



ANNUAL REPORT

Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP)

Reporting Period

June - December 2024

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RCC Asia and the Pacific
Collaboration for Climate Action



YOUNGO
OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC



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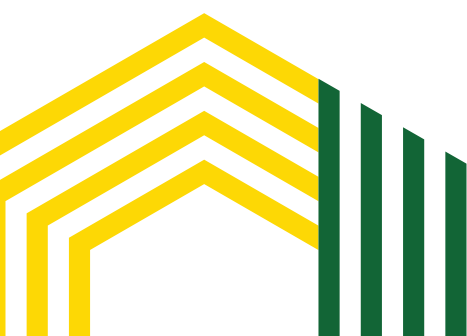
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
AGYLE	Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment
AIYP	Asia Indigenous Youth Platform
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact
APINY	Asia Pacific Inter-Agency Network on Youth
ACYF	ASEAN Children and Youth Forum
APAC	Asia-Pacific
APNED	Asia-Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders
APYDF	Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum
ARROW	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women
ASEF	Asia-Europe Foundation
CAYA	Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance
CED	Committee on Environment and Development
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CIYA	Cambodian Indigenous Youth Association
CYC	Children and Youth Constituency
CYMG	Children and Youth Major Group
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EHRD	Environmental Human Rights Defenders
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
GST	Global Stocktake
GAWIREA	Global Alliance of Waste Pickers in the East Asia Region and Africa
HKH	Hindu Kush Himalaya
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IDAHOBIT	International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia
IDEA	Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LCOY	Local Conference of Youth
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer
NAP	National Adaptation Plan



NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
PYCC	Presidency Youth Climate Champion
RAHKHEL	Regional Alliance for Humanitarian Knowledge, Leadership and Engagement
RCOY	Regional Conference of Youth
RYPCA	Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action
SB(s)	Subsidiary Body(ies)
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SNYCCC	Samoa National Youth Climate Change Council
SOF	Skill Our Future
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TOT	Training of Trainers
TWG	Thematic Working Group
TWG-ECA	Thematic Working Group on Environment and Climate Action
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP ROAP	United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WAY	World Assembly of Youth
WG	Working Group
WYDF	World Youth Development Forum
YAG	Youth Advisory Group on Environmental and Climate Justice
YCAL	Youth Climate Action Lab
YDP	Youth Delegates Program
YECAP	Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform



YFIN	Youth Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
YPWG	Youth Policy Working Group
YNet Viet Nam	Youth Network for Climate Action Viet Nam
YOUNGO	Youth Constituency to the UNFCCC
YPP	Youth Political Participation
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Engagement with Policymakers

In 2024, through our initiatives, the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) engaged over 126 policymakers, with over 50% of them being women, from over 33 countries in the region to further climate ambition goals led by young people.

126

Policymakers Engaged

50%+

Women

33+

Countries Reached



Participants and organizers gathering at the first Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum in Bangkok.

Capacity Building of Youth

We developed the capacity of over **4,400 young people** to understand the causes of climate change, increasing the skills to engage in different processes and take action through initiatives such as the Youth Climate Action Lab (YCAL), Regional Young Parliament Climate Action (RYPCA), CED8, and Local Conference of Youth (LCOY).

Furthermore, through the Movers4Climate initiative, YECAP was able to develop the capacity of **57,800 young people** in the region to understand the scientific basis and structural causes of climate change, including knowledge of green jobs and green skills to pivot towards a greener economy.

Through our assistance, **297 young entrepreneurs** (including **131 women**) working on climate change and environmental issues were supported to build their skills and knowledge to scale their impact.



Advocacy

We supported 23 young climate activists to engage in six regional and global advocacy spaces, including their engagement in five high level advocacy spaces. Young people's voices and demands were reflected in the outcome documents for the eighth session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED8), and shaped the Summit of the Future, as well as the NDC Forums in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Conference of Youth.

Through the Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs), more than 3,300 young people were engaged in shaping their national-level policy statements.

23

Young Climate
Activists Engaged

3,300+

Young People Engaged in
Policy Statements

Networks and Partners

We continued to foster partnerships, expanding our network across youth organizations, UN agencies, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to amplify youth-led climate action in the region. By building strategic and flexible partnerships, YECAP has ensured a broader reach, shared vision and more impact. In 2024, YECAP engaged with over 141 partners to collaboratively design and implement climate initiatives, share resources and expertise, and advocate for youth inclusion in climate policy and decision-making processes.

YECAP engaged with over 71 youth networks/partners in its initiatives, supporting the growth of youth leadership in climate action at the national level.

141

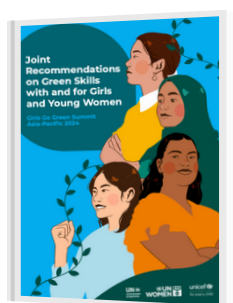
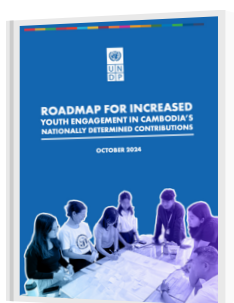
Partners Engaged to
Implement Initiatives

71

Youth Networks Engaged in
National Level

Knowledge, Tools and Resources

Through YECAP and its partners, we developed 12 knowledge products, tools, and resources in 2024, focusing on strengthening young people's participation in climate action, supporting youth-led climate organizations, and building youth capacity around climate governance, green skills, and innovation.





Amanullah Porag leading a Climate Strike in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Initiatives and Impacts

The Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP), funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), is implemented by co-convening partners: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) Asia and the Pacific, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). YECAP aims to strengthen climate governance by promoting the development and implementation of gender-inclusive climate policies that protect young people while empowering them to scale up climate action through three outcome areas:



Outcome 1: Policymakers systematically include young people, including young women, non-binary youth, and youth from marginalized communities, at all stages of the policy-making cycle.



Outcome 2: Young people in 10 Asia-Pacific countries design and lead gender-responsive initiatives to influence climate policy and action.



Outcome 3: Young people implement green skills initiatives across the region, resulting in innovative enterprises contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Over the six-month period from June to December 2024, YECAP continued to support young people's advocacy and action with renewed focus. As the world recorded its hottest year on record—exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels—the urgency for ambitious and accelerated climate action has never been clearer.

As a platform, YECAP deepened its partnerships with youth-led organizations, networks, UN agencies, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to ensure a unified vision and stronger support for youth-led climate action across the region.

Building Capacities of Young People

Capacity gaps have remained one of the most significant barriers preventing effective youth participation in climate action. Recognizing this, investment in youth capacity and leadership has been central to YECAP's work.

Key challenges include lack of access to information, limited decision-making opportunities, and insufficient technical skills for programme implementation. Through targeted initiatives, YECAP has strengthened youth capacities to become empowered agents of change.

Through the Shakers Fellowship Programme, youth leading climate organizations received structured training in programme management, fundraising, and scaling up climate actions. Similarly, young people engaged in the NDC Forums and Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) events were supported to meaningfully participate in national and regional climate dialogues.

Capacity-building remains one of the core foundations of YECAP's interventions, ensuring that youth are equipped to lead climate solutions at scale.



Young people leading policy workshops and amendments in Nepal.

Creating New Spaces for Youth Advocacy

Through the organization of flagship youth-led events such as the Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum (APYDF) and participation in intergovernmental processes like the Conference of the Parties (COP), in partnership with the Presidency's Youth Climate Champion (PYCC), and the eighth session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED8), YECAP has worked to create and expand spaces for young people to advocate for stronger climate and environmental action. The engagement of youth in the NDC Forums in Asia and the Pacific was a particular highlight, demonstrating meaningful participation with policymakers.



From Capacity to Advocacy to Change

Building the capacity of young people in knowledge and skills has been a cornerstone of YECAP's approach. This investment has translated into tangible impacts where capacity building has led directly to advocacy and policy influence. In Nepal, through support for youth engagement in subnational governance processes, young people were able to influence local municipal laws that address climate change. This achievement was underpinned by targeted capacity building and sustained support for youth advocacy and engagement with local authorities.

Supporting Indigenous Inclusion

YECAP continued its commitment to supporting Indigenous youth, particularly in advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples. In August 2024, a roundtable discussion organized by International IDEA and UNDP convened over thirty Indigenous leaders and UN agencies in Bangkok to address challenges faced by Indigenous communities, particularly in relation to exclusionary legislative and institutional frameworks under the themes of shrinking civic space and environmental justice.

This work, alongside legal empowerment initiatives for Indigenous youth, support for youth entrepreneurs, and facilitation of youth engagement in global processes such as COP through the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), marked key highlights of YECAP's efforts to advance Indigenous inclusion and empowerment



Sabba Rani Maharjan and Indigenous youth from Asia and the Pacific discussing climate resilience at the 23rd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).



Driving Green Skills and Climate-Smart Livelihoods

As the future of work evolves, there is an increasing demand for green skills, driving the creation of jobs in renewable energy, environmental management, and sustainable development. Strengthening green skills is vital to enabling a just energy transition and accelerating progress toward the 1.5-degree scenario. Green entrepreneurs, equipped with these skills, are playing a pivotal role in shaping a green economy by generating new job opportunities.

Through YECAP's support, young entrepreneurs received **capacity-building support, mentorship, and exposure to regional platforms** that enabled them to drive climate action through their ventures, developing entrepreneurial solutions that addressed pressing issues in their communities.

Partnerships

YECAP leverages partnership as a way to enhance and bring more prominence to youth concerns and voices about climate change. Through the collaborative nature of its work, YECAP has been fostering a greater sense of commitment to youth and climate action. Its expanding collaborations, particularly with UN agencies engaged in youth and climate action, have amplified youth voices and brought greater visibility to their concerns in the climate change discourse. Through **expanding partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth organizations at the regional and national levels**, YECAP has been strengthening climate action. These collaborations have enabled co-creation of advocacy spaces and capacity building programmes.

The Thematic Working Group on Environment and Climate Action (TWG-ECA), established with support from YECAP, serves as an important supporting mechanism for the different UN agencies and CSOs working on youth climate and environmental action, including actions on climate, nature, and pollution. YECAP also continues to engage with other partners through TWG-ECA. By actively building on and leveraging these partnerships, YECAP strengthens collaboration and drives collective action toward a shared vision and common goals.



In 2024, the YECAP team joined the Asia-Pacific Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Adolescent and Youth Education, Learning and Skills Development. This group, established in 2021 by UNICEF and UNESCO as part of the Learning and Education 2030+ (LE2030+) Networking Group. YECAP is currently **exploring opportunities to contribute to the TWG's objectives through potential joint advocacy, knowledge exchange, and innovation in both formal and non-formal learning ecosystems** in key focus areas—Green Skills and Green Jobs, Digital Skills, Quality Apprenticeships and Access to Decent Work, Skilling, Reskilling, and Upskilling, Skills Recognition and Mobility, and inclusive life and job-specific skills for employability—strongly align with YECAP's mission to equip young people with the tools and opportunities to lead on climate action, sustainability, and the just transition.

Through partnership with Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), YECAP has been able to **support civic spaces for youth with the Regional Convening** ahead of the Summit of the Future (SotF). More details are captured within the report.

Collaborations with Sweden's Partners

YECAP is also collaborating with Sida's partners for development effectiveness, leveraging strengths, expertise and resources towards development challenges.

YECAP has been working with Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) in the legal empowerment trainings for Indigenous youth. AIPP and Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP) were also key collaborators in the allyship trainings developed for building solidarity. YECAP has also collaborated with AIPP in its **outreach for participation of Indigenous youth in UNFCCC processes** like Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) for **amplifying underrepresented voices in global processes**.

For the technical support programme to youth-led climate CSOs, networks and communities in the Asia-Pacific region, YECAP is collaborating with EmPower programme through UN Women. This includes **support in the development and delivery of the regional capacity building programme** which will be followed by the **rollout of the national level capacity building trainings** in the next year. EmPower has also been a partner for the Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (RYPCA) focusing on young people in climate governance.

Working alongside the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), YECAP has been **providing support for entrepreneurs in the Hindu-Kush-Himalaya sub region** and has been working to expand this partnership.

YECAP Coordinators

The recruitment and onboarding of coordinators took longer than expected as the recruitment process had to be initiated from scratch. Consequently, while the UNICEF coordinator was already successfully engaged prior to the start of the funding period, the UNDP coordinator could only start from October. Furthermore, due to numerous events in Q3 as well as the strategic prioritization of ensuring the RCC coordinator from the Pacific subregion, the appointment of the YECAP coordinator for UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific was regrettably delayed until December.

Interim roles were filled by UNDP and UNFCCC RCC which allowed some functions to be covered.

Changes in the political context in Bangladesh, one of the 10 identified Sida countries, led to challenges around the implementation of the Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (RYPCA) activity, necessitating adjusted timelines and location. Furthermore, this also led to the possible exploration of diversification or addition of countries to hedge risks.

Strengthening planning processes:

To strengthen planning processes, implementation schedules should account for preparatory timelines, including logistical arrangements, such as the NDC 3.0 forum in Asia, to ensure full and meaningful participation of youth wherever possible. This can be addressed through greater involvement of Programme Associates, clearer communication on timelines, and accounting for delays with buffer periods. Interagency coordination remains a priority; however, it requires additional time to ensure effective collaboration and alignment.



Unexpected challenges in support to youth-led initiatives:

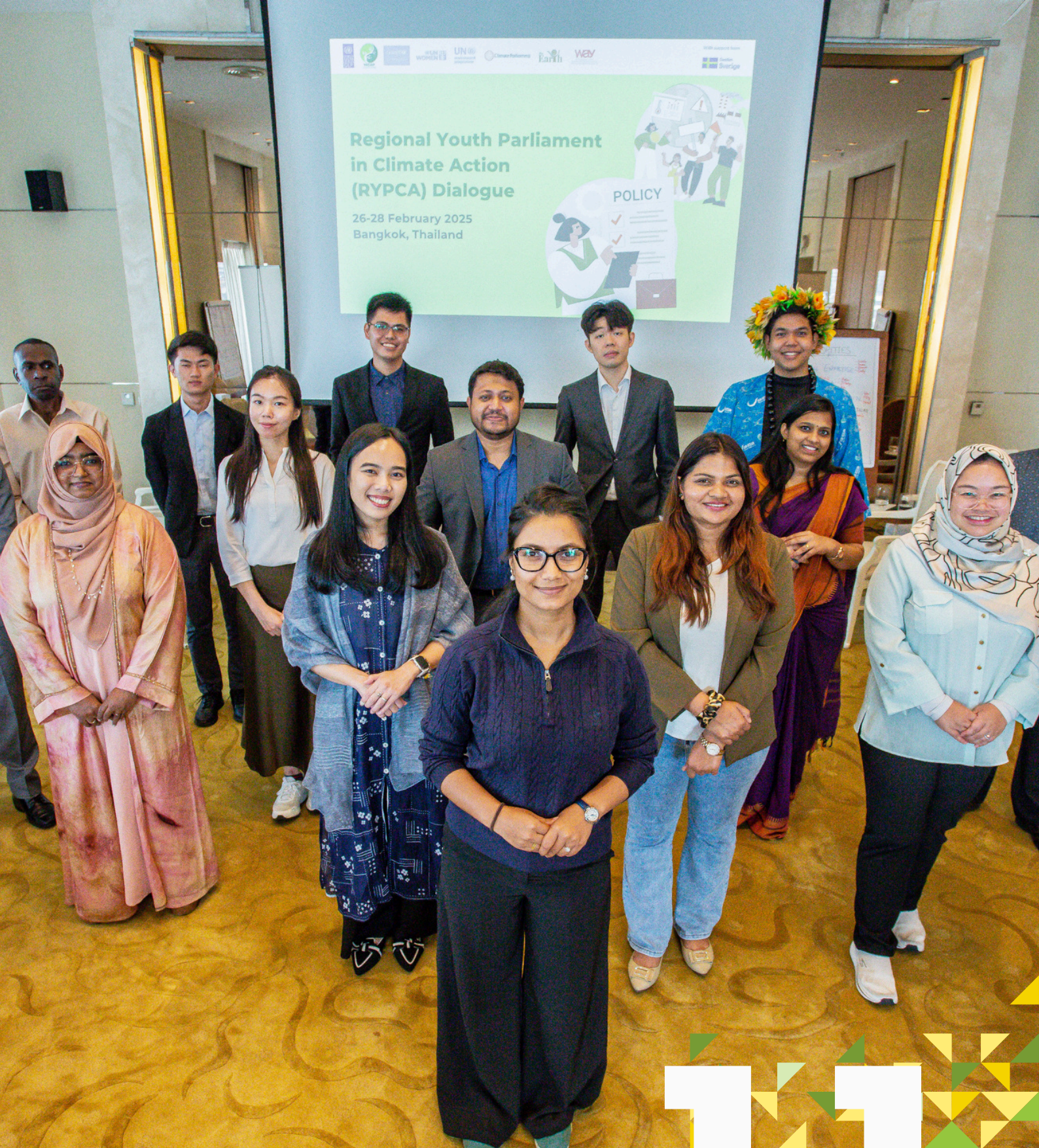
The Regional Conference of Youth (RCOY) in Sri Lanka, as part of larger youth led processes for the UNFCCC COP, aimed to convene youth from the region for stronger regional advocacy. However, the event encountered significant challenges due to political changes and issues within youth networks which included delayed communication with UN partners. Associated youth groups raised concerns about organizational problems, ultimately leading to their withdrawal. Most of the challenges came to light late in the process, close to the event date.

In response, YECAP team coordinated with YOUNGO to seek clarifications, including their continued endorsement of the RCOY with clarifications around the concerns raised by some of the youth networks/organizations. This was done alongside coordination with Country Office to confirm ongoing government support. Since travel arrangements were already in place, YECAP network youth participants, UNDP and UNICEF, after careful deliberation, decided to withdraw formal organizational support while still allowing sponsored youth to attend, network and report back on their learning and contributions, with full financial support as planned. The challenges reinforced the continued importance of coordination to assure the mitigation of risks in similar events.



RESULTS





OUTPUT

1.1

Awareness raised among policymakers on the importance of youth climate action

In anticipation of the third round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0), Asia-Pacific regional forums, facilitated by UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific and YECAP, placed a strong focus on youth engagement to address the looming climate crisis, particularly its disproportionate effects on young people. Through pre-forum webinars and side events, youth delegates were equipped to make meaningful contributions, bridging the gap between government actors and youth voices. This effort fostered collaboration and capacity building among youth, positioning them to influence national climate action planning.

YECAP exceeded its cumulative project target of engaging 100 policymakers by directly involving 126 government representatives in two major UNFCCC-linked regional events: the NDC 3.0 Forum for the Pacific (42 participants, including 20 women) and the NDC 3.0 Forum for Asia (71 participants, including 34 women). These forums served as critical platforms for dialogue, allowing youth and policymakers to co-develop inclusive climate strategies and reinforce the importance of youth leadership in shaping ambitious and equitable NDCs.

Indicator	Cumulative Target	2024 Result
Number of policy makers participating in the events	100	126 (including 58 women)

NDC 3.0 Regional Forum

Given the disproportionate impact of climate change on young people across Asia and the Pacific, ensuring meaningful youth engagement in key climate action processes has become increasingly critical. Integrating youth perspectives in NDC planning and implementation enhances the ambition, inclusivity, and long-term sustainability of climate solutions. The adoption of the Global Stocktake (GST) outcomes at COP28 further underscored the necessity of broad, inclusive stakeholder participation, including youth, in addressing the climate crisis.

With the NDC 3.0 submissions, aligning climate pledges with sustainable development pathways became even more urgent. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the need for a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Countries are expected to set ambitious, economy-wide targets that ensure an equitable transition and increase resilience to climate impacts.

However, challenges in resource mobilization, information access, and coordination across levels of government continue to hinder many Asia-Pacific countries. Integrating youth into NDC 3.0 discussions addresses these gaps by fostering best practice exchanges and creating new opportunities for youth leadership.



In 2024, UN agencies, alongside the NDC Partnership, organized **NDC 3.0 Regional Fora** to support countries in shaping their updated climate pledges. UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific, in collaboration with YECAP, ensured that youth engagement was mainstreamed during the regional NDC fora for the Pacific Islands, Central Asia, and Asia. Pre-forum webinars were also held to enhance youth preparedness.

The **NDC 3.0 Regional Forum for the Pacific** and the **Regional Dialogue on Carbon Pricing and Article 6 Training** were held from 13-16 August in Apia, Samoa. The forum focused on enhancing stakeholder understanding of NDC 3.0 processes, identifying gaps, and strengthening capacities. It brought together government representatives from all 14 Pacific Island countries and Australia, with over 90 participants including development partners.

YECAP, in partnership with UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific, facilitated the participation of **seven young people** (four women and three men) from Samoa, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu. Youth were actively engaged throughout the forum, including as expert speakers in sessions on decarbonization in the Pacific.

A **session focusing on meaningful youth engagement**¹ in NDCs gathered valuable insights from youth, government representatives, and international organizations, allowing for a stocktaking on best practices, gaps and challenges in youth engagement in the NDCs in the three countries (and the Pacific more broadly). Discussions focused on how youth are involved in NDC development, financing, implementation, and monitoring processes, and strategies to ensure meaningful, whole-of-society participation and accountability. The session was attended by 19 government representatives.

Youth from Indonesia, Philippines, and Viet Nam sharing their voices in the NDC 3.0 Asia Forum.





Key Recommendations



Possibility of institutionalizing mechanisms for formalization of youth engagement in NDC processes



Improving access to relevant information for youth



Expanding the list of youth stakeholders involved in consultations (going beyond the usual to ensure diversity)



Continuing initiatives like pre-forum capacity building sessions for youth and government stakeholders essential to foster future collaboration and exchange of ideas.

This approach not only strengthened youth-government dialogue but also highlighted the importance of sustained youth leadership in achieving ambitious and inclusive national climate goals.

The NDC 3.0 Asia Forum took place from 30 September to 2 October in Bangkok, Thailand, with the same set of objectives as the other NDC regional fora. It was attended by about 130 participants, including government representatives from 19 Asian countries.



130

Participants
Attended



19

Asian Countries
Represented





YECAP and UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific facilitated the participation of four youth delegates from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, comprising two young women (including an Indigenous young woman), one young man, and one young member of the LGBTI+ community. One of the youth participants delivered a statement on behalf of youth from the region to the plenary of policymakers, UN agencies, and other stakeholders, highlighting **the importance of youth inclusion in its diverse forms as part of the NDC processes**. Youth delegates also served as rapporteurs and contributed their insights and experiences across various sessions.

While deepening their understanding of the role of youth and other stakeholders in raising ambition and implementing NDCs, the youth representatives also served as expert speakers during the **Inclusivity Clinic**, which was jointly organized by YECAP, UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific, and UNESCAP. The session took the form of an open dialogue among stakeholders, co-led by youth experts. A rich exchange took place among youth, policymakers, development partners, and UN entities, with discussions centring on experiences, gaps, challenges, and best practices in youth engagement in climate policy processes such as NDCs 3.0. Government representatives from the Philippines, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Maldives, Bhutan, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka, among others, also shared perspectives.

During the dialogue, youth participants highlighted persistent challenges such as **difficulties accessing platforms** and **lack of awareness of engagement opportunities**. Country representatives similarly acknowledged challenges in multi-stakeholder engagement, particularly in involving youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women, and affirmed their willingness to strengthen outreach to these groups.





OUTPUT 2.2

Capacity (knowledge, skills) of youth leaders, including young women, non-binary people, and marginalized communities, developed to influence climate change policy



Capacity remains a barrier for young people in their engagement as many struggle to understand the processes, entry points and strategies to participate and influence policy processes. YECAP, through flagship initiatives such as the Youth Climate Action Lab: COP29 Edition and the Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (RYPCA), has meaningfully enhanced the capacity of diverse youth leaders across the Asia-Pacific region to shape and influence climate policy.

YECAP engaged a total of 47 young people, including 24 women, 2 non-binary individuals, 13 Indigenous youths, and other marginalized groups, in capacity-building activities focused on gender-inclusive climate policy and negotiations. Key initiatives contributing to this achieve included the Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (15), the Shakers Fellowship Programme (30), and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) (2). These youth were equipped with practical skills in advocacy, policy engagement, and negotiation, enabling them to influence national and international climate processes. Additionally, through the Youth Climate Action Lab: COP29 Edition (342 participants), CED8 Youth Consultations (255), participants were capacitated for meaningful participation in COP processes and to contribute to CED8 process.

In addition, YECAP facilitated youth participation in 15 climate policy consultations (annual target of 10), reinforcing the platform's role in ensuring that youth voices, especially from underrepresented groups, are reflected in climate governance at all levels.

The implementation of the activities was not immune from the challenges of the changing geopolitical context, especially the youth led movement in Bangladesh which led to disruptions in project activities, particularly the planned event for RYPCA in Bangladesh. The political instability, therefore, led to a restructuring of some of the activity timelines.

Indicator	Cumulative Target	2024 Result
Number of youth including those from marginalized communities such as young women, non-binary people, Indigenous youths, young persons living with disabilities, and youth on the move participating in the learning activities about gender inclusive climate policy development and negotiations	50	47 (Including 24 women): 15 (RYPCA, 9 women) 30 (Shakers, 14 women, 2 non-binary individuals) 2 (LCIPP, 1 woman)
Number of regional or national or local consultations on climate change policy participated by young people (LCOYs)	10	15 consultations (11 LCOYs, CED8, 2 NDC Forums, regional convening ahead of SoTF)



Empowering Youth Leaders to Influence Climate Policy Through the Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (RYPCA)

Young people in Asia and the Pacific have been a strong force in implementing climate solutions. As they and their advocacies mature, their credentials and motivations as climate leaders have gradually expanded their presence in key decision-making spaces. Although their numbers remain limited, they actively engage in official climate negotiations and consultative processes and have even been elected as Parliamentarians, Members of Legislative Assemblies, Youth Parliament members, and representatives in formal governance structures. Many are also active in consolidating data and drafting key climate documents for their national governments as civil servants.

More inclusive climate policymaking has been correlated with more ambitious climate action, making the inclusion of diverse youth voices a necessary precondition for transformative climate governance. Despite widespread challenges in accessing decision-making spaces, young leaders represent critical entry points for broader youth participation, highlighting both their potential and the systemic barriers they continue to face. YECAP remains committed to supporting both existing and new spaces for meaningful youth engagement in policy processes.

Recognizing these challenges and opportunities, YECAP, together with UNDP, UN Women (through the EmPower Programme with UNEP), UNICEF, Climate Parliament, The Earth, and the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), established the Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (RYPCA). RYPCA equips young leaders—including women, non-binary individuals, and marginalized youth—with **the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to actively shape climate policies at national and regional levels**. It leverages the extensive expertise and lived experiences of youth to focus on underrepresented areas such as NAPs and NDCs.



Members of the Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (RYPCA).



15

Youth Leaders from

12

Countries

Partners played a key role in co-creating the themes and agenda of RYPCA, contributing expert knowledge and facilitating broader outreach to identify strong candidates, strengthening the foundation of the RYPCA network. Currently, **RYPCA comprises 15 youth leaders from 12 countries**, with a review of their action plans conducted in February to reflect on progress, strategize lobbying activities, and foster peer learning and expert exchange to advance their policy advocacy.

RYPCA also aims to understand which attributes, initiatives, and strategies enable young leaders to directly influence national climate policies. By leveraging innovative digital listening tools to capture youth conversations across the Asia-Pacific region and facilitating knowledge exchange among young advocates, experts, and decision-makers, RYPCA equips youth with strategies to drive more ambitious climate action.

This initiative recognizes the vital contributions of youth in elevating national climate ambition and seeks to build on their experience to encourage more governments to institutionalize mechanisms for youth participation. RYPCA represents a youth-led movement redefining climate governance. It strengthens intergenerational collaboration, challenges exclusionary structures, and fosters policy environments that reflect youth-driven climate ambition.

Expanding spaces of influence

Young people are often outside of the decision-making spaces. YECAP has been working to remove the barriers that have kept them outside the room.

This began with a comprehensive youth in governance mapping exercise that revealed patches of brilliant innovation alongside significant gaps. This provided valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches, bringing together Country offices in communities of practice, sharing what worked and what didn't in getting young voices heard in climate discussions. Building on this, the ongoing mapping of youth parliaments and councils to identify and document the availability, existing structures and activities.

Following the mapping exercise, we focused on establishing connections with the youth councils and organizers of these youth parliaments. One of the key efforts around networking of national youth parliaments and youth councils was the **establishment of a formal network around Youth in Governance in Asia-Pacific**. To do this, UNDP co-established the **Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance (CAYA)**.



CAYA brought together youth councils, youth parliaments, and official youth representatives from eight Commonwealth countries in Asia, creating a unified platform for youth advocacy and action on climate governance and peacebuilding. This network not only amplified the voices of young people but also facilitated coordinated efforts to influence policies and promote climate justice across the region.

Youth parliaments serve as platforms for young people to engage with policymakers, share their insights on climate justice, and advocate for sustainable solutions. Working with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, UNDP created a Youth Parliament Toolkit that gave countries a blueprint for formalizing youth voices in governance. By fostering connections between youth and policymakers, the toolkit helps bridge the intergenerational gap in climate governance.

Meanwhile, through training programs, we built a cadre of confident, skilled young advocates ready to engage effectively in political spaces. UNDP launched the Youth Political Participation (YPP) Movers initiative, which focused on building the capacity of more than 100 youth through three intensive workshops. These workshops were designed to equip young people with the skills and knowledge necessary for effective political engagement. Through the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Movers initiative, which successfully built the capacity of more than 610 youth through 22 workshops. The YPS Movers initiative highlighted the intersection of peace, security, and governance, empowering youth to advocate for sustainable peacebuilding efforts, including around climate security.

These initiatives demonstrate ongoing commitment to enhancing youth civic engagement, social cohesion and integrating youth perspectives into climate governance.

Youth Climate Action Lab: COP29 Edition

YECAP continues to strengthen youth engagement in global climate governance by equipping young leaders in all their diversity with the skills and networks needed to participate meaningfully in multilateral climate processes.

The **Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC)** role was established at COP28 to enhance youth participation in global climate policy processes, including within the UNFCCC framework. Under the COP29 PYCC, the regional COP29 Youth Delegate Program² (YDP) was launched to build young people's capacity to understand climate policy development, with a focus on the formulation and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

YECAP played a key role in supporting the COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion's YDP, focusing on youth engagement from the Central Asian region and facilitating the participation of 12 young people, including representatives from Mongolia.



YECAP integrated youth delegates into COP29 negotiation processes, enabling direct engagement with UN officials, national negotiators, and global stakeholders. It also facilitated regional partnerships, including with the Generation Nexus Eurasia Youth Network and the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, and co-delivered technical training sessions on NAPs and NDCs.

The capacity-building sessions for the YDP were integrated within the YECAP-led Youth Climate Action Lab: COP29 Edition, an initiative designed to enhance the diversity in representation and impact of young people from the Asia-Pacific region in climate negotiations. Through a series of workshops, mentorship sessions, and networking events, 342 youth climate leaders—including 159 women and 40 young people from Indigenous communities and underrepresented groups across 28 countries—were trained on critical UNFCCC negotiation topics such as climate finance, just transition, adaptation, and resilience.



For Zhijun He, a youth participant from China, the programme provided invaluable insights into UNFCCC processes and COP negotiations, enhancing his understanding of Paris Agreement mechanisms and significantly improving his practical advocacy skills, enabling him to effectively communicate climate concerns and build coalitions.

YECAP plays a critical role in bridging the gap between youth-led climate action and institutional governance, particularly through global dialogues such as COP29. In collaboration with the UNFCCC PYCC Secretariat, the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, and the UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific, YECAP ensures that young people from the Asia-Pacific region are not only present but also well-prepared to engage with complex climate policy frameworks and actively contribute to decision-making processes. This engagement enhances youth confidence and visibility in high-level discussions, fostering sustained collaboration among emerging leaders.

Through strategic regional and global partnerships, YECAP has expanded its geographic reach to include youth from Central Asia, in addition to Mongolia, and has strengthened the diversity of youth representation. This reinforces YECAP's role in institutionalizing youth participation, advancing intergenerational collaboration, and amplifying diverse climate perspectives at the global level.



The COP29 Youth Climate Champion Program provided me with valuable insights into the intricate processes of COPs and deepened my understanding of climate negotiations. Inspired and motivated by the advocacy of fellow delegates, I gained both courage and dedication. As we conclude the first quarter of this century, the anticipated acceleration in climate efforts remains elusive. Next year's COP30 will mark a pivotal milestone and youth voices must resonate louder than ever to drive transformative action."

Sainsanaa Amarsanaa

COP29 Youth Delegate, Mongolia

Local Actions, National Influences

In **Nepal**, support for subnational initiatives in Madi and Tilottama municipalities resulted in the active engagement of over 100 young people through policy orientation workshops and the formation of Youth Advisory Committees. These committees played a crucial role in reviewing and providing feedback on local climate policies, such as the *Natural Resources Protection Act* and the *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act*. Their contributions led to the amendment of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act in Madi Municipality, with revisions currently underway in Tilottama Municipality.

In **Samoa**, the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) supported by YECAP catalyzed the recommendation to establish a National Youth Climate Change Council as a formal mechanism for youth participation in climate decision-making. YECAP continues to actively support young people in Samoa as they work towards the institutionalization of this council.

In **Cambodia**, the National Youth Council for Climate Action was instrumental in organizing the LCOY and developing the Roadmap for Meaningful Youth Engagement in NDCs, a strategic effort that strengthens youth influence in national climate commitments and policies.

In **Viet Nam**, the Youth Climate Action Network and Youth Policy Working Group are two youth-led initiatives actively advocating for youth participation in national climate policymaking through research, policy dialogue, and campaigns. Their engagement has been comprehensive, spanning from planning to implementation stages, and will continue through the NDC 3.0 process, allowing Vietnamese youth to make a meaningful contribution to shaping national climate policy.



In Nepal, the active involvement of youth in climate governance has led to significant policy changes, demonstrating the power of youth advocacy in shaping environmental legislation. These amendments reflect the impact of youth engagement in advocating for more effective and inclusive climate governance.

In Madi municipality, the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) successfully amended the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act-2075 to better address the local youth needs and challenges related to disaster management. The YAC, comprising representatives from marginalized groups, proposed critical changes including better coordination among local authorities, specific relief packages for vulnerable communities, and integration of climate adaptation strategies into disaster planning, thereby strengthening the municipality's overall capacity to respond to climate-related hazards.

Similarly, the Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation Act 2077 in Tilottama municipality was amended to promote sustainable environmental practices and resource management. The amendments were driven by youth engagement initiatives that focused on identifying and addressing local environmental challenges. Through workshops and consultations with municipal officials, young advocates secured stronger legal frameworks for natural resource protection, stricter regulations on resource extraction, enhanced conservation measures and promotion of green infrastructure projects. These changes aimed to preserve the municipality's natural heritage while supporting sustainable development goals. The involvement of youth in these processes ensured that the policies were not only effective but also inclusive, reflecting the diverse needs and perspectives of the community.

These policy amendments in Nepal underscore the critical role of youth in climate governance and climate justice. By actively participating in the legislative process, young people were able to influence policies that directly impact their communities and the environment. Their advocacy efforts not only led to more robust and effective disaster management and environmental conservation policies but also demonstrated the importance of youth engagement in achieving climate justice. These examples from Madi and Tilottama municipalities highlight how youth can drive meaningful change at the local level, contributing to broader climate governance objectives. The success of these initiatives in Nepal serves as a model for other countries in the region, showcasing the potential of youth-led advocacy to shape climate policies and promote sustainable development. By supporting and empowering young people, YECAP aims to foster a new generation of leaders who are equipped to tackle the pressing challenges of climate change and environmental degradation.



CAMBODIA

Cambodia's youth and climate initiative witnessed significant expansion through localization and contextualization of climate discourse. One of the major gaps in Cambodia has been knowledge around climate change, particularly bridging scientific jargon to make climate concepts accessible, relatable, and actionable for collective action. The translation of Climate Promise's Climate Dictionary³ into Khmer was an important step, with both hard copies and the online version becoming popular at events. The associated social media campaign, based on the dictionary, generated over 90,000 impressions and 5,000 engagements, showcasing the importance of understandable scientific information across different linguistic and cultural contexts.

Through consultations with youth on World Environment Day, including representatives from government ministries, climate action priorities for Cambodian youth were identified. In partnership with UNICEF, the second edition of LCOY was held with over 200 participants. The LCOY was endorsed by the Ministry of Environment, and the outcome statement developed during the event was subsequently presented to the Director of the Climate Change Department.

The LCOY was also critical in providing inputs for the "Roadmap for Meaningful Youth Engagement in NDCs." Through Climate Promise, UNDP conducted a Stocktake of the previous NDC, reviewing the process and progress towards its targets, and proposing pathways for a more ambitious, implementable, and inclusive NDC 3.0. As part of this process, a dedicated component on youth inclusion was included in the roadmap for a more youth-responsive and inclusive NDC 3.0. The roadmap was presented at the NDC 3.0 inception workshop in January 2025. One key step proposed is the establishment of a formal mechanism for youth engagement in the NDC update process, which has been shared informally with the Ministry of Environment.



Viet Nam is leading the way in climate action by integrating young voices into national policy development and enhancing their capabilities through structured platforms for inputs in critical environmental areas.

On 18 August, the Viet Nam Local Conference of Youth (LCOY Viet Nam) 2024 officially took place in Ho Chi Minh City, gathering over 500 young people and more than 100 representatives from nationwide stakeholders. With participation from the Youth Network for Climate Action (YNet Viet Nam), the Youth Policy Working Group (YPWG) convened by UNDP Viet Nam, and GenZero as the organizing committee, the conference provided a space for delegates to learn, expand connections, generate ideas, and engage in dialogues and workshops focused on youth-led sustainable climate solutions. Embracing the theme “Youth for Climate: The Power of Action,” the conference resulted in a draft of the Viet Nam Youth Statement on Climate 2024, which was presented to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment at COP29. The statement aims to promote climate-responsive education and enhance youth participation in the green transition.





Youth Leading the Way in Policy

Through the Youth Policy Working Group, a network of 80 young members, youth are actively shaping and driving climate and sustainability policies to address challenges faced by Viet Nam. The group focuses on Just Energy Transition, Climate Change Education, Circular Economy, and Nature-Based Solutions. Young people are already making tangible contributions, particularly in advancing the just energy transition, climate change education, and circular economy.

Under the guidance of UNDP Viet Nam, the Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and other partners, YPWG research teams produced two youth-led reports providing actionable recommendations to unlock the potential of youth in contributing to Viet Nam's net-zero targets, especially in the areas of Just Energy Transition and Climate Change Education.

The report "[Future in the Making: Integrating Youth Perspectives in Viet Nam's Just Energy Transition](#)⁴" found 55% of respondents expressed interest in YPWG-Energy Transition Training (YPWG-ETT) initiatives. However, many lack deep knowledge and confidence and often rely on informal sources. To bridge this gap, the YPWG-ETT has developed the YPWG Energy Transition Workshop, a series of three training sessions including two online workshops culminating in one in-person workshop at Green One UN House. These training sessions aimed to provide participants with comprehensive knowledge about Energy Transition by exploring related themes through techno-economic, social and justice lenses.

Circular Economy (CE) Talks for Youth

Building on the momentum of the Energy Transition Workshop series, YPWG introduced an online series focused on the Circular Economy (CE). As Viet Nam faces increasing pressures from population growth, economic pressure, and resource depletion, CE is emerging as a key strategy to reduce waste and enhance resource efficiency. The CE Talks explored relevant policies and legal frameworks supporting CE development, while also highlighting opportunities for youth-led research and action.

Youth in Viet Nam's Climate Future: Preparation for NDC 3.0

As Viet Nam prepares to present its updated NDC at COP30, youth engagement is more critical than ever in shaping and implementing these commitments. Recognizing the unique perspectives, energy, and innovation that young people bring to the climate agenda, UNDP Viet Nam is launching a "Roadmap on Youth Engagement in Viet Nam's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)" initiative. This long-term strategy aims to embed youth participation in the design, submission and implementation of Viet Nam's updated NDCs. The roadmap will ensure that youth voices are not only heard but also integrated into the nation's climate commitments and actions moving forward.



OUTPUT 2.3

The capacity (knowledge, skills) of youth-led and youth focused CSOs is strengthened, increasing access to quality support services for youth



Youth-led Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) serve as crucial partners for campaigns, mobilizing communities, raising awareness, and advocating for change at local, national, and international levels.

However, despite their critical role and potential, these youth-led CSOs frequently operate under various constraints. They often lack access to adequate funding, struggle with limited organizational capacity and experience, and face barriers in accessing decision-making spaces among others.

YECAP made outstanding progress in strengthening the capacity of youth-led and youth-focused CSOs to deliver inclusive, high-quality support services. In 2024, a total of **42 CSO representatives were trained** through the Shakers Fellowship Programme and Legal Empowerment trainings towards the cumulative target of 100. The Shakers training courses focused on climate leadership, gender inclusion, and organizational development. Notably, **30 CSOs were equipped** with tools to design gender-inclusive interventions, exceeding the target of 20. This reflects growing momentum toward a more inclusive and coordinated youth climate movement across the Asia-Pacific region.

YECAP has provided financial support to civil society organizations for increased youth representation from diverse backgrounds in regional climate processes through support to Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) for the Regional Convening Ahead of the Summit of the Future. Through this partnership, **80 young people contributed** to discussions around the Summit of the Future, including the **engagement of 3 young people** in high level global policy discussions.

42

Youth Networks
and CSOs Engaged



80

Young People Contributed to Discussions
for the Summit of the Future



Indicator	Cumulative Target	2024 Result
Number of CSO representatives trained (Shakers)	100	30 (Shakers) (14 women, 2 non-binary)
Number of CSOs trained on developing gender inclusive organizations and services/products (Shakers)	20	30
Number of ecosystem partners, youth networks, and CSOs helping young people including young women and non-binary people take climate action	10 (at least 1 per country)	30 (Shakers) 12 (Legal Empowerment)

Shakers Fellowship Programme

Youth-led climate CSOs in the Asia-Pacific region play a significant role in driving climate action, yet their potential is largely hampered by systemic challenges. Many of these organizations struggle with **capacity deficits**, as limited structured training in **policy engagement and project management** restricts their ability to scale initiatives and influence decision-making. Financial sustainability barriers further hinder their long-term viability, as inadequate knowledge of fundraising strategies limits access to essential resources.

Additionally, **network fragmentation** prevents these organizations from amplifying their impact and sharing best practices, as a lack of collaborative platforms weakens coordination efforts. Many CSOs also face scaling limitations, as insufficient expertise and partnership development restricts their ability to expand programmes beyond local levels. **Gender disparities** further compound these challenges, with **women-led CSOs and female youth leaders** facing disproportionate barriers in accessing leadership opportunities and financial resources. These obstacles collectively undermine the effectiveness and sustainability of youth-led climate action, necessitating **targeted interventions** to unlock their full potential.



30

Fellows from

14

Countries





Recognizing the need to strengthen youth-led climate leadership, YECAP in partnership with UN Women, launched the **Shakers Fellowship Programme**, a transformative initiative designed to equip emerging climate champions with the tools, networks, and knowledge needed to scale their impact. The tailored support to participants moved beyond a one-size-fits-all model by offering a dynamic and inclusive curriculum. The programme received over 400 applications, ultimately selecting **30 fellows from 14 countries**, reflecting diverse backgrounds and a broad spectrum of climate focus areas.

Fellows engaged in sessions on systems thinking, gender-responsive climate action, volunteer management, and fundraising strategies, ensuring their capacity needs were addressed holistically.

Interactive “mixer” sessions created spaces for fellows to exchange experiences, address common challenges, and build lasting **peer-to-peer connections**. YECAP collaborated with UN Women, UNICEF, Biji Biji Initiative, and Makesense to deliver expert guidance and provide access to valuable resources. From October 2024 to February 2025, the Shakers Fellowship demonstrably strengthened the capacity and influence of youth-led climate CSOs across the Asia-Pacific region. Targeted capacity-building sessions enabled fellows to enhance their strategic thinking and operational effectiveness.

The regional Shakers fellowship is set to conclude at the end of February, after which a detailed report with feedback from participants will be produced. The modules will then be refined and adapted for national level implementation in the coming year, with plans already underway for **Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, and Viet Nam**.



Through the programme’s partnership with UN Women, I gained access to vital resources and networks. This engagement has empowered me to advocate for gender-responsive climate action, ensuring marginalized voices are integrated into policy discussions.”

Sher Shah Khan
 Founder, Skillistan, Pakistan



Youth Climate Action Stakeholder Mapping

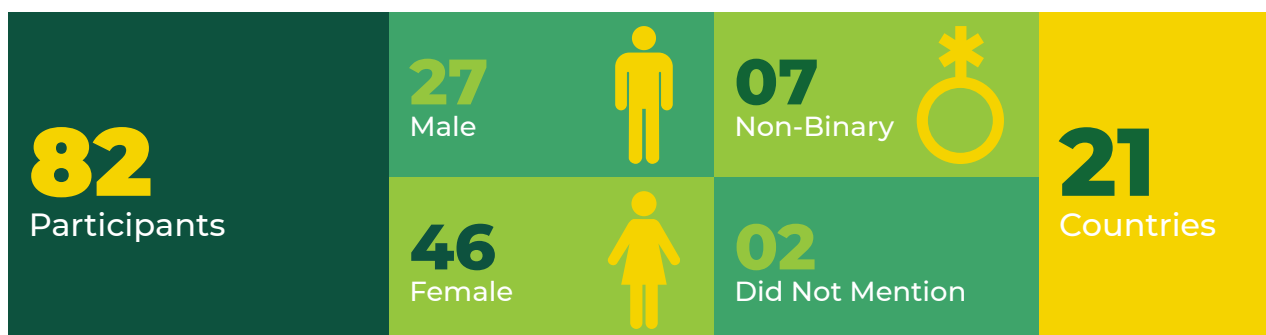
Mapping of youth led civil society organizations, movements, networks is an instrumental tool for advancing climate action. As many youth groups or organizations remain unregistered and fluid, a dynamic mapping of these groups, updated at periodic intervals, is critical to strengthen outreach to diversified groups of youth. As an enabler for the overall YECAP programming, YECAP conducted a comprehensive stakeholder mapping through local online volunteers, with modified approaches suitable to online presence of such groups in each of the ten Sida priority countries, in addition to other countries. The mapping identified a total of **332 organizations** operating in different countries. The most prominent thematic areas included **climate education, public awareness and environmental justice activism** (177), highlighting youth leadership in both awareness-raising and advocacy. Cross-cutting themes such as green jobs, climate finance, and gender inclusion emerged throughout the mapping.

The mapping reflected the importance of **social media as an outreach mechanism** with the need for heavy reliance on Facebook, Instagram and personal networks to identify the organizations and networks. In Mongolia and Viet Nam, media and report reviews were also additional key entry points for identification of youth organization. However, validation of all organizations/networks due to their informality was a challenge along with inadequate information shared by them publicly.

This map, a **living database** that will be updated periodically, is built on the previous effort for the Regional Youth Climate Action Stakeholder Mapping that was conducted in 2023. It is already proving to be a valuable resource for expanding and diversifying YECAP's outreach and strengthening regional collaboration. The stakeholder mapping will support more strategic engagement with youth-led CSOs based on their unique contexts and needs, enhance cross-border collaboration by identifying shared priorities, and ensure that youth organizations are better connected to YECAP's support systems and opportunities.

Regional Convening Ahead of the Summit of the Future in Malaysia in partnership with ARROW

Support for **open and safe spaces for youth engagement** is an important component of the larger ecosystem for youth-led climate action. These spaces can foster the sharing of innovative ideas, collaboration, the development of collective power, and leadership skills, transforming urgency into meaningful action while connecting with broader dialogues. YECAP is pushing for the democratization of these spaces by ensuring the inclusion of young people in discussions and convenings that connect to broader governance processes, support democratic initiatives, and strengthen social cohesion within communities. The Summit of the Future, through the Pact for the Future, represented the collective commitment of the countries around SDGs, global governance and involvement of young people in decision-making processes.



In preparation for the adoption of the **Pact for the Future**, YECAP supported the **Asia-Pacific Regional Convening Ahead of the Summit of the Future – Young People at the Forefront** from 22 to 24 August 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Co-organized by Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) in partnership with YECAP, and co-convened by YPEER Asia Pacific Centre, the Right Here Right Now Partnership, YouthLEAD, the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), and the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG UNEP), the convening brought together more than 80 young participants from 21 countries across the region along with representatives from United Nations agencies and other stakeholders.

The convening ensured young people were informed of the processes leading to the **Summit of the Future**, enabling meaningful engagement with key decision-making milestones. It sustained a dedicated regional youth space where voices, lived realities, and perspectives of youth could be meaningfully included in the Summit's deliberations and outcomes.

Additionally, it developed the **Asia and the Pacific Regional Call to Action** as a collective advocacy tool for national, regional, and global engagement with Member States and relevant stakeholders in the preparation for the Summit of the Future.

Discussions throughout the convening centered on key themes such as gender equality, climate change, peace and security, science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation, health and well-being (including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights), global governance, sustainable development, and meaningful youth engagement. These themes were explored through plenaries, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues, allowing participants to reflect on their respective contexts and collaborate on shared priorities. These discussions facilitated context-specific dialogues and analyses, helping to ground and shape collective understanding on the key themes at the global level.

In the final sessions, participants focused on solidifying the Call to Action (CTA)⁵, drawing from their expertise and interest across the identified themes. The CTA was recognized as a vital advocacy instrument, intended for direct engagement with Member States and as a youth-led contribution to the Summit of the Future process.



From 20 to 23 September 2024, the regional youth representatives: Ayesha (Indonesia), Munkh (Mongolia), and Ojaswi (Nepal) participated in the Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters in New York. They amplified the Asia-Pacific Regional Convening Call to Action at the global level during a high-profile side event and conducted outreach and handed over of the Call to Action to Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka to the United Nations, as well as to the UN Secretary-General, Prime Minister of Mongolia through their personal assistants, ensuring that the voices of Asia-Pacific youth were brought directly to global decision-making tables.

Legal Empowerment for Indigenous Youths

Across the Asia-Pacific region, **Indigenous youths are on the frontlines** of defending their rights and ancestral lands yet many faces systemic barriers in understanding and accessing the legal frameworks designed to protect them. Despite their potential, young people's environmental action is hampered by obstacles like limited civic spaces and lack of legal understanding. To address this gap, YECAP partnered with the Asia Indigenous Peoples' Platform (AIPP), Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA), Cordilleran Youth Center (CYC), Youth Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (YFIN), to build the legal capacity of Indigenous youth through localized, practical, and youth-friendly training. The training sought to strengthen their legal capacities with increased knowledge, skills in legal documentation, and advocacy, with objectives around community mobilization and leadership and realization of their rights.

A comprehensive **legal empowerment programme** was developed and rolled out in Cambodia, Nepal, and the Philippines, with a regional **Training of Trainers (TOT)** held in Thailand. The initial TOT in Thailand strengthened the ability of youth leaders to deliver legal empowerment workshops in their own communities. Each country's training focused on context-specific themes: land tenure and cultural heritage in Cambodia, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), and advocacy planning in Nepal; and legal frameworks, lobbying, and campaign strategies in the Philippines.

In total, **113 Indigenous youths** (61 male, 48 female, and 4 non-binary) participated in the programme. For many, it was their first exposure to legal tools that directly impacted their rights. Participants described the training as eye-opening and transformative, where one youth from Nepal credited the **knowledge gained, particularly on Indigenous rights**, empowering him to participate in the Kosi District Renaming protest. Participants also highlighted that the network they've gained from fellow participants across the region has given them a sense of solidarity as Indigenous youths.



113

Indigenous Youths Participated

 **61** Male

 **48** Female

 **04** Non-Binary



Tsalmeg Urtnasan from Mongolia representing youth NGOs on the global stage.

Others reported increased confidence in advocating for their communities and a clearer understanding of how legal systems can be leveraged to protect Indigenous identities, lands, and livelihoods.

Through the **Hewlett-Packard-supported programme**, YECAP has supported AIPP, Hill Resource Centre Bangladesh and Siklab Philippine Indigenous Youth Network to further empower Indigenous Youth in Bangladesh and Philippines through the legal empowerment of Indigenous youth for climate action and developing 21st century digital skills. The programme uses a “train-the-trainer” structure and uses a “peer-to-peer” approach, which aims to create a fast-growing, long-lasting youth-led movement at both the national and regional levels. Through a 7-month fellowship, **20 fellows** will be trained in well-being, storytelling, climate change, legal empowerment, digital security, and project management related modules where these fellows will then collectively conduct workshops reaching up to **1,000 participants** in their respective community. The blended learning approach combines in-person workshops with online modules, adapted for low-connectivity areas and translated into local languages. Ultimately, this initiative aims to empower Indigenous youth in the Asia-Pacific region with crucial digital, 21st-century, and climate skills, enabling their safe and effective engagement in advocating for climate justice and leading sustainable community-driven initiatives, fostering a more inclusive approach to mitigating the impacts of climate change and reducing digital inequalities.

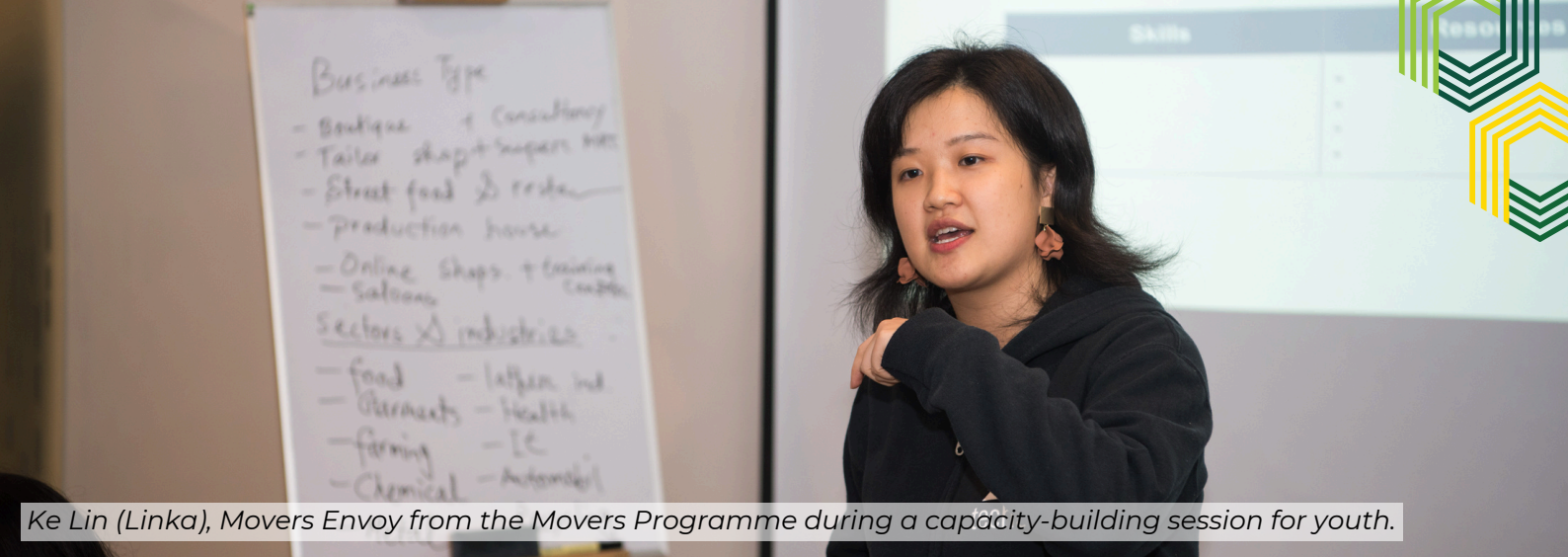
Legal Empowerment Module

The Legal Empowerment Module for youth for the triple planetary crisis is being developed by the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC). The Module is currently under development with a specific focus on Indigenous youth, to complement the existing module for Indigenous youth while focusing on the NBSAPs, Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, etc. The development of the module was informed by subregional focus group discussions with different youth groups, AIPP, and included inputs by YECAP’s Youth Advisory Group on Environmental and Climate Justice members. It is due to be completed by April with the rollout of the module in four countries being discussed with Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders (APNED) and its youth network members.



OUTPUT 3.1

Skills and knowledge of youth entrepreneurs supported for the development of gender inclusive climate solutions



Ke Lin (Linka), Movers Envoy from the Movers Programme during a capacity-building session for youth.

Social enterprises led by young people can drive climate and environmental action by creating innovative, community-based solutions that reduce environmental impact. These enterprises also serve new blueprints, challenging traditional economic paradigms and showcasing alternative pathways towards a green economy, creating green jobs that support livelihoods and climate. They not only tackle specific environmental issues but also empower young individuals as agents of change, fostering leadership skills and proving that localized action can contribute significantly to global climate goals

YECAP, through initiatives like the **Springboard Climate 2024 Programme** and the **Youth Agri-Innovation Challenge** in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, has advanced the skills and knowledge of youth entrepreneurs in developing gender-inclusive climate solutions. The Springboard Programme has equipped over **250 young social entrepreneurs** with vital resource mobilization and business management skills, while the Innovation Challenge in HKH has supported 31 youth-led agri-food startups with training and mentorship, culminating in regional showcases and ecosystem-building events. These efforts foster collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development, empowering young entrepreneurs to address critical climate and socio-economic challenges, particularly in vulnerable regions.

*A total of **297 young people were supported** by YECAP to enhance their entrepreneurial skills to develop **gender-inclusive** climate solutions through initiatives in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region and the Springboard Climate Series, towards the cumulative target of 400. The programme prioritized inclusive participation and focused on strengthening youth-led innovation in climate resilience and green livelihoods. Data collection is ongoing to assess changes in knowledge related to gender disparities in climate impacts and solutions.*

Indicator	Cumulative Target	2024 Result
Number of youth that have enhanced entrepreneurial skills (disaggregated by sex, gender, sector, and country) (HKH and Springboard)	400 (at least 50% women)	297 (including 131 women and 28 Indigenous youths)



Springboard Climate 2024 Programme

The Asia-Pacific region, highly vulnerable to disasters, faces significant challenges due to climate change. The increasing momentum of youth as catalysts for climate action globally and within the region highlights entrepreneurship as a vital avenue for young people to develop and lead local solutions that enhance community resilience. Despite the adverse effects of climate change on their ventures and existing obstacles within the entrepreneurial landscape, many young individuals are increasingly seeking entrepreneurial pathways to transform their climate anxieties into tangible climate action.

The Springboard Programme of Youth Co:Lab, co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, is an industry expert-led programme that is dedicated to enhancing the resource mobilization skills of youth-led social entrepreneurs, and addressing their business operations and management challenges when scaling their impact. It collaborates with leading impact investors, family offices, technology firms, corporations, and UN agencies to provide the essential knowledge and network for mobilizing resources.

The Springboard Climate Series⁶ is aligning its network and resources to empower founders who are contributing to Climate Action, providing a regional platform for young founders to be more equipped to solve the most pressing issues and contribute to a regenerative future together. Over 250 young social entrepreneurs enrolled in the Springboard PLUS and Climate Action Programmes, and approximately 76% of the weekly feedback responses are above 9 (out of 10), with great insights into their lessons learned and ways to further improve the learning experience.

The content developed—venture capital for climate action, digital strategies, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), scaling climate solutions with cloud technologies, fund raising for green solutions—will be used to support the four Pacific countries' training requirements.

Youth-Led Social Entrepreneurship Highlights:



Greenair⁷ (Singapore) provides IoT plant towers which supercharge house plants into air purifiers 10-100X. It's designed for superior air purification at work or educational microgreen gardening at school.



Towerganics⁸ (Nepal) specializes in vertical farming methods, utilizing hydroponic and aeroponic systems that reduce water usage by up to 90% and eliminate the need for soil. They provide innovative urban agriculture solutions to urban dwellers in Nepal, using "climate-smart" agriculture techniques.



Carbon Addons⁹ (Indonesia) is a climate-tech startup that empowers individuals, businesses, and communities to achieve carbon neutrality. By integrating their Carbon Offset API into online purchasing platforms including e-commerce, shipping to transportation services, we enable users to offset their carbon footprint at checkout.



YoungEco¹⁰ (Cambodia) is a consulting firm that provides environmental education and campaign services to communities and organizations. They commit to addressing environmental challenges, such as wildlife trafficking, through "climate-smart" initiatives that not only raise awareness but also foster sustainable practices.



Lestari Jamuku¹¹ (Indonesia) is a social enterprise that provides traditional Indonesian herbal medicine, known as "Jamu," to local communities and markets. They commit to preserving the cultural heritage of Jamu by empowering local vendors and farmers, particularly women known as "Jamu Gendong", who have been the custodians of this traditional practice for generations.

Building on this momentum, the Springboard PLUS and Springboard ELEVATE 2024 cohorts have demonstrated a tangible impact in climate action and food security. Among the participants from these initiatives, a total of **123 young social entrepreneurs** – 61 from Springboard PLUS and 62 from Springboard ELEVATE, identified their initiatives as addressing climate and food security challenges. These young changemakers, equipped with skills and tools gained through the Springboard Programmes have been creating an impact on over **14,000 livelihoods**. Spanning **24 countries**, utilizing indigenous agriculture practices and circular food systems to climate-resilient technologies, these young social entrepreneurs are not only generating employment but also building the foundations of more sustainable and equitable local economies. More details of these changemakers can be found here: [Airtable - Springboard 2024 Climate-related YSEs](#)¹².



HKH Region Entrepreneurship Ecosystem-Building

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, a critical ecological zone supporting nearly two billion people, is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, food insecurity, and socio-economic disparities, particularly in rural communities. Despite its rich cultural heritage and ecological significance, the region faces growing challenges that demand strategic interventions. Recognizing the transformative potential of entrepreneurship and enterprise development to drive economic growth, strengthen resilience, and improve livelihoods, countries within the HKH region are prioritizing these sectors as key enablers for sustainable development.

Food Security through Entrepreneurship

To cultivate a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem for young people in the HKH region's agri-food sector, UNDP and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) collaborated under the UN-UN Agreement to empower youth in Bhutan and Nepal. The **Youth Agri-Innovation Challenge** was launched in both countries to support youth-led initiatives focused on resilient food systems and sustainable agriculture, aiming to promote inclusive youth entrepreneurship in the agriculture sector in the region. The programme emphasized innovation, leadership, and inclusive entrepreneurship, with a specific focus on engaging underserved groups, including rural and Indigenous youth.

The national innovation challenges were organized in partnership with FAO with a focus on Indigenous and rural youth, recognizing the crucial role of Indigenous and rural youth in regional food security. The challenge garnered over **90 applications, with 32 from Bhutan and 58 from Nepal**. A total of **31 youth-led startups (21 in Nepal and 10 in Bhutan)** were selected to participate in intensive training on entrepreneurship and mentorship sessions, culminating in national-level showcases. Three winners from each country were selected to participate in a regional demo day in Bangkok in October 2024, receiving awards and access to a regional capacity-building programme. Looking ahead, the programme will continue to support these young entrepreneurs through ongoing startup support, mentorship, connections to regional opportunities, etc. to further strengthen their ability to grow and scale impactful agri-based solutions.



Entrepreneurs participating in the Agri-Food Innovation Challenge organized by UNDP and FAO.



Green Pathways Forward: Empowering Mountain Communities

In 2022, **UNDP** and the **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** signed an MoU to promote sustainable development in the HKH region through knowledge sharing, capacity development, policy advancement, and enhanced regional collaboration. The Article 2.1 of MoU focuses on establishing a regional accelerator hub to scale sustainable businesses and start-ups, with a strong emphasis on youth- and women-centred jobs creation. In line with this, UNDP and ICIMOD jointly established **Regional Accelerator Hub for Hindu-Kush-Himalaya's Entrepreneurs and Environmental Leaders (RAHKHEL)** to support green youth-led SDG solutions and enhance the local entrepreneurship ecosystem in the HKH region to make a long-term sustainable impact.

Under RAHKHEL and to further foster collaboration within the HKH entrepreneurial ecosystem, YECAP, Youth Co:Lab, ICIMOD, and Impact Hub organized Ecosystem Night in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 22 November 2024, to enhance support for young entrepreneurs. The event convened **over 90 participants** representing social enterprises, Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs), the private sector, development agencies, and the Impact Hub network across the Asia-Pacific region focusing on creating a green, inclusive, and resilient entrepreneurship ecosystem.

UNDP and ICIMOD are also collaborating to empower women and youth in the HKH region through the project, **“Empowering Women and Youth in Mountain Communities through South-South Technology Transfer and Support to Local Entrepreneurship”**, through the support from the Ministry of Commerce in China. The project (2025-2028) will promote green, climate-resilient livelihoods in mountain communities across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan by leveraging South-South cooperation to identify and transfer relevant and effective technologies from China. It will empower youth and women-led SDG solutions and enhance the local entrepreneurship ecosystem by supporting business development based on new products and market opportunities created through these cooperative technology exchanges.



Partnership MoU signing between UNDP and ICIMOD.



Generation Hope Goals

Young innovators are leading solutions for the pressing challenges of climate change. Supporting youth-led innovations, along with the enabling conditions, remains crucial for youth engagement in climate solutions.

With its partners, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific, Save the Children, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, and ChildFund, YECAP organized the Generation Hope Goals, engaging young innovators in developing their existing climate action solutions linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). This built on the success of the 11th APFSD Youth Climathon, to raise awareness on climate change issues and their interconnectedness with sustainable development, leveraging the creativity of young people to address these. The Generation Hope Goals prioritized applications in groups of 3-5 members, and after the initial round of reviews, the top 15 applicants were invited to submit one-minute videos of their pitches, with an online pitching session on 2 November. The judges, along with online voters decided on the top 5 groups who would be invited to do their pitches in person at the 12th APFSD. The final selected groups were also provided mentorship, including one-on-one sessions with experts from the organizing partners. The finalists' projects spanned across critical areas such as plastic waste, air pollution, soil salinity, animal farming, and coral reef restoration and preservation.

Empowering Youth for Climate Resilient Futures

The accessibility of climate concepts, including how to communicate it, along with potential ways to take action remains one of the key challenges for young people.

One of YECAP's key strategies is capacitating young people, through youth network members, to take forward climate action. The transition to a green economy and green jobs are an extension of the broader momentum towards climate action, compelling young people to find careers that align with environmental sustainability. This shift does not only address the climate crisis but simultaneously creates new livelihood opportunities for young people to lead innovation, resilience, and inclusive growth in an inevitably evolving world. The capacity building initiatives have enabled participants to not only better understand climate change through easy-to-comprehend and contextualized examples but also increase their ability to take action. In collaboration with Movers Programme and Skill Our Future, YECAP organized a dynamic #Movers4Climate Festival (September-October), educating and amplifying young voices across Asia-Pacific on climate, biodiversity, well-being, and green jobs. The festival featured the #Movers4GreenJobs Challenge, co-hosted with Climate Incubator, where participants completed nine daily actions aimed at boosting their green economy employability. The campaign generated over 56,000 impressions through YECAP and Movers Programme's Instagram collaboration, demonstrating strong digital engagement and youth-driven momentum for climate action and green jobs towards a just transition.



Strategic Civil Society Partnerships Fueling the Green Economy

As a proud partner of **Climate Incubator**, led by a Youth Advisory Group on Environmental and Climate Justice (YAG) member in Hong Kong SAR, China, YECAP supported the development and expansion of innovative programmes for green skills and youth employment. The second edition of the Mentorship Programme in 2024 successfully matched 30 mentor-mentee pairs across 14 countries to advance green careers. Building on this success, the **Just Transition and Green Job Mentorship Programme** will launch in 2025, launch a six-month initiative offering mentorship, coaching, workshops, and networking to strengthen sectoral knowledge, and employability in the green economy.

YECAP has also partnered with Makesense Asia and Jobs that Makesense Asia, to drive inclusive green job opportunities and social innovation. Together, they have co-organized **green job fairs across Southeast Asia**—creating real-life touchpoints for young people to discover career pathways in sustainability. We are also preparing for a regional green jobs event in January 2025, aimed at convening youth, employers, and ecosystem actors. YECAP has also been supporting Jobs that Makesense by amplifying events, co-creating youth-centred content, and facilitating introductions to regional partners in the ecosystem.

Additionally, YECAP fosters **cross-collaboration among youth-led initiatives**. For instance, Carly Leung from Climate Incubator was invited to speak at the Net Zero Hero Programme by GAWIREA (Indonesia), while Sher Shah Khan from Skillistan (Pakistan) will be a mentor for Climate Incubator's upcoming mentorship cohort. These connections highlight our commitment to building bridges among youth leaders across borders and sectors, enabling them to support each other's growth and amplify impact at scale.

30 mentor-mentee pairs across **14** Countries

Forums for Deepening Commitment to Green Skills

At the Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum (APYDF) (more mentioned below), UNICEF South Asia (ROSA) and East Asia and the Pacific (EAPRO) co-convened a session on green skills, focusing on relevance of green skills to the world of work, bringing the issues of relevance to youth to regional forum. Additionally, as part of SOF Talks - The Future of Work series, the Global Employment Trends for Youth – Vietnamese Youth to Thrive in the Digital and Green Economy webinar was held by UNDP Viet Nam Country Office, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank, provided insights on the future of work, the growing importance of green jobs, and how digital skills can boost employability in a sustainable economy. Participants had the opportunity to engage with experts, ask questions, and gain practical advice on navigating the digital and green transition.



“

The #Movers4GreenJobs Challenge has been an eye-opening journey for me. It deepened my understanding of green jobs and what it means to integrate sustainability into a career. I've gained valuable insights into how I can personally green my professional path, which is a crucial step as I aim to align my work with my values. This experience has also given me the confidence that green jobs are within reach, and I feel better equipped with employability skills that will help me thrive in this growing sector. Most importantly, I've connected with a like-minded community of young people who are equally passionate about creating positive change. That support and sense of belonging is truly empowering, knowing that I'm not alone in this journey.”

A participant from Malaysia

Dinh-Long Pham, Youth Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Specialist engaging youth in the green and just economy transition at scale side event.





CROSS- CUTTING





Cross Cutting Activity 1

Advancing meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process through the LCIPP

A holistic approach is vital to address the diverse challenges of climate change, and central to this are the viewpoints and lived realities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Situated on the frontlines of climate change's effects, they possess crucial traditional ecological knowledge necessary for developing impactful, culturally fitting, and sustainable responses.

Indigenous and Local Youth Participation (LCIPP WG)

The critical role of **Indigenous knowledge for climate action** coupled with the lived realities of frontline communities like Indigenous Peoples, makes their participation in global processes like COP particularly significant. The **Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)** at COP strengthens knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in addressing and responding to climate change. The platform serves to enhance the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process.

Recognizing the critical role of Indigenous knowledge in climate action, Indigenous youth meaningfully engaged in the **29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** through their participation in the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP). This engagement focused on contributing local perspectives, sharing traditional practices, and identifying opportunities for integrating Indigenous knowledge into national and international climate strategies.

Sabba Rani Maharjan from Nepal and Satej Chakma from Bangladesh participating in COP29 and LCIPP.





To ensure inclusive representation, in collaboration with AIPP, Sabba Rani Maharjan (Nepal) and Satej Chakma (Bangladesh) were supported to take part in LCIPP events held from 11 to 15 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. In preparation for their first engagement at the COP, they also participated in the Youth Climate Action Lab: COP29 Edition to build their knowledge on the UNFCCC COP processes. Their presence underscored the importance of **Indigenous youth as knowledge holders and advocates** for culturally rooted adaptation approaches.

During the LCIPP annual youth roundtable, Indigenous youth articulated concrete challenges around recognition, inclusion, and limited capacity in formal climate policymaking spaces. They contributed through a set of actionable recommendations:

Recommendations	
 The formalization of mechanisms to ensure Indigenous youth input in decision-making processes	
 The amplification of Indigenous youth narratives to inform inclusive policymaking	 The need to foster inter-stakeholder collaboration and solidarity as part of long-term climate solutions

In addition, youth were actively engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogues, where they shared their lived experiences and culturally grounded best practices. One example included Nepal's Sithi Naka, a water source cleaning festival rooted in Indigenous traditions. The discussions emphasized:



The need to integrate Indigenous values and traditional knowledge into national and sub-national policy frameworks



Transparent and consensual stakeholder engagement



Free, prior, and informed consent in all decision-making



Implementation of culturally sensitive and sustainable adaptation strategies that respect community practices



Indigenous youth contributed substantively to high-level discussions on transformational adaptation. Their engagement at COP29 not only provided visibility for Indigenous knowledge systems but also laid the foundation for long-term inclusion in climate policy development. Sabba Rani Maharjan highlighted the importance of actively integrating Indigenous values to prevent cultural dilution, advocating for the transfer of traditional knowledge as a key adaptation strategy. Learn more [here](#)¹³.



Engagement in COP29 offered a crucial opportunity to amplify Indigenous youth voices and exchange knowledge with policymakers and other Indigenous communities. This experience demonstrates the potential for Indigenous youth to influence international climate discussions.”

Satej Chakma

Council Member, Asia Young Indigenous Peoples Network (AYIPN), Bangladesh

In Solidarity for a Green World





Cross Cutting Activity 2

Facilitating and supporting regional youth leaders' participation in strategic meetings, forums, convenings as speakers and leaders for better networking and recognition of youth expertise

In 2024, YECAP facilitated **youth participation in national, regional and international forums**, ensuring that young leaders, particularly from underrepresented communities, were recognized not only as participants, but also as co-creators of climate policy. Through platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum (APYDF), high level platform like the eighth session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED8), Local Conferences of Youth LCOYs, and the Regional Conference of Youth (RCOY-APAC), over **3,300 youth from more than 35 countries** shaped climate narratives, delivered youth statements, influenced national policies, and connected with UN officials and policymakers. These convenings strengthened regional collaboration, built advocacy skills, and positioned **youth voices at the centre of climate diplomacy**, policy innovation, and inclusive governance.



Asia Pacific Youth Development Forum (APYDF)

APYDF 2024, aligned with the World Youth Development Forum (WYDF) and the World Food Forum, served as a crucial platform to empower young voices, build capacity, and drive inclusive progress towards sustainable and resilient cities and agri-food systems. The forum was hosted by UNDP, All-China Youth Federation (ACYF), the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security – Department of Children and Youth in Thailand, the WYDF Secretariat, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Chulalongkorn University, and the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF).



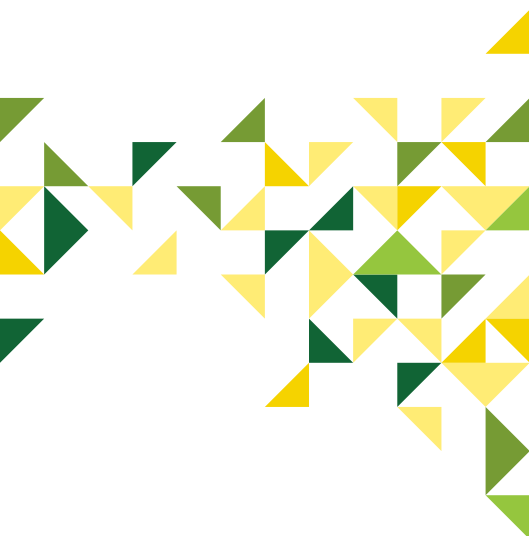
With a focus on the theme “Building Sustainable Cities and Resilient Food Systems,” the Forum brought together over **220 young people, governments, civil society, the private sector, and other youth empowerment partners from 23 countries**, with an additional 300 participants joining online. They collectively shared their perspectives, recommendations, and solutions to advance green employment and entrepreneurship opportunities while emphasizing the importance of environmental preservation, climate resilience, and the enhancement of food systems to foster more sustainable cities.

The two-day event featured insightful discussions on green employment and entrepreneurship, and sustainable development, with participants offering recommendations to foster climate resilience and ensure food security. A central highlight was the **presentation of youth-driven solutions to transform cities into sustainable and livable environments**. Furthermore, the session on “Creating an Enabling Environment for Youth-Led Organizations to Lead Solutions Accelerating the Green Transition,” was a platform for youth-led organizations and ecosystem partners to exchange best practices, share knowledge, and explore collaboration pathways to strengthen youth roles in the green transition. These initiatives, aligned with key SDGs, focused on addressing the environmental degradation and economic challenges faced by vulnerable communities, including marginalized youth.

With the importance of the vital role of young people in the green transition, it fostered South-South and North-South knowledge exchanges, allowing young leaders to share best practices on green skills, green jobs, and youth-led innovation. Centering young people’s solutions, and their voices through a forum that prioritized them as experts at the regional level, the APYDF was a crucial platform to validate the experiences of young people, empowering them as architects of change. Furthermore, the APYDF was strategically scheduled with the 8th Committee on Environment and Development with overlapping dates to enable participants to attend sessions, enhancing networking potential in both while minimizing the carbon footprint.



An in-person youth-led training session held at UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub.



Creating Alternative Spaces for Intergenerational Justice: Eighth session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED8)

The Committee on Environment and Development (CED) is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) which is convened every two years to review regional trends, identify priorities for action, foster dialogue, encourage coordinated action among Governments and civil society, the private sector and the UN System and other international organizations. The CED also provides recommendations to the Commission which comprises of 53 members and 9 associate members.

YECAP has been leveraging its partnerships, including a close partnership with UNESCAP, to provide alternative spaces for young people to influence regional processes and mechanisms with youth perspectives, insights and demands centered on their realities.

For the eighth session of CED that took place from 16-18 October, YECAP facilitated regional consultations with youth on sustainable cities. Using the World We Want (WWW) framework, a series of gamified youth consultations, to gather youth perspectives on critical development issues, YECAP held **5 consultations across Asia-Pacific where 255 youth from 19 countries and territories, representing various backgrounds**, joined to share their voices on the present and future of sustainable cities and urban development. This initiative aimed to provide a platform for young people across the Asia-Pacific region to share their insights, concerns, and solutions regarding the present and future of their cities. The regional consultations were a collective sharing and learning exercise that deepened our understanding of the challenges for young people.



As participants of the Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum, Angelica Añabeza from the Philippines and Prajesh Khanal from Nepal delivered a youth statement based on the consultations, which was delivered at the opening of CED8. This [statement](#)¹⁴ was lauded as “the best prepared and most

impactful statement from youth” by a CED8 participant, demonstrating the significant influence of youth perspectives.

YECAP also facilitated a [statement](#)¹⁵ from Global Youth Biodiversity Network of Thailand, through one of its Youth Advisory Group Members under the agenda item 3 which took review of the programme of work of the secretariat to address environment and development challenges, pressing for greater youth engagement in decision-making processes in the Asia-Pacific region. Another [statement](#)¹⁶ by YECAP highlighted the importance of continued youth engagement by UNESCAP to participate in processes.

The statements are reflected in the [outcome document of the CED8](#)¹⁷ remarking on the importance of youth-led initiatives and greater representation of young people in decision-making processes.



Local Conference of Youth (LCOY)

YECAP has also supported numerous Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs), mandated by YOUNGO, the official Children and Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well the Regional Conference of Youth (RCOY), which contributes to shaping the Global Youth Statement, influencing COP decisions.



Through YECAP, UNDP and UNICEF provided support to Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in 11 countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam providing youth with climate policy knowledge, advocacy training, and networking opportunities. Key outputs include:

Bangladesh



Implemented a Young Negotiator Programme and Mock COP Simulation for climate diplomacy training, followed by a one-day conference with over **100** youth participants.

Cambodia



Convened over **300** youth and developed a comprehensive National Youth Statement with input from 18 youth-led initiatives, focusing on green jobs, energy, and climate finance.

Indonesia



Convened over **90** on site youth participants and partnered with high level political bodies that includes the Ministry of Environment and Energy Indonesia. Created a Youth National Youth Statement on clean water, food security, and just energy transitions for national advocacy.

Mongolia



Developed a National Youth Statement on ACE (Action for Climate Empowerment), Adaptation, Energy, Health, Climate Finance, Technology, and Innovation, which was shared and presented to the government.

Malaysia



Collected perspectives and recommendations from young people through a national survey to develop a comprehensive National Youth Statement.

Nepal



Convened over **200** young leaders across the country and developed a National Youth Statement with a strong emphasis on Indigenous and Local knowledge for Climate Resilience.

Pakistan



Integrated six provincial LCOYs into a National Youth Statement, engaging over **1,000** youth in policy discussions.



Philippines



Produced a Philippine Youth Statement on Climate Change, which led for the statement to be adopted by the National Youth Commission. The statement was developed through panels, simulations, and UNDP-supported sessions on gender-inclusive climate governance.

Samoa



Proposed the establishment of the Samoa National Youth Climate Change Council (SNYCCC) to ensure a more structured, inclusive and impactful platform for youth empowerment in climate action and engaged youth in discussions on renewable energy policy.

Thailand



Convened over **190** youth through consultations in 6 different regions and developed a comprehensive National Youth Statement with input from 18 youth-led initiatives, focusing on green jobs, energy, and climate finance.

Viet Nam



Developed the Viet Nam Youth Statement on adaptation, mitigation, and climate education for presentation at COP29 with the participation of over **500** youth.

The LCOYs resulted in participation of **over 3,300** youth across **11 countries** engaged in policy influence, climate governance, and skills towards the creation of each country's National Youth Statement. Youth Statements from Viet Nam, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, and Cambodia contributed to national climate change policy discussions and COP29 youth advocacy with support from around 100 partner organizations, including youth networks/organizations United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, and UNEP), international NGOs (British Council and Greenpeace), and national institutions. LCOYs provided first-time access to climate dialogue spaces for many local and rural youth, while ensuring inclusive participation of women, Indigenous youth, and other marginalized groups. They have also expanded their impact geographically, going beyond the capital cities to include more diverse communities.





Through LCOY in Cambodia, recommendations for institutionalization of youth engagement through the NDC Roadmap was a suggestion that came up (captured earlier). Furthermore, in Samoa, the Samoa National Youth Climate Change Council (SNYCCC) was suggested as a formal mechanism for youth engagement in national climate governance. Overall, regional collaboration and peer learning were strengthened, enhancing youth influence in policy discussions at both national and international levels.



LCOY Indonesia 2024 provided me with the platform to connect with youth from different provinces. Learning about national policies and the role of young people in just energy transition has motivated me to initiate discussions in my local community.”

A delegate from LCOY Indonesia



Regional Conference of Youth (RCOY)

YECAP supported the participation of youth leaders in the Regional Conference of Youth in Asia and the Pacific (RCOY-APAC) 2024, a key platform to elevate youth expertise in climate diplomacy and policy. The conference brought together youth from over 35 countries to co-develop a Regional Youth Statement for COP29, while building capacity through training on climate justice, green finance, adaptation, and just transition. Youth leaders engaged directly with UN representatives and policymakers, strengthening their role as contributors to regional and global climate governance. The Youth Eco Festival highlighted grassroots innovations, while seed funding opportunities empowered youth-led solutions to scale their impact beyond the event.



The RCOY allowed youth climate advocates across the region to connect, advance the RCOY Youth Statement, ensuring the supported participants to engage in key discussions and policy engagement, present LCOY youth statements. Furthermore, it resulted in:



Participation of over **300** youth leaders, including **150+** international delegates, with UNDP, UNICEF support for **6** delegates.



Development of a Regional Youth Statement for presentation at COP29, integrating youth voices into global climate negotiations.



Launch of a Climate Diplomacy Training Toolkit, equipping youth with skills for policy advocacy and negotiation.



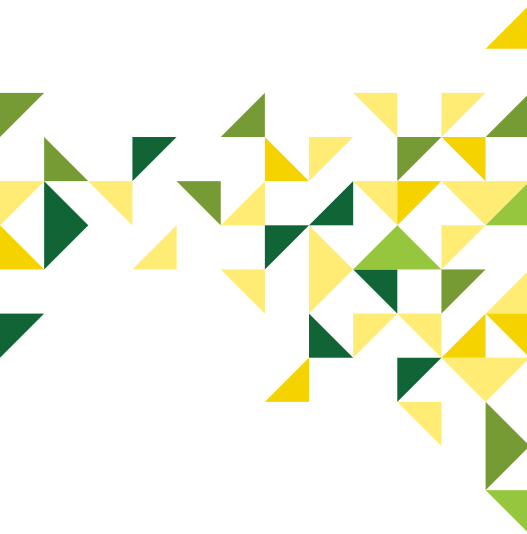
Strengthened Asia-Pacific youth climate networks, ensuring continued collaboration and influence beyond RCOY.



I was excited to hear about all the great work from my fellow delegates. We connected not only as friends but also as professionals, expanding our networks together. It was heartening to see everyone striving to make the most of our journey in Sri Lanka—whether for personal growth, sharing knowledge, or building connections. To amplify youth voices and enhance our impact, I am committed to continuing my efforts and engaging with different delegates through various platforms and initiatives for the planet.”

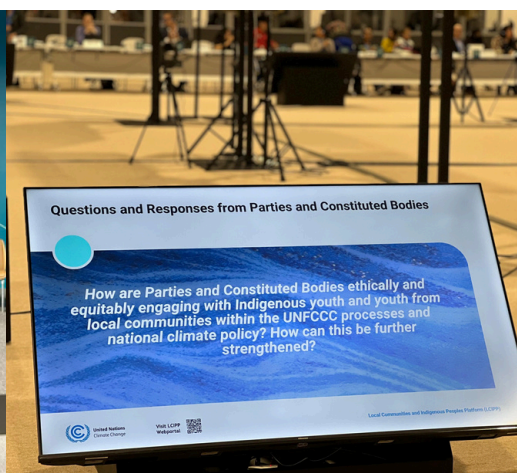
Pui Yee (Carly) Leung

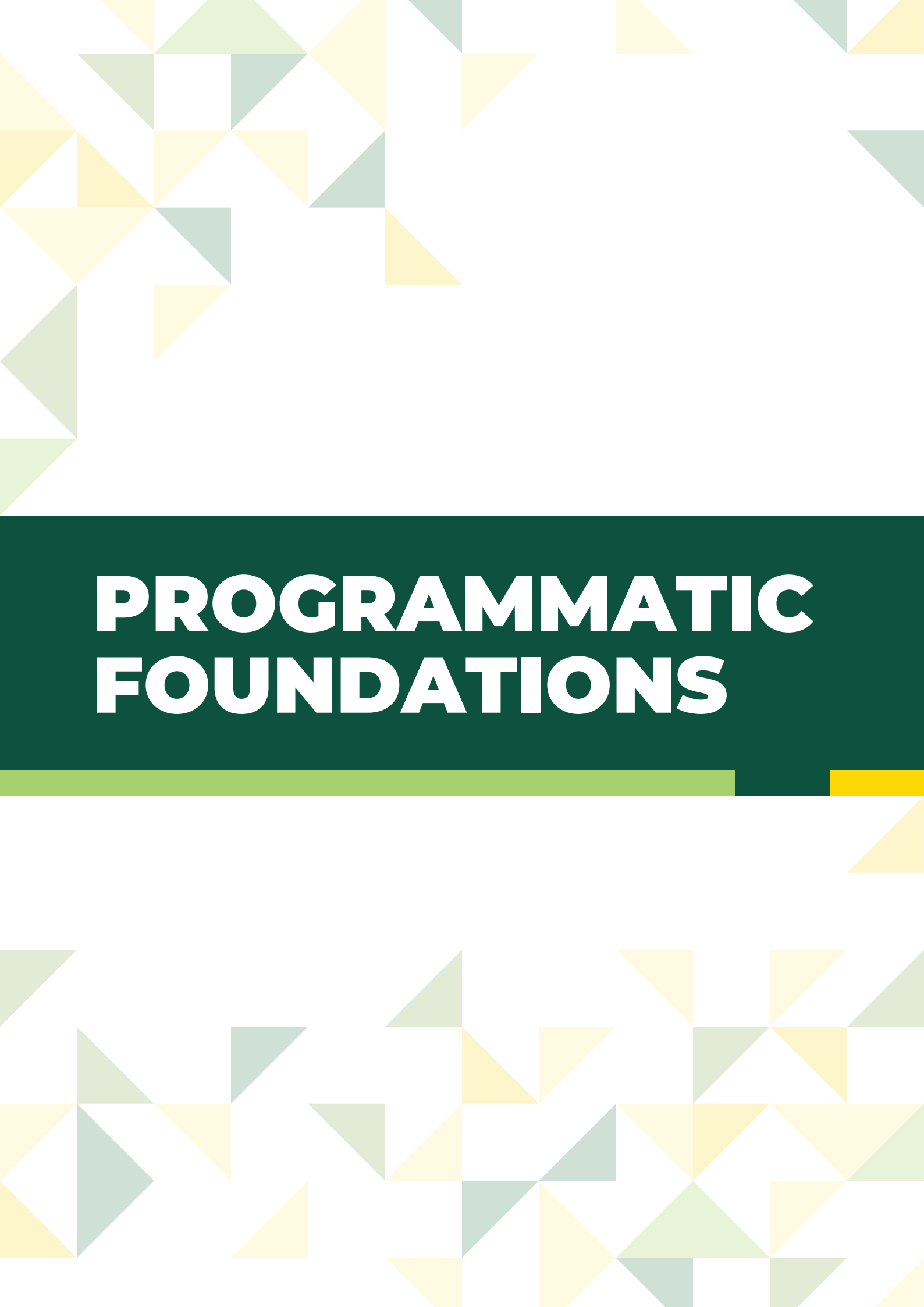
Co-Founder, Climate Incubator, Hong Kong SAR



COP29

Other than support to Indigenous youth to participate in the LCIPP at the COP 29, many of YECAP's youth network members who were also attending COP were connected with UNDP's HQ team for greater support and visibility for youth from the Asia-Pacific region in the global process. The highlights of some of the youth were captured in a [blog](#)¹⁸ on COP 29 on UNDP Asia-Pacific's website.





PROGRAMMATIC FOUNDATIONS

YECAP Secretariat

YECAP Secretariat

To ensure and foster coordination among co-convenors, YECAP has onboarded **dedicated coordinators from UNDP and UNICEF**. The UNICEF coordinator (Tuan Anh Khong) joined in May 2024, leveraging his role as the Adolescent and Youth Environmental Engagement Coordinator at UNICEF. The UNDP coordinator (Shaan Gom) joined YECAP in October 2024, as the Indigenous Youth Engagement and Empowerment Coordinator at the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub. These dedicated roles were established to **streamline interagency collaboration** and ensure a cohesive approach to YECAP's initiatives. The secretariat members underwent an induction that included mandatory training sessions for full compliance with all project requirements. Through this, they gained the necessary knowledge and capacity to meet established commitments. YECAP's secretariat has enabled the development of dynamic partnerships and collaborations with various UN agencies, civil society organizations, Intergovernmental organizations, resulting in activities that surpassed the initial plan.

To further ensure internal governance control and inter-agency coordination between the co-convenors, regular updates on the progress of the work under YECAP has been done with support from the YECAP coordinators on a bi-weekly basis with larger team meetings that include the Programme Managers from the relevant UN agencies at six-week intervals.

A **Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** is also in place to support the function of YECAP, composed of representatives of key stakeholders from UN agencies. The Technical Advisory Group meets on a quarterly basis to review the programme plans, offer feedback, and identify potential risks and challenges related to the implementation of the programme. To date, two Technical Advisory Group meetings have taken place, which provided technical insights and guidance to the project team.

The **annual project board meeting** took place on 12 December 2024. The meeting was attended by YEP-AP board members as well as the Programme Managers from the 3 co-convening UN agencies, UNDP, UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific and UNICEF. The progress for YECAP was shared in 2024, including achievements and challenges. Inputs from UNICEF and UNFCCC RCC AP were also shared. Following this, the workplan for 2025 was presented and endorsed by the board. The meeting minutes were shared with all relevant partners.

At both national and regional levels, YECAP prioritizes the **promotion of inter-agency collaboration**. The YECAP secretariat maintains regular meetings to provide updates on ongoing work and to share relevant developments from each co-convening agency concerning adolescent and youth engagement in climate action. These platforms are proving instrumental in identifying new



avenues for partnership, both between YECAP and its co-conveners, and directly between different agencies. A concrete example of this synergy is the ongoing collaboration between UNICEF and UNFCCC, facilitated by YECAP, to support youth consultations for Fiji's NDC 3.0 process. This initiative effectively leverages UNICEF's on-the-ground presence, UNFCCC's technical expertise, and YECAP's valuable experience from the Youth Climate Policy Innovators Youth Camp.

YECAP secretariat members are also actively contributing to the **strengthening of coordinated partnerships** in various thematic areas, ensuring a more cohesive and impactful approach to youth engagement in climate action through the TWG-ECA.

Additionally, YECAP places a strong emphasis on enhancing **knowledge exchange and capacity building**. The dedicated focal points within each agency's YECAP secretariat are actively developing their technical expertise and contributing to the overall capacity of YECAP through joint initiatives and team collaboration. This cross-agency learning also strengthens the individual organizations. For example, the UNICEF focal point recently provided valuable capacity building to YECAP team members on crucial child protection principles.

UNDP is also establishing a **dedicated Community-of-Practice (CoP)**, coordinated by the YECAP Secretariat in recognition of the value of internal knowledge sharing and collaboration. Colleagues from UNDP Country Offices who have worked with or are interested in working with Indigenous Peoples will be connected through this platform, creating a space for mutual learning and the promotion of the Indigenous agenda.

Furthermore, YECAP is actively fostering interagency collaboration through the establishment of an **interagency working group on Indigenous Peoples**. This group will serve as a forum for knowledge exchange and joint initiatives among various UN agencies. This arose out of a roundtable¹⁹ organized in August by UNDP and International IDEA, with Indigenous advocates, experts and UN agencies to discuss efforts in the struggle for rights and recognition in the region.



Communications

From June to December 2024, YECAP's communications efforts, enabled through Sida's support, amplified youth-led climate action across digital platforms and global spaces. Website traffic more than doubled, social media reach surged past 85,000, and newsletter subscriptions grew by over 50%, reflecting strong youth engagement. Strategic campaigns, storytelling, and collaborations with young changemakers and partners helped elevate youth voices to policy arenas like COP29 and influence national processes in various countries in Asia and the Pacific such as Nepal, Bangladesh, and Papua New Guinea. These efforts not only raised awareness but opened doors for real opportunities, policy recognition, and continued youth leadership in climate governance.

Website: A Platform to Elevate Youth-Led Solutions

YECAP's website evolved from an information hub to a launchpad for youth-led climate solutions. From June to December 2024, the site recorded 19,606 sessions, more than double the same period in 2023 (8,798 sessions). Unique visitors also grew significantly, reaching 13,148 compared to 5,729 last year. Access expanded across the region, with the highest engagement from Pakistan (13%), India (11%), Viet Nam (9%), Bangladesh (9%), and Thailand (5%).

The platform highlighted the work of young changemakers like Shakers Fellows and RYPCA Members. Their journeys from shaping local climate policies to participating in COP29 negotiations were amplified through open calls, resource sharing, and human-interest stories. YECAP's website helped increase visibility for youth-led organizations advancing gender equality, climate policy, and green innovation such as Climate Incubator. The three collaborative Instagram posts about the joint Just Transition and Green Job Mentorship Programme gained 15,516 views and 485 interactions, outperforming the majority of Climate Incubator's independent posts. Likewise, YECAP's work was showcased on external platforms such as Sida's website and intranet, UNDP Climate Promise website and social media, and Young Influx youth-led platform, further expanding our reach and audience. Participants from YECAP's key events and activities showed strong interest in subscribing to the monthly newsletter to stay updated on new opportunities for youth. By the end of 2024, YECAP newsletter subscribers grew to 4,653 from 3,059 in 2023, building a strong community for ongoing youth engagement.



19,606

Sessions (June-December 2024)
vs. 8,798 in 2023



13,148

Unique Visitors
vs. 5,729 in 2023



4,653

Newsletter Subscribers in 2024
vs. 3,059 in 2023



Social Media: Turning Youth Action into Inspiration

In 2024, YECAP's social media channels became powerful tools to elevate youth voices, spark community action, and build solidarity. Facebook remained YECAP's primary platform, reaching 85,755 users and generating 29,112 engagements between June and December 2024. Opportunity-sharing posts were the highest-performing content, reflecting young people's demand for actionable pathways especially in climate governance and green jobs. The RYPCA's call for applications content, for instance, was ranked one of the top-performing posts on UNDP in Asia and the Pacific social media in 2024 with 13,110 reach and 13,971 impressions on Instagram.

Youth-led campaigns such as Sochenda Aok's Instagram reels resonated widely with more than 5,491 views. YECAP worked closely with youth participants, youth focal points, country offices, and relevant networks for broader amplification. Our content strategy targeted young people, especially digital creators and those who have strong online voices, including outreach to policymakers, CSO partners, UN agencies, and donors, positioning youth as changemakers rather than beneficiaries. Three Summit of the Future reels, co-produced by the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG UNEP), Y-PEER Asia-Pacific, Youth LEAD (Youth Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Development), and YECAP, gained 18,078 views, placing youth front and centre and raising collective awareness about the regional Call to Action.

f 85,755
Facebook Reach

👍 29,112
Facebook Engagements

Storytelling: Where Youth Voices Drive Systemic Change

From June to December 2024, YECAP's stories amplified youth voices from local, national, and regional to global spaces supported by YECAP's partners and donors to drive lasting change. Some of the key highlights and impact include:



A joint op-ed by UNDP and UNICEF was published on the World Economic Forum platform, showcasing how young climate advocates, especially young women and girls, are leading the charge with strengthened partnerships paving the way for their leadership.



An [impact story](#) was featured on Sida's website, highlighting the tangible difference made by young people on the ground, made possible through support from Sweden via YECAP.



[Amanullah Porag's story](#) on youth-led climate action in Dhaka, Bangladesh, was showcased on Sida's intranet, serving as a powerful example of Global South youth's climate action movement for Global North audiences.



A [blog on COP29](#) published by UNDP in Asia and the Pacific helped open new doors for RYPCA member Dikshya Subedi from Nepal, leading to further opportunities to engage with other stakeholders to share her voice.



YECAP and Young Influx, a dynamic youth-led platform, collaborated to tell the [inspiring story of Papua New Guinean youth](#), written by RYPCA member Duncan Wohwiehembe. The story was shared with the National Youth Development Authority, the government agency overseeing youth policies and programmes, inspiring stronger recognition of youth leadership at the national level.



Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The M&E activities kicked off with the finalization of YECAP's M&E plan which includes detailed methodologies for all indicators. Data collection tools for activities implemented during the reporting period were disseminated to activity leads. A M&E Toolkit was also initiated and will be launched in 2025; users of which are activity leads and partners co-implementing activities in target countries.

Gender and LNOB

The Youth Empowerment Portfolio for Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP) is advancing gender equality through a two-pronged strategy that includes both mainstreamed and targeted interventions. This approach aims to ensure that gender intersectionality is embedded across all programme components while also addressing the specific needs of marginalized groups, particularly young women.

To support the design and implementation of effective gender-responsive programming, YECAP has commenced a gender analysis in close collaboration with UNDP Country Offices. This analysis will inform the development of localized interventions designed to dismantle systemic barriers that hinder young women's participation and leadership in climate action. YECAP and its implementing partners, including UN agencies, are engaging closely to ensure that M&E frameworks are developed using a gender-inclusive lens, enabling a more accurate tracking of gender-related results and impacts across YECAP. In addition, YECAP continues to build internal capacity to design, implement, and monitor gender-inclusive programming through regular knowledge-sharing sessions and training workshops.

Additionally, the team has developed a youth intersectional guidebook aimed at supporting programmes under YEP-AP including YECAP to integrate a deliver programmatic intervention through a youth intersectional lens for sustainable and inclusive impact (the working draft can be found [here](#)²⁰). Knowledge sessions aimed at unpacking the key concepts and strategies outlined in the guidebook with programmatic teams will be explored moving forward.

To further advocate and encourage the awareness around allyship with the most marginalized communities, YECAP has supported the development and implementation of training modules through the Movers Programme. These modules include the topics of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Disability Inclusion, Indigenous Allyship, Gender Equality and LGBTI+ Inclusion. Throughout the period, **348 workshops were held** with a cumulative **participation of over 21,061 youths**, equipping them with skills and knowledge necessary in accordance with the Leave No One Behind approach.



ANNEXES



Annex 1

Timeline of Activities and Milestones

In 2024, YECAP's communications platforms became powerful catalysts for change, amplifying youth-led solutions, elevating diverse voices, and inspiring action across the Asia-Pacific. From digital campaigns to real-world impact stories, every milestone told a story of courage, creativity, and the unwavering determination of young people to lead the climate movement from the frontlines.

World Environment Day

In June, the voice of Aung Sing Hla Marma, an Indigenous agronomist from the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh, resonated with young people in his community. His story shows how deeply climate change affects rural, Indigenous communities and how local knowledge can lead transformative, community-based solutions.

Launch of RYPCA

In July, the launch of the application for Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (RYPCA), supported by Sweden, empowered young leaders to scale their impact in climate governance spaces. Meanwhile, youth engaged in an open consultation on eco-anxiety, revealing the emotional toll of the climate crisis and the need for collective healing and support.

IDWIP and NDC 3.0

In August, youth integrated culture and climate action during the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (IDWIP). They amplified their community-driven solutions blending green innovation and ancestral knowledge. In Samoa, Pacific youth led the NDC 3.0 Regional Forum, co-developing strategies to embed youth participation into national climate commitments. In the NDC 3.0 Regional Forum for Asia, youth leaders from Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, and the Philippines led critical discussions on making climate policies more inclusive and ambitious. This marked a turning point where young people were not only contributing ideas but also shaping policy frameworks.

YECAP Shakers Fellowship Programme and International Day of Democracy

In September, the launch of the Shakers Fellowship Programme and Movers4Climate workshops reached over 1,300 participants, while the International Day of Democracy campaign brought government leaders and youth together to exchange strategies for inclusive climate governance from Papua New Guinea to Malaysia.



COY16 and COP29

In October and November, young people elevated their stories and leadership at the Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum, COY16, and COP29. Whether on global stages or through local initiatives, they were given the opportunities to step forward as changemakers and policy influencers.

Human Rights Day

Finally, in December, YECAP contributed key messages from Asia-Pacific youth to the UNDP global Human Rights Day campaign, reaffirming their role as defenders of justice, equity, and environmental rights.

Through every campaign, takeover, and testimony, YECAP's communications in 2024 connected communities, sparked change, and proved that when youth lead, the future gets brighter, fairer, and more resilient. Read our 2024 year-in-review showcasing the impact made by Asia-Pacific youth throughout the year [here](#).

Annex 2 Shakers Leaflet

YECAP SHAKERS FELLOWSHIP



Who We Are

The Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) was established by UNDP in Asia and the Pacific in collaboration with UNFCCC, RCC Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, the British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme, and 2030 Youth Force in response to young people across the region calling for urgent action on the climate agenda. Youth in all their diverse identities and experiences advance their climate journeys with the support from YECAP to meaningfully engage in action, advocacy, and acceleration of the movement towards a just climate future.

What We Do

The YECAP Shakers Fellowship is a three-month capacity building programme for youth climate leaders in Asia and the Pacific. The fellowship will provide capacity-building on community mobilization, resources mobilization, team building, communications, Leaving No One Behind and gender equality, foster collaborative networks among civil society organizations (CSOs), and equip CSOs leaders with tools and resources to expand their climate advocacy.



OUR PROGRAMME

Date	Agenda
18 October 2024	Onboarding and Introduction to the Programme
25 October 2024	Systems Thinking for Sustainable Solutions
08 November 2024	Mixer 1: Our Biggest Leadership Challenges
15 November 2024	Gender and Development in Climate Action
22 November 2024	Empowering Youth: Effective Volunteer Recruitment and Management in Climate Action
06 December 2024	Forming and Sustaining Effective Partnerships (Coalitions and Networks)
13 December 2024	Leveraging Data and AI for Climate Project Management
20 December 2024	Mixer 2: Our Biggest Fundraising Challenges
10 January 2025	Fundraising for Climate Action (Crowdfunding and Grants)
17 January 2025	Measuring Impact: Assessing the Success of Climate Initiatives
24 January 2025	Closing and Wrap-Up

MEET OUR FELLOWS

Fahad Halder
Founder, Eliminate Australia
Renewable Energy Engineer and Founder of Eliminate, Fahad Halder, brings sustainable energy into marginalized communities, with a global background in solar energy and climate action at COP28. Based in Sydney, he is also a World Bank Youth Climate Ambassador.

Aung Sing Hla Marna
Coordinator, Back to the Roots (YARWNG) Bangladesh
Indigenous climate activist from Bangladesh, Aung focuses on land rights and sustainable farming in hill regions. He is a crop scientist at BINA and a recurring representative for youth at LCOV Bangladesh.

Jawhara Rahman Jorgia
Founder and President, United Youth Network (UYN) Bangladesh
Founder of United Youth Network, Jawhara advocates for climate resilience and gender equality in Bangladesh. Her Eco Shelter project supports displaced families, and she represents Bangladesh globally on platforms like UNEP.

Jiahui Chen
Director, SheShapes China
Jiahui Chen, a Campus Ambassador for Changchunthe SDGs, co-leads SheShapes Academia to empower women in academia. She is active in youth-led environmental programmes promoting sustainability.

Pengsan Huon
Partnership Lead, Youth Council for Climate Action Cambodia
Pengsan, Co-Founder of Cambodia's Youth Council for Climate Action, leads youth engagement through Climate Action Week and LCOV. He advocates for policy and grassroots collaboration for sustainable development.

Xinyi Zhang
Initiator, Global Youth Navigators China
Founder of Global Youth Navigators, Xinyi engages youth in climate action and has represented them in international forums. She is committed to advancing SDGs globally.

Harold Banggay
Executive Director, Mariknows Philippines
A marine conservationist and advocate for women's and LGBTQ+ rights, Harold founded Mariknows Philippines and Our Stories, Our Voices. He has managed significant grants for marine and environmental projects and is recognized for his contributions to youth empowerment and innovation.

Blaine Ho
Co-founder and Programme Director, Climate Incubator Hong Kong SAR
Blaine holds a master's degree in Climate Change and co-founded Climate Incubator, promoting environmental education and youth involvement in climate action worldwide.

Chinnmoyee Rajkumari
Founder, Nutrikeric LLP India
Chinnmoyee, Founder of Nutrikeric LLP, advocates for food sustainability through indigenous nutrition, with experience in G20 and UNDP youth forums.

Laurence Lloyd Lumagbas
Volunteer Head of Capacity, SustainablePH Philippines
As Volunteer Head of Capacity at SustainablePH, Laurence empowers future sustainability leaders. He is a Senior Director at EV Philippines, focusing on climate change, and has received multiple global recognitions for his work in sustainability and social impact.

Jia Bao
Cofounder, Shecho Mind China
Diplomacy student in Beijing promotes quality education and gender equality, co-founding Shecho Mind for young women's mental health and supporting ethnic culture through various initiatives.

Nguyen Van Toan
Leader - Specialist Team, Vietnam Youth Climate Action Network - YNet Vietnam Viet Nam
A passionate climate advocate and team leader at YNet Vietnam, Toan led LCOV Vietnam and focuses on empowering youth to influence climate policy and youth development through workshops and awareness campaigns.

Chu Ngoc Mai
Founder and Head of Organization, Sustainable Development with Youth Viet Nam
An environmental sciences student and climate activist, Mai founded Sustainable Development with Youth, leading projects that engage over 500 young people in eco-conscious practices and community initiatives.

Nguyen Hai Linh
General Manager, Viet Nam Youth Parliament Viet Nam
A graduate of International Communication, Linh focuses on youth engagement for sustainable development, working on initiatives to support inclusive jobs in the green economy and raising awareness through the Viet Nam Youth Parliament Project.

Samintang
President and Executive Director, Climate Catalysts Indonesia Indonesia
Indonesian activist and Founder of Climate Catalysts, Samintang champions BPOC youth voices and environmental education across several countries, especially for young women in STEM.

Raihan Zahrah Fadhliah
Founder, Environmentlid Indonesia
Zahra is a project manager focusing on waste management and sustainability, empowering youth in climate resilience and fostering community collaboration.

Maha Husain
Team Lead, Climate and Environment Initiative Pakistan
A legal researcher specializing in climate change and environmental law, Maha leads the Climate and Environment Initiative in Pakistan and promotes access to environmental justice. She has represented Pakistan at numerous international forums and completed her law degree at the University of Cambridge.

Tselmeg Urtnasan
Cofounder, Climate Mongolia Mongolia
Mongolian climate justice advocate and Co-Founder of Climate Mongolia, Tselmeg empowers youth with climate science education and was named a 2024 Climate Ambassador by the Global Youth Climate Network.

Hung Bu Ning
Director, Eco-Civic Harmony Alliance (ECHA) Myanmar
A veterinarian and 2019 graduate of the University of Veterinary Science, Hung founded a youth-led civil society organization focusing on poverty reduction and mental health for communities in low-development areas.

Maira Shaikh Qureshi
President and CEO, MJO EcoSpin Innovations Movers Envoy, Movers Programme Pakistan
A textile engineer and assistant manager in product development, Maira leads various projects related to SDGs and is actively involved in charity work, environmental initiatives, and youth empowerment. She is a recipient of multiple awards for her contributions to sustainable development.

Tanuja Pandey
Chair Person, Harin Nepal Nepal
Founder of Harin Nepal, Tanuja advocates for climate justice and gender equity, supporting marginalized communities affected by climate crises.

Sher Shah Khan Bangash
Founder and CEO, Skillistan Pakistan
A climate advocate and development scholar, Sher empowers youth for sustainable growth as a Movers Envoy, YECAP Fellow, and lead for LCOV Pakistan.

Ahmed Yar
Founder, IBTIDA (Initiating Change) Pakistan
Founder of IBTIDA, Ahmed is a climate activist and social welfare worker in Pakistan. He leads LCOV this year, collaborates with various foundations, and participates in international climate events, including COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Md Tanveer Ahamed Emon
Team Lead, Air Campus Bangladesh
Climate activist and engineering student, Tanveer leads air pollution awareness initiatives and works on youth climate projects, bringing his skills in data science to sustainability efforts.



Alexandre José da Costa Freitas
Animator, Laudato Si Movement Timor-Leste
A 17-year-old from Timor-Leste, Alexandre volunteers with the Laudato Si Movement and co-founded 'HAKBIT TALENTU FOINSAE', promoting environmental conservation and youth development through workshops and awareness campaigns.

Gadner Kagoval
Secretary, Sivoli Vahobau tribe Association Solomon Islands
Secretary of the Sivoli Vahobau tribe Association in the Solomon Islands, Gadner is involved in community initiatives focused on sustainable development.

Sagar Budha
Board Member, Future Nepal Nepal
An 18-year-old environmental engineering student from Kathmandu University, Sagar leads the Eco Club, drives sustainability campaigns, and advocates for environmental education. He is recognized as a Global Teen Hero and a 2024 Youth Sounding Board member for the EU Delegation in Nepal.

JOIN US



Get connected with the YECAP Shakers on WhatsApp



Learn more about the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP)



Stay updated on all YECAP opportunities for young people



Annex 3 RYPKA Directory

Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (RYPKA) Members 2024



Amira Aisya is a 29-year-old State Legislative Assemblywoman for Puteri Wangsa in Johor, Malaysia, and the Acting President of MUDA. She is dedicated to addressing climate change. Since her election in 2022, she has played a pivotal role in shaping policies, including the formation of the Johor Climate Change and Disaster Management Committee. In 2023, her committee successfully proposed ten climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, incorporated into the Johor 2024 Budget.

Cheung Wan Nin, the youngest member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (Hainan Provincial Committee, China), focuses on technical climate policy work, submitting formal government proposals on renewable energy use, carbon trading facilitation, and electric vehicle promotion. Their proposals, some of which have been incorporated into public policy, emphasize Hainan's green industry and conservation efforts. As the founding curator of the Global Shapers Community Haikou Hub, Cheung has led technical projects like beach waste recycling and ocean animal protection.

Carly Leung Pui Yee is a Co-opt Member of the Sub-committee on Youth and Capacity Building under Hong Kong's Council for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development. She actively promotes climate policies and youth participation in sustainable development initiatives through consultations, workshops, and outreach programs. Carly's efforts include establishing a task force for Hong Kong's waste charging scheme, ensuring youth representation, and facilitating youth dialogues to advocate for ambitious climate policies. Her work focuses on strengthening climate education at the secondary level and aligning Hong Kong's climate targets with regional and international frameworks.



Dikshya Subedi, a climate activist with six years of experience, has focused on the technical aspects of climate policy advocacy, particularly in Nepal's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). She collaborated with the Government of Nepal, leading youth consultations for the NDC 2.0, ensuring the inclusion of marginalized voices. As the Focal Point for LCOY Nepal and the NDC Working Group of YOUNGO, Dikshya leads the NDC For All campaign and coordinates youth-inclusive climate action. Her technical contributions include drafting resolutions, organizing youth climate conferences, and spearheading campaigns for inclusive climate policies at both national and international levels.

Emmanuel Causon is a licensed Environmental and Sanitary Engineer in the Philippines, serving as a Development Management Officer II at the Climate Change Commission (CCC) under the Office of the President. He is part of the Mitigation Team and a key member of the Philippines Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management and Reporting System (PGHGIMRS). He oversees GHG concerns for the Energy, Waste, and IPPU sectors, assists local governments with community-level GHG inventories, and reviews climate-related projects. His contributions have significantly improved local planning and monitoring of climate strategies, especially in developing tools for GHG emissions estimation.

Fithriyyah, a medical doctor and youth environmental activist from Indonesia, is actively involved in environmental governance across Southeast Asia. She represents the ASEAN Youth Forum (AYF) in the ASEAN Environmental Rights Working Group (AER WG), contributing to the development of the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights to a Safe, Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment. Fithriyyah has conducted multiple youth and civil society consultations to gather insights on environmental rights challenges, particularly for Indigenous communities. She has also supported local governance initiatives, including Pontianak's city regulation on environmental protection, emphasizing youth and Indigenous participation in environmental governance.

Duncan Wohwiehembe is the Parks & Open Spaces Manager for the National Capital District Commission (NCDC) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. He leads urban greening, climate change, and waste management initiatives, including a GIS-driven project to plant 1 million trees and a composting program using the windrowing method. Formerly a Principal Planner at the National Youth Development Authority, he integrated climate resilience into youth projects, notably the Sumkar District Youth Plan. With expertise in GIS mapping and urban planning, Duncan's work enhances urban sustainability, promotes biodiversity, and supports climate policies aligned with global and local environmental goals.

Fathima Shamla, the RCOY Asia and the Pacific Focal 2024, leads technical efforts in empowering youth for climate action in Sri Lanka. She collaborates with key government ministries to organize nationwide youth consultations and awareness campaigns. Fathima's technical expertise extends to supporting Sri Lanka's National Delegation in integrating youth perspectives into the country's NDC 3.0. She led the development of the first National Youth Statement for COP28 and initiated the Informal Climate Education Series in schools. Her work also includes contributing to the creation of a Climate Diplomacy Training Toolkit for advancing youth engagement in regional climate negotiations and policy development.

Gnana Sri Bhavani, Chief Minister's Green Associate for the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Tamil Nadu (India), works on climate action and environmental planning at the district and state levels. She leads initiatives like the Plastic Free Tenkasi plan, district climate action plans, and sustainable waste management in schools. Her projects include the Green Tamil Nadu Mission and Project Chiroptera for bat conservation. Bhavani's advocacy has led to the adoption of single-use plastic bans in government offices and schools and raised climate awareness through creative approaches like street plays and folk songs.

Mahmud Sakib is the Assistant Chief (Environment and Ecology) at Bangladesh's National River Conservation Commission (NRCC). He coordinates with key government ministries and agencies to address mandates from various climate policies, including the National Adaptation Plan, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, and the National River Conservation Commission Act. His work focuses on water resources management, sustainable land use planning, and climate adaptation. He also provides technical support for river restoration projects, pollution reduction in Dhaka's urban rivers, and the National Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan, while contributing to the development of legislative reforms and a comprehensive river management master plan.

Samantha Thian is Deputy Head of Operations at the IPCC Working Group II Technical Support Unit, based in Singapore. She has over a decade of experience in climate and youth engagement and is eager to contribute to the Regional Youth Parliament on Climate Action (RYPCA). She leads youth delegations for COP28 and COP29, has spearheaded community engagement policies in Singapore, and managed over 1,000 ambassadors as the One Young World Southeast Asia Coordinator. Samantha has advocated for climate policies at international forums like the G20 Youth Summit, and her initiatives have engaged and empowered hundreds of youth across ASEAN.

Kenley Rudimch-Kenneth, an AOSIS Fellow and Ocean and Climate Adviser in Palau's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, works closely with government ministries and NGOs to advance climate policies at national and international levels. He collaborates with Palau's National Office of Climate Change to enhance resilience and sustainable development and secures funding for climate initiatives through the Ministry of Finance. Kenley also engages local communities and integrates scientific research into policy planning. Internationally, he represents Palau in UNFCCC negotiations, advocating for increased climate finance and capacity-building for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

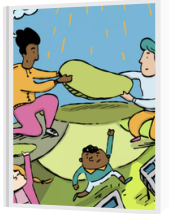
Nuzulia Fajriningrum, an energy analyst and modeller, was recently promoted within the Directorate General of New and Renewable Energy, Indonesia. She is leading three key projects: finalizing the Net-Zero Emission Roadmap for the Energy Sector in cooperation with CLASP, revising Indonesia's Nationally Determined Contribution with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and assisting the Energy Efficiency and Electrification Working Group (E3WG) for the JETP Secretariat in Indonesia. Additionally, she contributes to the development of fuel economy standards and energy efficiency studies. Her work involves formulating policy recommendations on energy security, including Indonesia's Net-Zero Emission Pathways by 2060.

Wangcuk Singye is an Environment Officer in Bhutan's Department of Environment and Climate Change, part of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. He is involved in formulating national climate policies, coordinating with various sectors like forestry and energy, and representing Bhutan in international climate negotiations, including the UNFCCC. Wangcuk's work also includes monitoring Bhutan's climate progress, conducting research on climate impacts, and promoting capacity-building initiatives. He collaborates with civil society and NGOs to enhance community participation in climate actions, ensuring Bhutan's efforts in climate adaptation and mitigation are robust and inclusive.

Sobita Gautam is currently serving in Nepal's parliament representing Kathmandu Constituency-2. She is Nepal's youngest elected parliamentarian and is a committed environmental advocate. Her journey from the countryside to the city shaped her passion for addressing climate issues, particularly the impacts of climate-induced disasters. As a member of the Climate Parliament Group, she actively pushes for stronger climate policies, engaging government bodies and stakeholders. Sobita collaborates with local governments and NGOs to raise grassroots awareness and bridge the gap between policymakers and affected communities. A key success has been securing a platform for youth voices in parliamentary climate discussions, fostering collaboration and amplifying innovative solutions.



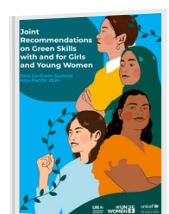
Annex 4 Additional Resources



[A Young Person's Booklet to Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#)



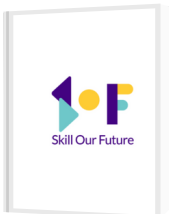
[From Margins to Mainstream: Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship in the Asia Pacific Region](#)



[Joint Recommendations on Green Skills with and for Girls and Young Women](#)



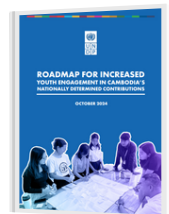
[Meaningful Youth Engagement in the Multilateral System](#)



[Online Course for Youth-Led Climate Organizations](#)



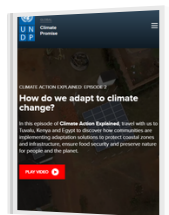
[People's Climate Vote 2024](#)



[Roadmap for Increased Youth Engagement in Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contributions](#)



[Youth Parliament Toolkit - Effective Platforms for Future Leaders](#)



[Asia-Pacific youth participation in UNDP Climate Action Explained video series](#)



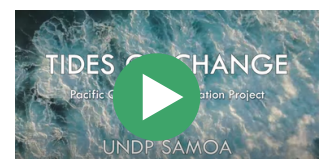
[Youth from Asia and the Pacific at COP29](#)



[Pillar of Democracy: Youth Political Engagement for Inclusive Governance Webinar Video](#)



[Springboard Climate Series Course](#)



[Tides of Change: Pacific Green Transformation Project Video Series](#)



Annex 5

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