During the 2016/2017 reporting period, Lalaji Memorial Omega International School undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly noteworthy:

1. Project 1: Maintenance and Custodianship of an adjoining Adyar link canal into a sustainable eco system.

UNAI Principle: Sustainability

Through a Government Order, we have been granted custodianship and maintenance of the Adyar link canal. A one kilometre stretch canal runs between Omega school boundary and the adjacent road. Adyar Link canal was a fresh water lake located in 13°00’08.72” N, 80°08’50.72” E in Kolapakkam, Chennai city. Adyar Link canal was constructed in 19th century to link Adyar lake to provide an additional source of drinking water for Chennai and to protect the city from drought. The lake was supporting agriculture and aqua culture. Over the course of time the ponds in this locality are dumped with garbage. The canal was an outlet for polluted water and was choked with weeds and plastic waste preventing the free flow of water during the monsoons. The opportunity for local species of flora and fauna to thrive was lost due to the complete disregard for the water resource by the local community. Biodiversity within the community was also nonexistent in an otherwise hotspot for indigenous species to grow in the vast farmlands surrounding our school campus which is located away from the central business district. Since the canal is located adjacent to the school’s boundary wall, we were the immediate recipients of the deteriorating condition of the canal.

Key Highlights of the project:

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• Complete clean-up of the canal to remove sludge, debris of garbage and junk accumulated over the years. The bank and the bottom of the canal have been cleaned up.
• The area was then fenced to ensure no encroachment and prevent it from becoming an area for dumping garbage and other waste.
• Undertook a plantation drive in the newly spruced up area. Indigenous species along the fence and smaller trees and shrubs as a secondary cover to setup a forest ecosystem around the canal.
• Labeling of all species of plants in the canal.
• Populate the ecosystem with various species of fauna (local & migrant), aquatic animals and Aphis mellifera (Honeybee)
• The school has made plans to reinforce the edges by native vegetation and to widen the channel proportionally to encourage a natural course of water flow.

Project 2: Vision Awareness Program
UNAI Principle: Commitment to the United Nations Charter (to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom)
Lalaji Memorial Omega International School has conducted “Vision Awareness Project” in collaboration with Sankara Nethralaya, a not-for-profit missionary institution for ophthalmic care in Chennai, India to create awareness about vision related problems and solutions. As part of this project, screening tests were conducted to all the students and staff of our school to identify vision related problems and to offer medical advice.
Visual problems in children can affect their physical, intellectual, social and emotional development. Early detection and correction of refractive errors may enable them in improved academic performance. The objectives of the school vision screening are to identify children with visual impairments, through selected vision screening procedures, providing appropriate treatment such as glasses, establishing follow up of the treatment for identified students and educating teachers and children about eye care. Students of classes IX to XII were given training to take a role as Vision Ambassadors and conduct preliminary eye tests for other students as well as assist the medical team in organizing the screening tests thereafter.
The training for the student ambassadors took place on Friday, the 23rd of June 2017 between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm. Over a period of three months starting from 10th of June 2017 to 10th September 2017, around 4500 students, 600 academic and non-academic staff were screened for vision problems and prescriptions were given about appropriate treatment.

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**Project 3: Helping a government school to expand its infrastructure in the neighbourhood.**

UNAI Principle: Education opportunity for all

Lalaji Memorial School has helped the nearby Kolapakkam Government High School by constructing classrooms where students can have a conducive and safe learning environment. Our students periodically visit this school and conduct activities like tree plantation, dengue and other health & hygiene awareness programs.

**Project 4: Awareness Rally**

The students of Lalaji Memorial Omega International School conducted an awareness campaign to highlight the need to refrain from burning garbage or other items on the night of ‘Bhogi’. What started as a simple practice to recycle farm wastes has turned out to be one of the greatest pollution threats in the city. Bhogi bonfire is a traditional ritual in which useless household articles are thrown into a fire made of wood and cow-dung cakes, held during the harvest festival of Pongal. However, with the lack of farm wastes in urban areas, the people living in the cities are just keen to make a bonfire with whatever they can lay their hands on, including rubber, plastic materials, garbage and a few other harmful materials - thus increasing the levels of particulate matter and other toxic gases in the city's atmosphere.

The campaign involved a rally of over 135 students covering the areas of Kolapakkam and Gerugambakkam on Saturday, 6th of January 2018, from 8.00 am to 11.00 am. The students distributed pamphlets describing the ill effects of Bhogi burning and also performed a street play to attract the audience. This was completely a students’ initiative, to spread the message of celebrating an environment-friendly Bhogi which inspired people of all ages to fight for their cause.

Tell us about any academic research that is currently undertaken at your institution which could possibly help in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:

**1. OMEGA MUN FOR DIPLOMACY, DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION**

Students of Lalaji Memorial Omega International School conducted their very first Model United Nations for the students of grade VIII to XI of Cambridge Stream and IB on 23rd & 24th of November 2017. Model United Nations is an effective instrument in learning various life skills needed to be an informed and responsible world citizen. These skills include debating, public speaking, negotiation, diplomacy, discussion, research and analysis. MUNs also helped in providing exposure to the working of the UN and the world issues and the policies of a country and help in devising solutions for various problems through research, analysis and discussions.

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2. TANDEM: A DEBATE WITH A PURPOSE
The UNAI ASPIRE Chapter of Lalaji Memorial Omega International School has conducted an inter-school debate competition on 28th of November 2017 to create awareness about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Many schools from the city participated in the event forming 16 teams altogether debating on issues related to SDGs. The students and faculties were equally thrilled to be part of the innovative way of spreading awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals. The competition was conceived by the students of Omega International School ASPIRE Chapter as an inter-school debate competition to involve students of other schools of Chennai to spread the message of the need for collaborative effort to achieve the sustainable development Goals. Various logistics starting with the designing of the logo, certificates, banner to selection of the topics and formulating the budget are all done by the students themselves, therefore improving their skills for future use to lead events of greater magnitude. This maiden initiative was a huge success in achieving its goal of bringing people together and equipping them with necessary skills like critical thinking, discussion, debate, collaboration, and research and planning to solve local and global problems creatively.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK CELEBRATION: TAKE UP RESPONSIBILITY, PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS
The students of Lalaji Memorial Omega International School celebrated Human Rights Week from 9th December to 16th December to sensitize people around of the various rights that are needed for leading a dignified life and also of the 30 Human Rights articles of Universal declaration of Human Rights. They came up with 8 interesting suggestions for celebrating Human Rights Week on our campus. These ranged from creating a Facebook page to conducting Fancy Dress competition with the theme Human Rights Champions were highly effective in creating awareness about various Human Rights violations and measures that can be taken up for protecting our rights. Students designed a banner which was used as the Facebook profile and 6 videos were created by them to explain all the 30 Human Rights. Students also created a Human Rights wall where teachers and guests wrote their opinion on Human Trafficking. It gave out a strong message that it is us who have to protect rights as every right comes with a silent corresponding duty attached to it. Being unaware of these would be the biggest violation. These activities not only helped students gain substantial amount of information, it also helped them develop other essential skills like collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication. The entire exercise gave them a feeling of achievement and also gave them simple and effective tools to tackle global issues in a creative and interesting way.
What do you think are the greatest issues facing the city/country/region where your institution is located? Environmental Degradation and Poverty

==Provide three suggestions on how UNAI can better support your institution==

Suggestion one: To facilitate connections with schools and communities of other countries and help in academic exchange programs.

Suggestion two: To facilitate sponsorship of students of low income group to pursue higher education in and outside the country.

Suggestion three: To facilitate broadcasting and promoting of our school initiatives on international platforms.

Would you be interested in hosting a UNAI-related event at your institution? Yes

Please briefly describe the kind of event you would like to host (topic, format, speakers, target audience, etc.): Academic exchanges and talks on sustainable development for students of 15-18 years of age.

Do you have any upcoming activities/events that you would like to share with UNAI so that we may publicize/promote it among our members?

Exhibition on Climate Change: "Let us change and adapt with Climate Change"

Lalaji Memorial Omega International School is hosting an exhibition on climate change to sensitize the audience about the causes, impacts and possible solutions. Climate Change is one of the most pressing issues faced by the world community and everyone from a farmer to a businessman would be invariably affected.

The exhibition would have an inter-disciplinary approach to involve every department for maximum participation, where students would not only focus on mitigation and prevention but also would create awareness about the causes and impact of Climate Change in a creative and an innovative way. This is to be achieved through literary means such as poems, slogans, artistic street memes and plays, academic models - working and non working science exhibits, surveys, quiz and so on. The event is stated to be held on 26th and 27th Jan 2018 within the school campus. The exhibition would be open to the parent forum and general public from the neighbourhood communities.

Links: [http://www.omegaschools.org/home](http://www.omegaschools.org/home)

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