

Outcome Article

REGIONAL
CLIMATE
WEEKS

You(th) in capacity-building

The role of youth in building capacities to support the coherent implementation of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national development plans.

Organized by the PCCB in collaboration with the PCCB Network at the Virtual Thematic Sessions of the Asia-Pacific Climate Week on July 6th, the second side event of the series of regional side events 'You(th) in capacity-building' took the format of a regional panel discussion. The side-event provided a platform for regional dialogue in order to highlight the role of youth in building capacities to support the coherent implementation of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national development plans. Members of the PCCB Network and experts from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan and Indonesia were able to share their experience, recommendations and best practices of their work related to youth engagement in NDC processes with regards to their own country and the Asia-Pacific region.

You(th) in capacity-building
The role of youth in building capacities to support the coherent implementation of the nationally determined contributions and national development plans.

Panelists

Moderator
Mahawan Karuniasa
PCCB member

Cathy Yitong Li
Global Coordination
Team member of YOUNGO

Saqib Huq
Youth Programme Coordinator
ICCCAD

Syeda Hadika Jamshaid
Climate Change Expert
Ministry of Climate Change
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Vositha Wijenayake
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SLYCAN Trust

Ratna Juwita
Youth Legislator
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Lourdes Tibig
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17:00-18:00 GMT+9

INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES
PCCB Network
ICCCAD
SLYCAN TRUST
YOUNGO

REGIONAL CLIMATE WEEK
Virtual Thematic Sessions
Asia-Pacific | 6-9 July 2021

In order to set the scene and status quo of youth engagement in the region, the panelists commenced the discussion by highlighting that youth are not just capacity recipients but also capacity builders themselves. Panelists focused on inclusivity where the sustainable development agenda and climate targets for 2030 cannot be achieved without youth and other civil society stakeholders like women and indigenous peoples. The discussion highlighted that young people have more than just ambition, they come with technical knowledge, innovative and creative solutions, and the capacity to bring together diverse stakeholders and young people to engage in climate action.

This versatility of young people was considered critical in the implementation of the NDCs and sustainable development ambition and action by all members of the panel. At the same time, the discussion also underscored that the ability of youth to engage in NDC processes is often hindered by and affected by various factors.

Young people cannot always access finance as they do not have the backing from organizations that have the capacity to manage funding. At the same time, young people often lack a track-record of long-term engagements (which is often required when requesting for funding), simply because they are young and are on an entry-level in such formal spaces.

The discussion, therefore, also underpinned the importance of building such capacities on the market level by mobilizing support from non-Party stakeholders and the private sector. Such capacity-building would allow and enhance young people's access to finance through grants, loans, and scholarships that specifically support youth-led projects. Besides finance the panelists also flagged that there is a need for more youth-led initiatives within education systems. Therefore, the panel concurred that more efforts must be enabled towards identifying how education systems could focus on topics like climate action and sustainable development and provide young people with specific technical knowledge around national policies like the NDCs and scientific reporting like the IPCC report.

The panelists also included cases and examples of best practices from their experience in their countries of how young people are formally (and informally) engaged in climate action at different levels. However, despite the efforts of some countries in the region in engaging youth in decision-making processes around the NDCs, the panel agreed that there is room for a lot of improvement pertaining to fully engaging and making youth part of not just the implementation but at all levels of the NDC process. For this reason, the panel also discussed that there needs to be a two-way approach when enhancing the engagement of young people in climate action and NDCs process, which begins with reframing the status quo where young people are looked at as just the end beneficiaries of a project. This reframing was tied together with the opening where young people are both capacity recipients and capacity builders.

Following up on such reframing, the panelists highlighted those capacities of youth that can be built and augmented in order to enhance NDC implementation. Some examples and suggestions that arose from the discussion were that - young people must be encouraged and enabled to actively participate in national, regional and international initiatives, young scientists must be encouraged to assume leadership roles, and young people play a pivotal role as awareness builders and in other major roles in NDC roadmaps. The role of networks and inter-generational and multidisciplinary partnerships were also highlighted as avenues to successfully involve youth at all levels of planning and implementation of NDCs and NAPs. The side event concluded with a call to action in the form of a presentation by the NDC Partnership on their Youth Engagement Forum (YEF) on how they seek to build capacities of young people to engage in NDC-related process and gather a wide array of perspectives from NDC Partnership members and youth constituencies



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