



OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE AND YOUTH IN ASIA PACIFIC

The Asia-Pacific region is facing the disastrous consequences of the climate crisis. Temperatures are increasing, floods and droughts are becoming more intense, and sea levels are rising, with dire impacts on young people across the region. However, the climate crisis is not inevitable and youth, who see climate change as a regional priority, are an important part of the solution.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to more than 660 million young people. Asia and the Pacific remain the fastest-growing regions in the world. It represents immense opportunities with high levels of mobile connectivity and innovation, education systems poised for transformation, and a thriving private sector. The impacts of climate change are worse on youth from underserved communities including youth with disabilities, Indigenous youth, and LGBTQ+ youth, who are at further risk of being left behind. Nonetheless, there are complex challenges and risks that withhold young people in the region from reaching their full potential and advocating for a cleaner, safer environment.

Many of the challenges relating to youth engagement around climate change issues, can be traced back to broader human rights, democracy, and governance challenges. Climate justice, in addressing human rights as well as social and economic inequalities, has become of pressing significance with the pandemic augmenting them. Marginalized groups, including young women, youth from Indigenous communities, young persons with disabilities, and youth from ethnic and minority communities, are already at the frontlines of the climate crisis and have been overcome by the challenges of the pandemic. Existing inequalities mean people may face climate change not only differently, but more intensely and in the absence of resources. They will continue to face its impacts for a longer term, reducing their chances of recovering. This is further impacted by the shrinking civic space in the region which has exacerbated the risks faced by environmental activists.

Inclusive and sustainable recovery plans require greater recognition of the interconnectivity of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as they build post-COVID-19 plans. Green recovery plans must ensure an integrated approach in which no one is left behind through supporting and enhancing young people's agency as well as through the creation of an enabling environment. Youth remain underrepresented in decision-making processes while being one of the most vulnerable groups to the effects of climate change and threats from related activism. As such, it is crucial to effectively communicate these challenges and work with young environmental activists, elevating their voices to advocate for climate action priorities and systematic change.

WHAT IS CLIMATE PROMISE?



The Climate Promise is UNDP and partners' response to this challenge. Tackling the climate crisis requires that all countries make bold pledges under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming. The Climate Promise is our commitment to ensure that any country wishing to increase the ambition of its national climate pledge can do so.

This initiative draws upon UNDP's extensive portfolio of expertise across priorities such as energy, forests, water, resilience, agriculture, health, youth, finance, governance, gender equality, and green jobs. It also builds upon UNDP and its partners' established track record in supporting governments to discuss, design, and deliver climate action under the Paris Agreement.

WHAT IS THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (APFSD)?



The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum to support the follow-up and review of the progress of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level while serving as a regional preparatory meeting to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

The Forum provides a regional perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by identifying regional trends and sharing the best practices and lessons learned. Since its inaugural session in 2014, the APFSD has brought governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders together to prepare for the HLPF and to support regional efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The 10th APFSD will be organized from 27-30 March 2023 under the theme, "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific" in Bangkok, at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC).

In alignment with the focus of the 2023 HLPF, the Forum will assess progress on the SDGs under review: Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation); Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy); Goal 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure); Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

The Forum will also support the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the 2023 HLPF. Additionally, the APFSD will feed into the 2023 SDG Summit by providing a regional platform to comprehensively review progress at the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and

identify priorities and solutions for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in the remaining years to 2030.

WHAT IS THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION PLATFORM (YECAP)?



In recent years, we are witnessing increased interest, engagement, and activism by youth on the climate agenda. Through climate strikes, conferences, coalitions, and more, young people have demanded governments and relevant stakeholders to take urgent and collective actions on the climate crisis. However, young people are still often marginalized and excluded from the important decision-making processes that will shape their very futures.

With this in mind, UNDP Asia-Pacific and the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific, RCC Bangkok, in collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, the British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme, and the 2030 Youth Force initiated discussions during the end of 2020 to establish a regional platform for youth empowerment in climate action, YECAP.

The strength of YECAP is that, instead of trying to create something entirely new, builds on existing networks, structures, and knowledge in the region, leveraging the unique assets of the convening partners to empower youth in climate action. This unique platform of collaboration between UN Agencies, non-party stakeholders, and youth organizations in the region lays the foundation for a unique window of opportunity for youth empowerment and direct participation in the NDC revision, implementation, and monitoring processes.

OUR STORY SO FAR

Over the past year, YECAP has reached 12,000+ youth climate leaders by conducting 262 sessions across Asia and the Pacific. Through the UNDP Climate Promise initiative, 8 countries supported national governments in engaging and prioritizing Youth empowerment in NDC processes: Vietnam, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran, Maldives, Cook Islands, Niue, and Tonga. Furthermore, the Regional Dialogue last year was able to reach over 2,000 participants regionwide.

Building on past successes and learnings, YECAP plans to deepen engagement in different countries across the region from 2022 onwards. The program will also focus on creating a strong base of young environmental activists in taking climate action and effectively communicating with young people to address local issues and propose solutions by elevating their voices to advocate for climate action priorities, human rights development, and systematic change by scaling up locally rooted initiatives to implement climate action throughout the Fellowship Journey.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

OUTCOME: Young people in Asia and the Pacific are meaningfully engaged and empowered to take action to limit average global temperature rise below 1.5°C. To ensure youth participation in taking climate action, an integrated approach aims to strengthen individual and institutional capabilities while building an enabling environment that promotes young people's agency in shaping tomorrow's world and achieving a sustainable future.

OUTPUTS:

- Youth have an increased knowledge and awareness around climate change, motivating them to take action.
- Increased availability and impact of support services for young people leading climate actions.
- Improved regulatory and policy environment to support meaningful youth action for climate change.

THE ROAD TO 10TH APFSD: REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION - 23 & 24 March 2023

KEY ACTIVITIES

- The Movers Programme
- Government policy labs to engage youth

The Road to 10th APFSD: Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action, co-organized by UNDP in partnership with UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGY), United International Federation of Youth (UNIFY), Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), the British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme and the 2030 Youth Force with support from Sweden, will serve as one of the pre-events to the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD).

The Regional Dialogue will not only focus on direct participation in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), but also highlight the environmental multilateralism works, global partnerships, and immediate actions to create a better future on a healthy planet and improve the quality of life for all.

This is an opportunity for stakeholders across Asia and the Pacific to step up the collective efforts to support young climate advocates, environmental activists, and aspiring youth leading the climate action and transformative solutions in our journey beyond recovery, towards 2030.

The event is open to participants from all walks of life, to increase meaningful youth engagement in the regional youth program planning, implementation, and direction for the future.

It will be a virtual event hosted over two days on 23-24 March 2023, with young climate activists and professionals participating in the Regional Dialogue.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

When it comes to achieving the SDGs, the progress in the Asia-Pacific region is uneven. While important gains have been achieved, progress has often been made amongst those groups that are easiest to reach, leaving many of the poorest and most vulnerable – including youth – behind. The COVID-19 pandemic has also undoubtedly exacerbated the inequality gap further. To be able to fully prosper as a region, it is paramount that vulnerable and marginalized communities and youth are given the tools and means to thrive.

Given the specific context, we will incorporate the element of inclusivity throughout the agenda by including speakers, attendees, and planning sessions and workshops. To ensure that the participant profile includes all youth in Asia and the Pacific, special efforts to direct the outreach and communications to the most vulnerable among youth.

The objectives of the Road to 10th APFSD: Regional Dialogue are to:

1. Raise awareness, create a call-to-action and prepare young climate advocates across Asia and the Pacific for larger, global dialogues;
2. Provide a platform for young environmental activists at national and regional levels to discuss experience of climate change and environmental advocacy strategies;
3. Encourage stakeholders to participate in a meaningful and diverse way to address the underlying opportunities, obligations, and delivery of unfulfilled pledges;
4. Strengthen the collaboration between youth from the Asia Pacific region, development organizations, policy makers and other stakeholders;
5. Launch key YECAP programmes such as Fellowship Cohort #4, Climate negotiator programme, Indigenous youth support programme;
6. Highlight local and regional youth-led climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives;
7. Promote green jobs and green businesses available in the Asia-Pacific region.

To scale up the youth engagement after the Regional Dialogue, YECAP will launch the 4th cohort of the Fellowship Programme and also organize multiple national level consultations convened to facilitate the participation of youth in the process across the Asia Pacific, as one of the follow up activities leading to the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), COY18 and COP28 in 2023.

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?

The Regional Dialogue will be a virtual event, open to youth between the ages of 18 and 30. It will be held over a period of two days with 1000+ young climate activists and professionals (Background Covering: Researcher, NGO, Science-Policy Interface, Policy, Youth Network working on the following issues related to climate change/biodiversity/energy/ocean i.e. Indigenous Peoples, Ethnic Minority groups, Gender, People with Disabilities, Economic, Finance, Media, others that are relevant to climate change issues) will participate in the Regional Dialogue.

PROFILE OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

- Young climate champions and environmental activists;
- YECAP Fellows from Cohort #1, #2, #3 and Indigenous Fellowship;
- Youth in APAC aspiring to take action, create change and work towards SDG 13;

- Youth in APAC, who are curious about climate change, the future of green career, inclusivity and gender, who want to know more and understand the causes better.

KEY SESSIONS OF THE DIALOGUE FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

- Launch of knowledge products and opportunities for Youth;
- Ensure youth advocacy and participation at the regional and global level including 10th APFSD, ECOSOC Youth Forum, 79TH Commissions Session, APCW 2023, COY18, and COP28;
- Improve youth representation in new NDC plan and develop effective action plans;

PROPOSED EVENT FORMAT [23-24 March 2023]

Time (GMT+7)	DAY 1		DAY 2	
	Program	Speaker/s	Program	Speaker
11:00 - 12:10	Opening Remarks	Organizing Partners	RECAP of Day 1 & flow of Day 2	Co-Organizers
	Plenary Session	UNDP	Keynote Session	UNICEF
12:10 - 13:00	Lunch Break			

TENTATIVE AGENDA - DAY 1 [23 March 2023]

Time		DAY 1		
		Program	Content	Speaker/s
11:00	11:10	Opening Session	Welcome by Emcee and Video Sharing: Introduction to YECAP	Emcee
11:10	11:30		Key Remarks from Leaders of Organizing Partners	UNDP, UNFCCC, UNICEF, Embassy of Sweden and YOUNGO
11:30	11:40		Youth Keynote Session	Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP)
11:40	12:10		Dialogue: Climate Promise 2.0	UNDP Climate Promise
Break				
13:00	13:15	Keynote Session	ACE and Youth	YOUNGO and UNFCCC
13:15	13:45	Panel Discussion	GENESYS for Climate Action	
13:45	14:30	Fireside Chat Session	Protecting Vulnerable Community to Ensure Climate Justice	Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) Fellows
14:30	14:40	Wrap Up - Day 1	Keynote Session: Youth Engagement in Biodiversity	Movers Programme
14:40	14:50		Keynote Session: Unifying for Change in Water and Climate	UN1FY
14:50	15:00		Overall Overview for the Day 1	Emcee

TENTATIVE AGENDA - DAY 2 [24 March 2023]

Time		DAY 2		
		Program	Content	Speaker
11:00	11:10	Overview - Day 2	Overview of Agenda for Day 2	Emcee
11:10	11:40	Keynote Session	Story, Study, Lesson: Data as a Tool for Climate Campaigning	UNICEF
11:40	12:10	Opportunities for Youth	Springboard Programme to Support Young Climate Entrepreneurs	Springboard Programme
			Youth SDGs Actions	2030 Youth Force
			Special Report on Youth and Climate Action in Vietnam	Youth4Climate Vietnam
			Localized Climate Action in Malaysia	Youth Environment Living Labs (YELL)
Break				
13:00	13:45	Panel Discussion	Beyond Consultations: Youth as Equal and Empowered Partners in Environmental Decision-making	UNEP, UNMGCY and Youth Advisory Group
13:45	14:30	Hot Seat Discussion	Empowering Youth to Pursue Green Jobs	Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force
14:30	14:40	Closing Session	Way Forward to 10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	UNESCAP and ARROW
14:40	14:50		Closing Remarks	ROTA and Secretariat Organizing Partners
14:50	15:00		Wrap Up	Emcee

Based on the success of the virtual regional dialogue in 2021 and 2022, it is envisioned that the “Road to 10th APFSD: Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action 2023” will adopt a virtual format.

The agenda will consist of two key segments – Pre-Events and the Regional Dialogue. The Pre-Events will be led by Fellows of the YECAP Platform such as (YECAP Unconference #3 and YECAP Climate Action Week 2023), while the regional dialogue as a road to the 10th APFSD will cater to the wider regional and national audience.

The dialogue will include plenary sessions, focussed hot seat discussion, parallel events and fireside chats, as well as panel discussions focusing on different aspects of empowerment of young people in taking climate actions. The dialogue will also include a segment to showcase the activities led by YECAP Fellows from across APAC.

PRE-EVENTS

Pre-events consist of several sessions and activities led by YECAP Fellows based on the key stakeholders of the dialogue, which will be done as follow-up activities leading to the YECAP Regional Dialogue and the 10th APFSD onwards in March 2023.

YECAP UNCONFERENCE #3 - [20 JANUARY 2023]

Following the success of YECAP Unconference #1 and #2 which brought together more than 350 climate leaders to learn, share and exchange, YECAP Unconference #3 was organized by YECAP Fellows.

It convened young people from diverse youth networks working on various issues within the scope of climate change, including biodiversity, energy and ocean conservation. Moving beyond the traditional conference format, Unconference was fully participant-led and participant-driven, which allowed everyone to generate topics and be a contributor of content, with the following objectives:

- To find innovative ideas which can be useful in tackling the climate crisis;
- Explore and discover timely youth sentiments and priorities on various climate consequences through relatable themes and tracks;
- Initiate youth-led conversations on pressing climate issues and challenges to a meaningful solution; and
- Connect youth from different countries, groups, networks, and backgrounds across Asia and the Pacific in YECAP for important climate conversations.

Unconference #3 was an open invitation to youth and the outcomes of these discussions would contribute to the YECAP Climate Action Week 2023 and subsequently the YECAP Regional Dialogue.

YECAP CLIMATE ACTION WEEK - [16 to 20 MARCH 2023]

The YECAP Climate Action Week will be a week-long virtual program consisting of peer-to-peer sharing, capacity building sessions, learning about Wellbeing for Changemakers, Green Jobs & Careers through Movers Programme, throwing light on the 10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), The 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP28) and other key opportunities. It will serve as one of the preliminary events in the lead-up to the Road to 10th APFSD: Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action.

The Climate Action Week is organized by YECAP 3rd Cohort Fellows by engaging young people with the support from the YECAP Action Committee including all YECAP Co-conveners to introduce knowledge, tools and guidance to take further climate action in locally rooted communities and to connect youth individuals and communities across Asia and the Pacific, with the following objectives:

- Engage in meaningful conversations with experts from fields of sustainable energy, climate change research, and impact evaluation;
- Address the climate change reality that affects and threatens the future industries and infrastructures;
- Address the local initiatives and effective partnerships in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific;
- Bring in diverse perspectives of people from vulnerable communities, including Indigenous Peoples; and
- Introduce the Road to 10th APFSD: Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action.

MAIN EVENT - THE ROAD TO 10TH APFSD: REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION

DAY 1 - LEARN AND SHARE

Day 1 aims to inspire attendees and provide learning and sharing opportunities. Following the opening remarks from co-leading partners, Day 1 will include keynote speeches and plenaries with the themes of the 2023 dialogue including youth in taking climate action to combat climate change and more.

Panel discussion and fireside chat sessions will provide an opportunity to improve awareness and share ideas related to key challenges and opportunities related to environmental activist's participation in the region.

DAY 2 - CALL TO ACTION

The second and last day will focus on convening conversations related to key learning product launching, implementation of potential ideas, and building further partnerships. Any significant collaboration announcements could be made on this day.



Day 2 will also include keynotes and plenaries to share examples and inspire youth to action. The day will culminate with closing remarks from UNDP and key stakeholders of the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform.