** To get free access to the two most recent sessions -- Prof. **Michael Lenox**, Darden Business School, University of Virginia on *The Path to Decentralization* (2 September) and **Paul Maassen**, Chief, Country Support (CCS) Open Government Partnership on *Promoting Accountable, Responsive and Inclusive Governance* (18 July) -- contact Ali Awni directly at ahawni@aucegypt.**edu**
- Our member **Shirley Yeung**, Director, the Centre for Business/Social Sustainability and Innovations (BSSI)/ Head, School of Business, Gratia Christian College (SBGC), Hong Kong, organized 14 online transformation seminars from May to August, 2020 with the support of the World of Sustainable Development Planners (WISDP), an initiative of UNESCO HK Association. Dr Yeung also published her 11th new book on Innovative Service Quality Management with SDGs with a Foreword written by Mr. Song Yang, SYART, Art Entrepreneur, Beijing and Paris. On September BSSI and HKFAA produced the 3rd micro film on Cross-Generation Transformation via SDG 8 and 17 supported by UNESCO HK that included the 2020 student Bronze winner, UNOSSC Entrepreneurial Academy.
- Our WG member **Divya Singhal**, Goa Institute of Management (India), is sharing with us a pre-print of A Descriptive Study of Indian General Public's Psychological Responses during COVID-19 Pandemic Lockdown Period in India. Its summary was widely published and was featured at the World Pandemic Research Network. Divya was interviewed about the research findings by a Goa-

based TV channel. Divya is sharing how her **#OneFamilyPhotoEachDay** has been a coping mechanism for her family during this pandemic. Divya spoke at the international virtual seminar on **#SDGs** hosted by our WG member Shirley Yeung at Gratia Christian College, Hong Kong.

- At the International Academic Conference on *Innovating Business Schools and Management 4.0*, organized by ASCOLFA (Associations of Business Schools in Colombia), held virtually 24-28 August, our WG member **Gustavo Yepes** hosted and moderated a plenary session on *Sustainability and Responsible Education Networks*. The panelists in the session were **Florencia Librizzi** (UNSDN), **Gustavo Loiola** (ISAE/FVG, Brazil), and our WG member **Milenko Gudić (**Serbia).

- Our WG member, Anastasiya Marcheva is sharing with us the free **Collection of Essays** from the last edition of the International Student Essay Competition.

- Our WG members **Raymond Saner** and **Lichia Yiu** (Switzerland) inform that they have added the ageing population to the thematic topics that they have been working on within the grid of SDGs. The elderly is a cross-cutting grouping of vulnerabilities, who have been disproportionally affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and include the poor, the uneducated, informal worker, the elderly and women. Of particular interest are two sub-themes: 1) the economic rights (i.e., to work) of young-old (age 60-80), and 2) the digital rights of the old persons for literacy and access. They were part of the technical committee that drafted a new ISO guideline standard on age inclusive workforce. Those interested learning more about or joining some of these activities can contact them directly: saner@diplomacydialogue.org and yiu@csend.org

- Our WG friend **Florencia Librizzi**, UN SDSN, is sharing with us some SDG Academy resources that can be easily incorporated into classes, including 30+, **free** Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Faculty can educate themselves, borrow quiz questions, readings, or interactive activity ideas. Students can complete full courses or specific modules. The SDG Academy Library has 1200+ free videos on sustainable development that students can watch before calls or to introduce topics for deeper dives, debates and alternate perspective presentations. The UN SDSN has recently launched Community of Practice that offers opportunities for finding partners and leading important work on the SDGs. Cohort #1 will be launched this fall, and Florencia would be delighted to have our WG members included. The UN SDSN is keen to identify individuals like our WG members that are interested in real impact to help pioneer the advancement of sustainable development alongside the work of the SDG Academy. Interested or want more information? Contact Florencia directly at florencia.librizzi@unsdsn.org

- Our friend **Zahind Torres-Rahman** from Business Fights Poverty is sharing with us their personal invitation to our WG members to join the upcoming Business Fights Poverty NYC Online 2020 Conference taking place 21 to 25 September during UN General Assembly Week. This event offers a week of engaging content, live events, curated peer networking, and community-led learning to drive connections, conversations, and collaboration around how we rebuild better after the pandemic. Each day presents a deep-dive into a specific theme, such as *Imagining the Future We Want, Creating an Equitable World, Helping People Survive and Thrive, Building Resilient Livelihoods, Shaping System-Level Partnership.* To see the latest agenda and confirmed speakers Click here and feel welcome to register for free.

Looking forward to our future communication, collaboration and meetings,

With best wishes,

Al Rosenbloom and Milenko Gudić

P.S. Attached please find the latest updated **WG membership list**, which includes **217 members** from 175 institutions in 62 countries!