CONCEPT NOTE

SDG Help Desk: Welcome to UNESCAP’s SDG Gateway
A Joint UNESCAP and SDSN Webinar

BACKGROUND

The SDG Help Desk was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in March of 2018 in response to requests from Member States for capacity development support in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹

The SDG Help Desk is a gateway to knowledge products and services provided by UNESCAP and partners to support policy makers and stakeholders in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG Help Desk continuously expands its partnerships, providing access to wide range of knowledge providers and sustainable development platforms to support better knowledge dissemination, peer-learning and networking.

The SDG Help Desk has dedicated spaces to share knowledge products in various thematic areas, webinars, publications, events, data portals, best practices, e-learning course, toolboxes, videos, stories, and more. In November 2018, the SDG Help Desk Community of Practice (COP) was launched. Through the COP, its members share their ideas, views and comments on pertinent issues related to SDG implementation, exchange knowledge and best practices, and network with like-minded peers.

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was launched in 2012 by the then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to mobilise global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the implementation of the SDGs. Recognizing young people as the inheritors of the planet and being equipped with passion, creativity, energy and idealism, SDSN launched its official youth initiative (SDSN Youth) in 2015 to empower youth globally to create sustainable development solutions.

SDSN Youth educates young people about the SDGs and provides opportunities for them to pioneer innovative solutions that address the world’s biggest challenges. With this aim, SDSN Youth creates platforms for young people to connect, collaborate and integrate their ideas and perspectives into national and regional pathways for the implementation of the SDGs.

¹ ESCAP Resolution 72/6 “Committing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, May 2016
**INTRODUCTION**

The user base of the SDG Help Desk is expanding with every month, with a growing interest in the wide-range of knowledge products and services provided by partners from the United Nations system and beyond for the policy makers and sustainable development practitioners of the Asia-Pacific and farther afield.

This webinar is designed with the intention of briefing participants on the SDG Help Desk and raising awareness of its knowledge products and services among a diverse range of potential users and partners.

The participants will first be introduced to the SDG Help Desk: its design, service lines, navigation, and content. Next, the webinar will elaborate on the gateway’s utility for policy makers, sustainable development practitioners, and other users alike. After this, the critical role of partners to the gateway’s success and how to partner with the SDG Help Desk will be elaborated on.

After this, a representative from SDSN Youth will deliver an introduction to their organization’s Youth Solutions Program and its partnership with the SDG Help Desk. The representative will also provide more details on the Youth Solutions Program’s initiatives to support youth-led innovations for the SDGs through capacity-building, funding and investment opportunities, and visibility.

Following these overviews, our guest speakers will be presented. They will each detail, from their experience, the benefits of utilizing the SDG Help Desk resources. Last, the floor will be open for any questions and comments.

**AGENDA (1 hour)**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome and introduction</strong></td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Overview of the SDG Help Desk and SDSN Youth</strong></td>
<td>25 minutes</td>
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| **Speakers** | 5 minute introduction  
  10 minute substantive segment (5 minutes per speaker) |
| **Q&A** | 10 minutes |
| **Wrap-up** | 5 minutes |

**DATE**

13 February 2019, 16:00 Bangkok time

If you are unable to participate in the webinar, a recording of the event will be made available to all who register or upon request.

**REGISTRATION**

Please use the following link to register for this webinar.

Updates and information regarding the webinar, including how to join, will be shared with those who register a few days in advance of the event by way of email. For any questions or comments, contact either the SDG Help Desk at escap-sdghelpdesk@un.org or Christian Mortelliti at christian.mortelliti@un.org.

Note that registration will close on 12 February at 23:59.