



Asia-Pacific
Youth Development Forum
2024



Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum (APYDF) 2024

Dialogue on Youth Innovation for
Green Transition to Build Sustainable
Cities and Resilient Food Systems

15 October 2024

Concept Note





The Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum (APYDF) 2024: Dialogue on Youth Innovation for Green Transition will be held on 15 October 2024, with the theme “Building Sustainable Cities and Resilient Food Systems.” It is a hybrid event with by-invite-only in-person participation and a virtual component open for all. Youth in the Asia-Pacific region will present their vision, recommendations, and solutions to advance green employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for a sustainable environment and climate-safe future.

Background

The Asia-Pacific region is home to over 60% of the world’s youth, which translates into more than 750 million young people aged 15 to 24 years. While Asia-Pacific youth have benefited from the region’s social and economic dynamism, they are also facing growing environmental degradation and climate change, which disproportionately impact the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including young women, youth with disabilities, and Indigenous youth.

For the first time, over half the world’s population lives in urban areas, and this number is expected to reach 68% by 2050. Cities consume nearly 80% of global energy and 70% of the food supply. Meeting nutritional needs is becoming more difficult, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather disrupting supply chains. This unprecedented urbanization wave brings immense challenges: poor infrastructure, unplanned growth, limited job opportunities, and difficulty accessing safe, nutritious food for vulnerable populations. However, there is hope and promise in the Green Transition: it presents an opportunity to foster youth employment while simultaneously preserving the environment, increasing climate resilience and strengthening the resilience of food systems in more and more sustainable cities.

APYDF 2024 is aligned with the World Youth Development Forum (WYDF), which has built a platform for young people to call for action on green development on the theme of “For a Shared Future: Promoting Sustainable Development with Youth and for Youth”. This Forum is designed to empower young voices, enhance awareness, build capacity around the Green Transition strategies, ensure inclusive progress, and leave no one behind.

As an associate event for the Eighth Session of the Committee on Environment and Development, it will enable young people to voice their perspectives and concerns regarding transforming cities into sustainable, resilient, and livable environments that meet present and future needs. APYDF 2024 is also an associate event of the World Food Forum hosted by FAO with the aim to spark a youth-led movement and network for agri-food systems that are facing increasing pressure, including unplanned urbanization, biodiversity loss, climate change, deforestation, and soil degradation.



Objectives

The Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum: Dialogue on Youth Innovation for Green Transition will:

1. **Raise** awareness among youth and youth-led Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Asia-Pacific region about the green transition strategies, including educating and training young people to understand and implement sustainable practices.
2. **Build** the capacity of youth and youth-led CSOs through knowledge, skills, and lessons learned in promoting green development and transition strategies.
3. **Provide** a platform for the youth and youth-led CSOs of the Asia-Pacific region to present their vision, recommendations, and actions toward achieving an environmentally sustainable and climate-safe future.
4. **Strengthen** the youth innovation, green skills, green jobs, and entrepreneurship ecosystem by facilitating South-South and North-South knowledge exchange and best practices sharing on engaging youth for the Green Transition
5. **Enhance** multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources to empower youth and youth-led CSOs for Green Transition.
6. **Discuss and Develop** innovative policies, strategies, and actionable measures that support the transition to low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economies and societies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Theme

The theme of the Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum 2024: Dialogue on Youth Innovation for Green Transition is *"Building Sustainable Cities and Resilient Food Systems."*

The sessions will focus on developing climate awareness, entrepreneurial mindsets, and 21st-century skills for young people to advance concrete actions and recommendations for Green Transition in the Asia-Pacific region. It will also foster a collaborative environment for dialogue with government officials, private sector leaders, academia, and other key stakeholders aligned with the implementation of the SDGs, among them are:

- **SDG 2**, "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture."
- **SDG 8**, "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all".
- **SDG 11**, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"
- **SDG 13**, "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts".
- **SDG 17**, "Partnerships for the goals".



Organizers and Convening Partners

The Forum is hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), All-China Youth Federation (ACYF), the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security – Department of Children and Youth in Thailand, the World Youth Development Forum (WYDF) Secretariat, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Chulalongkorn University, and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

Venue, Format, and Main Activities

The APYDF 2024 will be held at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand. The event will consist of opening remarks from key organizers, panel discussions, demo day, workshops, and a site visit. Youth delegates and partners will also showcase their solutions and programmes at networking activities, which will allow them to interact with each other and build partnerships to sustain the efforts for environmental sustainability.

Guest Speakers and Delegates

- Representatives from the Organizing Partners
- Young innovators and entrepreneurs from the Action Plan for Global Youth Development and the Food Security Innovation Challenge
- Youth representatives from other UN and partner-led initiatives.
- Government counterparts from Ministries of Youth and other key departments from Asia-Pacific countries
- Representatives from universities, ecosystem partners, UN agencies, and other development agencies, media, etc.

Agenda

Opening Ceremony and Plenary Meeting	
10:00 – 10:30	Opening Remarks
10:30 – 11:30	Stakeholders Dialogue: Youth Innovation for Green Development
11:30 – 12:00	Youth Talks: Leaders from the Action Plan for Global Youth Development
12:00 – 13:30	Networking Lunch
Thematic Forum on Green Skills and Green Jobs	
13:30 – 14:30	Session on Green Skills The World We Want - Green Transition & Sustainable Cities Edition
14:30 – 15:00	Short Break
15:00 – 16:15	Main Session on Green Jobs
16:15 – 17:00	Actions to Advance Youth-led Innovation in Green Transition

