

Listen to the Youth Voice

(Bonn, Jurnal Nasional) A plastic bag in Nicholas Gomez's hand might not seem interesting. It just an ordinary goody bag filled with Euro coins, with only some papers in it. And it cost no more than 131 Euro.

But when the 16 years old kid handling it to UN officer for climate change of UNFCCC, big smile appeared on his face and the small crowd clapped. The goody bag presented money from almost 250 students of Maurienschule high school in Euskirchen, Germany, as their donation for the developing countries to adapt against climate change impacts. The money will go to World Bank to fill in cash for adaption funds.

“We know and we can change something so we collect some money for the adaptation fund and for the world,” Gomez said.

His four fellows with the same pinky cheeks were listening to him. Gomez is their coordinator, who gathered 12 classes in his school last week to listen to climate change presentation. The presentation finally made them donate their pocket money to the world.

“Please don't see it from how much it is. We just teenagers and its not even our money. We just earn it from our parents,” Jacob Klein, said in shyness and laughed at him self.

But shyness gone when he being asked what is his goal to donate so called his parents money. This well stylish cut hair kid with pinky cheeks suddenly changed him self in to a climate change patriot. Klein said he tried to set sample for governments so they can also give funds and change what is happening in the world. Klein and his friend finds out from newspaper and televisions that world is now struggling with global warming while waiting for adaptation fund commitment from the industrials.

His friends, Britta Bornicke and Fabian Beusch nodded their heads. This climate change idea has made them think big although their just teenagers who sometimes felt alone in this world, struggled with their transition time from kids to be a grown ups.

“If we are working hand by hand, we can do it,” Bornicke said.

Beusch even think bigger, with his plan to invest in renewable energy in Germany, which the share is available for public.

These four kids actually has almost no reason to care. Climate change impacts never occurred in their daily life. They came from a small town in Germany with a cozy middle class life, where all their needs guaranteed by their government. Unlike their youth fellow from Youth Delegation organization, Anna Romero Salcedo from Mexico who had to experience bad pollution, hot air and acid rain in her city, these four kids breath more clean air and drink clean water everyday. Geographic position of Germany also made them don't have to face lots of disasters occurred as climate phenomenons.

But since 1930s, green movement has occurred in Freiburg, Germany sparked by non nuclear activists. The movements continues and made German people care more and

more on their environments, which lead to a green party that now rules in German Cancellor Angela Merkel's coalition government. And this government put climate change as one of the subject in geographic class for 9th grade kids.

“It's common topic for us in school to talk about climate change. And we saw it everyday in newspaper or televisions,” Klein said. The climate change trend also emerged outside the geographic class, since their English teacher likes to talk about it to practice their pronunciation. Climate change impacts might seems far far away for some people living in develop countries, but not to these kids.

“I have to say, these kids had more knowledge and understand more on climate change then average American grown ups are,” Stuart Scott of Ecology Center said. Scott was coming to Marienschule to give presentation on climate change, then end up collecting their donation for adaptation fund.

Scott suddenly wept himself. He tried to control his emotion while witnessing these innocent teenagers start thinking and doing something for their planet's future now.

“I have kids of my own, so...,” Scott stops and inhale deep breath. “So seeing them always made me think what fate my kids will had to face in the future if global warming continues.”

Both Bornicke, Beusch, Gomez and Klein were visiting UNFCCC meeting in Bonn, Germany to support their fellows from Youth Delegation. These young activists had the chance to meet world leaders in special meeting and tried to make those powerful leaders to concern more on humanity then just politics. Hopefully the world will listen to these youth voices.
