

KEHKASHAN BASU, M.S.M.

Forbes 30 Under 30, Environmentalist, Innovator, Educator, Speaker, Musician and Author

Cell: 647-334-8410 | Email: kehkashanbasu@greenhopefoundation.com | Toronto, Canada | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kehkashanbasu/>

22-year-old sustainability leader with 15 years global experience in social innovation – policy, grassroots projects, advocacy

WORK EXPERIENCE

Founder-President

Green Hope Foundation (UN ECOSOC accredited Not-for-Profit)

August 2012-Present

Green Hope Foundation (GHF) is a Toronto, Canada registered Not-for-Profit enterprise with operations in 26 countries, that I founded in 2012. We combine grassroots action with advocacy at the highest levels of policy making, to fulfil our mission of reducing inequalities & creating a sustainable world by empowering children & youth, women & indigenous communities, all of whom are disproportionately impacted by anthropogenic climate change and biodiversity loss. My role:

- As the Chair of the Board of Directors, I provide strategic leadership to deliver the mission and vision of GHF.
- Fundraising & establishing partnerships with key stakeholders, community groups, governments & education boards. Create advocacy programs.
- Mentor GHF's 3060 youth members. Project management of GHF's ongoing activities in 26 countries. Expand outreach to new communities in need.

Impact:

- Our sustainability education and skills-building programs have directly empowered 300,000 vulnerable people in 26 countries
- Our COVID19 resilience-building programs in Bangladesh, Liberia and India have provided education, reduced gender-based violence & generated green jobs for 25,000 people in 14 rural districts
- Our 108 webinars on "building back better" since April 2020 have engaged 1 million viewers through social media channels in 12 countries
- Using clean energy innovation, our solar grids provide electricity, powering schools, homes & irrigation, resolving water insecurity in 15 village communities, with annual carbon offsets of 4.5 million kilograms of CO₂
- We have built 110 toilets to stop open defecation in rural communities in Bangladesh, improving the health of over 6000 people
- Our solar-powered mobile library project is providing books to 300,000 'out of school' children in India, Liberia, DRC & Bangladesh
- As a partner of the Toronto District School Board, Canada's largest, we provide environmental education to its 600 schools and 250,000 students. GHF partners with school boards in 5 countries.
- Amplified youth voices as a Keynote Speaker at 500+ global sustainability forums, notably at the United Nations, Yale & Stanford Universities, COP, the World Bank, European Parliament

Co-Chair, SDG Student Advisory Committee

University of Toronto

November 2021 – June 2022

- Lead the engagement of the student body in the SDG process at both the graduate and undergraduate level
- Develop a centralized model for ongoing student engagement in SDG research that ensures diversity & accountability

Community Engagement & Outreach Assistant

University of Toronto St. George Sustainability Office

October 2020 – February 2021

Supported the office's goal of making the campus sustainable through:

- Online research, survey development, interviewing stakeholders
- Developing, coordinating, and implementing engagement programmes
- Acting as Sustainability Office representative at workshops and meetings

Governor for Student Empowerment & Community Outreach

The Apple International School, Dubai

December 2020 – Present

- Reviewing the school's educational curriculum, providing feedback & direction for improvement

Global Coordinator for Children & Youth - Feb 2013 to June 2015

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Kenya

- Enhanced youth engagement in UNEP Major Group processes. Attended UNEP meetings, provided feedback, disseminated policy information
- Chaired youth working groups, conducted elections

Author: "The Tree of Hope" a children's book on fighting climate change, that is a part of several school libraries globally. Also available on Amazon.

LEADERSHIP ROLES

- *Canadian Youth Delegate to COP26
- *National Geographic Young Explorer
- *Trustee-Board of Parliament of World's Religions *Action Coalition Leader for UN Women's Feminist Action on Climate Justice
- *Councillor at World Future Council
- *UN NGO Major Group-North America Coordinator
- *World Humanitarian Forum Youth Council
- *Mentor, New York Academy of Arts & Sciences: 1000 Girls, 1000 Futures program
- *Council Lead at Toronto-St. Paul's Youth Council

SKILLS

- Leadership, Team building & Mentoring
- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Presentation, Public speaking, Event Management
- MS Office, Website Building, Video Editing, Social Media
- Collaborative, Diversity & Inclusivity practitioner
- Tenacious, Innovative, Analytical and Self-driven
- Proven Ability to "Think Globally, Act Locally"
- Extensive knowledge of Sustainable Development Goals

EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIPS

*University of Toronto St. George, Canada 2018-2022 BA program;

Major – Environmental Studies

Minor – Physical & Environmental Geography, Women & Gender Studies

Dean's List Scholar - CGPA: 3.71 (out of 4.00)

Scholarships: KidsRights Foundation Full Scholarship for undergraduate degree, Glenn H. Carter Scholarship in Forestry/Environmental Studies, New College Council In-Course Scholarship, New College New Leaders Silver Scholarship

*Imperial College London – 2021 Business Strategy & Consulting Summer School (with scholarship)

*Cornell University MBA Candidate at SC Johnson School of Management – Class of 2024

*Photography: National Geographic Certification

*Piano: Grade 8 Trinity College London

AWARDS (Refer to Annexure 1 for full list)

- Meritorious Service Medal of Canada (M.S.M.)
- Forbes 30 Under 30
- World Literacy Award 2021
- International Children's Peace Prize
- United Nations Human Rights Champion
- Canada's Clean50 Emerging Leader for 2021
- L'Oréal Paris Woman of Worth Honouree
- Voices Youth Award for Peace
- Innovator of the Year for Sustainability Education
- John Muir Award for Habitat Conservation
- National Energy Globe Award
- Turner Prize for Social Change
- Straubel Leadership Award
- Canada's Top25 Women of Influence
- NAAEE Top30 Under 30
- International Diana Award 2015 & 2018
- Commonwealth Youth Award
- Community Award for Youth Service in Ontario

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

- Music – Guitar, Drums, Piano, Composer & Singer
- Avid Global Traveller, Bookworm, Painter

Annexure 1 (List of Awards)

2022 Meritorious Service Medal of Canada, awarded by the Governor General of Canada
2021 Forbes 30 under 30
2021 Canada's Clean50 Emerging Leader
2021 Impact and Innovation Award, Canada
2021 Canada's Global Energy Show Energy Leader Award
2021 Canada's CANIE Awards – Youth Impact Icon Award
2021 World Literacy Award for Significant Contribution to Literacy by a Youth
2021 Global Goals Impact Award – CogX Festival UK
2020 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award Winner & RBC Future Leader
2020 Voices Youth Award honouring the legacy of Mikhail Gorbachev & George Schultz
2020 The Nation-Building Youth's Award, Thailand
2020 L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Honouree
2020 Starfish Canada's Top25 Environmentalists Under 25
2020 Women Super Achiever Award winner
2019 John Muir Conservation Award for Habitat Restoration
2019 Straubel Leadership Award
2019 Community Award for Youth Service: Awarded by the Committee of Youth Officers for the Province of Ontario for outstanding youth service
2019 Innovator of the Year: Awarded at HundrEd Innovation Summit in Helsinki
2018 chosen from the world's top 100 innovations in Education
2018 Green Apple Environment Award: Presented annually by The Green Organisation, UK at the Houses of Parliament
2018 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award
2018 Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work: one of the five Caribbean & the Americas Region Winners
2018 Rising Star Award -Toronto on the occasion of International Women's Day
2018 International Diana Award
2017 National Energy Globe Award
2017 Turner Social Change Prize
2016 International Children's Peace Prize
2015 Non-Resident Indian of the Year
2015 International Diana Award
2014 Solar Pioneer Award from Middle East Solar Industry Association
2014 Global Education Supplies & Solutions: Ambassador for the Environment 2014 Kids are Heroes, USA award
2014 GOI Foundation Japan and UNESCO award: 2nd prize winner in the 2014 International Essay Contest for Young People from among 13,635 entries from 151 countries
2013 International Young Eco-Hero Award – Action for Nature USA 2012 Korea Green Foundation Award
2012 UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) award for essay to stop Desertification

Blogs & Media Links

Meritorious Service Medal, Canada: <https://www.gg.ca/en/honours/recipients/136-121718>

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kehkashan_Basu

Forbes 30 under 30: <https://www.forbes.com/profile/kehkashan-basu/?sh=3dba086c521c>

CNN: <https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2022/05/19/kehkashan-basu-green-hope-foundation-c2e-spc-intl.cnn>

BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/55801739>

Berkley Center, Georgetown University: <https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/hans-kung-and-a-global-ethic-a-route-to-building-back-better>

Huffington Post: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-future-belongs-to-us_b_8093384

COP26 TV Interview: https://main.mp4.cbc.ca/prodVideo/news/CBC_News_VMS/962/542/KEHKASHAN-BASU_7000kbps.mp4

UofT: <https://alumni.utoronto.ca/news-and-stories/news-and-articles/more-dozen-u-t-alumnae-named-canadas-top-100-most-powerful-women>

ABC News: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/meet-women-fighting-climate-change/story?id=77030351>

Woke magazine: <https://www.ourwoke.com/post/the-amazing-kehkashan-basu>

UNESCO: <https://en.unesco.org/news/green-hope-foundation-taps-power-and-passion-youth-protect-planet>

UNCCD Land Heroes: <https://www.unccd.int/issuesland-and-youth/unccd-land-heroes>

NAAEE 30 under 30 (North American Association for Environmental Education): <https://naaee.org/about-us/people/kehkashan-basu>