APFSD YOUTH FORUM 2019 | CONCEPT NOTE

“Empowering Young People and Ensuring Inclusivity and Equality in Asia Pacific”

21 - 23 March 2019
Bangkok, Thailand

Introduction

In the lead up to High-level Political Forum 2018, the 6th Asian Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) will be convened between 27 - 29 March, 2019 in Bangkok. APFSD is an annual ministerial convening of the UN member states in the Asia-Pacific Region to review the implementation of SDG-2030 and is facilitated by UNESCAP.

This year’s APFSD, titled “Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality”, will primarily focus on the review of implementation status of SDG 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 in the region. The Forum will also focus on the implementation status of the regional roadmap for the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Background

The Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), YPEER and APRCEM’s Youth Constituency, coordinated by Youth LEAD, recognise that young people in this region face intersecting challenges to sustainable development across all dimensions of economic, social and environment. As a result, a space was created for young people’s significant engagement with the monitoring and review process of SDGs at the regional level.

In 2017, ARROW in collaboration with Youth LEAD, the Youth Constituency of APRCEM, and Co-chair of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM), organized the first-ever APFSD Youth Forum. The even witnessed more than 60 activists, advocates, and representatives from youth-led, youth-serving, and youth-allied organisations of diverse constituencies in Asia and the Pacific region. The APFSD Youth Forum 2017 Call-to-Action was developed as a result of this engagement, which captured the needs and demands of young people in terms of implementation and accountability of SDGS through an intersectional analysis and participatory approach.

In 2018, ARROW and the Youth Constituency of APRCEM convened the second APFSD Youth Forum prior to APFSD 2018, to review the implementation status of Sustainable Development Agenda through a dialogue process. The forum enabled a multi-stakeholder dialogue involving United Nations agencies from the region as well as regional organisations to discuss the rights of young people and sustainable development in the region. The APFSD Youth Forum 2017 Call-to-Action and the Regional Roadmap for Implementing 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was used as primary frameworks for reference during the review and dialogue process with relevant stakeholders. As a result, the APFSD Youth Forum 2018 Statement was developed to fully integrate young people’s issues and call in the official APFSD 2018 and related regional processes.

In 2019, the youth forum will once again be convened to review the 2030 Agenda to review these themes and clusters of goals. The forum will follow the previous modality and build on the existing APFSD Youth Forum 2018 Call-to-Action and the APFSD Youth Forum 2018 Statement to look at the implementation
status of the SDGs Asia-Pacific region from youth lens. This primary framework will be used to ensure the implementation of a holistic and intersectional approach. Focusing primarily on CSE education, inequalities, effects of climate change and means of implementation. The forum will also look at the other intersecting development goals and its effects on young people.

Specific objectives of the Youth Forum are outlined below:

**Objectives**

- To bring together diverse young people from various constituencies and background (urban, rural and grassroots) in order to create a realistic and holistic view on the realities of the Sustainable Development Agenda in Asia.
- To enable interaction and conversations between various stakeholders, including UN agencies, Member States, youth-led and youth-serving organisations to realise the commitments around SDGs, with a special focus on young people’s needs in the region.
- To address and approach the Sustainable Development Agenda with an intersectional lens, most especially from diverse voices, realities and experiences.

**Dates and Location**

21 – 23 March 2019
Bangkok, Thailand

**Methodology**

The youth forum will have series of panel discussions and dialogue sessions on relevant goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda. These sessions will include relevant stakeholders, youth-led and youth-serving organizations. Key findings and recommendations from each session will be developed into a statement to be shared and presented at the official APFSD Forum and the People’s Forum.

**Participants**

We aim to bring together young people from youth-led and youth-serving organisations across the Asia Pacific region. We intend to bring together participants from diverse constituencies and background (urban, rural and grassroots) as well as the youth representatives from diverse constituencies of APRCEM.

In addition, we aim to invite relevant UN agencies to participate in the interactive dialogue.

**Organisers:**

The Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), YPEER and AP-RCEM Youth Constituency, coordinated by Youth LEAD.