



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Ministry of
the Interior and Safety



Incheon
Metropolitan City



6th Youth Forum on SDG Implementation

**Leveraging Public Governance to
Promote Youth Participation for
Climate Action and Building
Resilience**

OUTCOME REPORT



www.unpog.org

Background

Since 2017, the Youth Forum has established a platform to bring young people's views, ideas, solutions, and innovations to policy discussions on issues that matter to them. The 6th Youth Forum on SDG Implementation on "Leveraging Public Governance to Promote Youth Participation for Climate Action and Building Resilience" was co-organized by the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), with the support from its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), and in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea and Incheon Metropolitan City Government on 3 November 2022. The Forum served as a unique platform for young people to share their vision and elaborate on their substantive contributions to pursuing sustainable and resilient recovery from climate change amidst the continuing crisis.

A special youth session was organized during the UN DESA Symposium. The winners and participants of the 6th Youth Forum engaged in a dialogue with the UN Member States and explored ways and means of promoting youth development and engagement in climate action with the view of realizing the SDGs' Decade of Action.

The objective of the 6th Youth Forum was to

- Provide a platform for young people to engage in a dialogue on concrete governance actions to recover from climate change
- Provide an opportunity for meaningful youth engagement, consultation, collaboration, empowerment, participation and calls for climate action
- Share experiences and identify solutions to support youth in surmounting the devastating impact of climate change in their economic, social, health and education lives and bolstering their resilience to future shocks.
- Allow young people to contribute to the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and to shape policy recommendations.

Applications

Young individuals born between 1996 and 2006 could apply regardless of nationality, educational background, and residing country. More than 50 team essays were received under the following three themes. Nine teams were shortlisted after the preliminary evaluations of their essays.

- Theme 1: Strengthening local governance for climate action and building resilience at the local level
- Theme 2: Promoting inclusive climate action and resilience building and ensuring leaving no one behind
- Theme 3: Fostering partnerships with the private sector for climate action and building resilience

Through the evaluation, three teams were awarded. The first prize was the ministerial award from the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea. The second prize was a ministerial from the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea. The third prize was a mayoral award from the Incheon Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea.

Sessions

Mr. Kyu Chang Ko, Head of the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)/DPIDG/UN DESA, opened the Forum with a recognition of the significant platform the Youth Forum provides, as it brings young people's views, ideas, solutions, and innovations to policy discussions on issues that matter to them, clearly demonstrates the commitment of the United Nations to ensure that the youth of today and tomorrow are empowered, included and their voices are being heard. He stressed that young people have the potential to bring innovative solutions and new perspectives to address the world's most pressing challenges. To bring young people to the center of decision-making and leadership, he called to move beyond tokenistic box-ticking exercises to more equitable and sustainable youth-centered approaches for youth engagement.

Mr. Seong-su Kim, Director-General of the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea, highlighted that the current time is crucial for youth across the world to actively engage in making heard their voice, ideas, solutions and innovative thinking in the international community and also taking part in the SDG implementation as a global citizen and the Sustainable Development generation. He stressed that advancing SDG implementations and ensuring no one is left behind is only possible when youth walk together, regardless of boundary, nationality, gender, culture, etc.

Mr. Je Hak Jang, Ambassador of International Relations, Incheon Metropolitan City, recognized that programmes of UNPOG characteristically have encouraged young people to get involved in the discussion on the implementation of the SDGs. He noted that young people would play a crucial role in proactively dealing with common problems.

Ms. Abigael Kima, Host and Producer, Hali Hewa, the Continent's first Youth-led Climate Podcast, shared her story about becoming a climate activist. Kima advocates for real stories and experiences of African communities negatively impacted by climate change to be used as reference points for decision-making. Her podcast features African activists and climate experts as co-hosts and discusses climate themes, including energy transition, loss and damage, youth participation in intergovernmental processes and indigenous rights. She believes that we can achieve climate justice for Africa by acknowledging Africa's unique climate challenges and taking appropriate actions—such as a clear pathway and financing for just energy. She will attend this weekend's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt. She expects that Africa's priorities will be acted upon in COP27.

Mr. Mahmudul Hasan, Youth Coordinator, UNDP Bangladesh, shared the UNDP's programmes to support youth in Bangladesh, such as strengthening civic engagement of youth, involving youth in climate action and supporting the economic empowerment of youth. He shared some cases of start-ups and social enterprises for a climate-positive Bangladesh. Youth entrepreneurship is a high-potential solution to address climate change and drive inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Essay Presentation

Three teams were grouped in each Theme, as shown in the table below

Theme	Teams
Strengthening local governance for climate action and building resilience at the local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WaterG • TUNA • TEA
Promoting inclusive climate action and resilience building and ensuring leaving no one behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HaAnTa

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanatani • Climate Justice League
Fostering partnerships with the private sector for climate action and building resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-Kreen • EcoBators • Cli-mouth

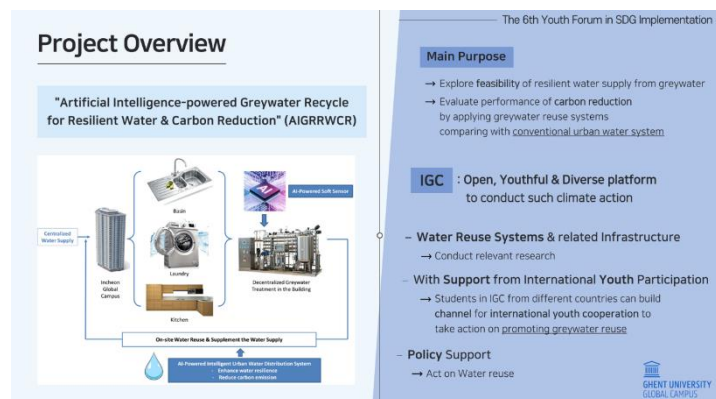
The initiatives proposed a policy or government programmes to engage youth for climate action and building resilience in society. The initiatives answer the following guiding questions:

- What are the current challenges youth face? What are their current needs?
- What is the scope of your project? (eg. national, regional, local)
- Which stakeholders will be engaged? (Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, local/national government, private sector, etc.)
- What are the main objectives of your policy or government program?
- What methodology approach will you use to engage the youth?
- How will you monitor or measure the achievements of your policy or government program?

Strengthening local governance for climate action and building resilience at the local level

Team WaterG presented the initiative “Artificial Intelligence-powered Greywater Recycle for Resilient Water and Carbon Reduction.” This programme evaluates greywater reuse systems, including water quantity and quality, and their environmental performance at the building level, which corresponds to the theme “Strengthening local governance for climate action and building resilience at the local level”. Moreover, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered methods will be integrated into this program to investigate using AI-powered approach for monitoring water quality and developing intelligent water distribution models, which can fulfill the water demands in different scenarios.

The primary purpose of this program is to explore the feasibility of a resilient water supply from greywater and evaluate the performance of carbon reduction by applying greywater reuse systems compared with conventional urban water systems. Conventional urban water systems, including centralized water and wastewater systems, require colossal energy consumption for water transportation and distribution, which is unlikely to achieve SDGs. Thus, to enhance water recycling and mitigate water scarcity, listed in SDGs, the decentralized water reuse system will be a new trend for retrofitting and updating municipal water infrastructures.



Team TUNA shared their “Proposals for the establishment of sustainable local-level ecological nets: Focusing on the interaction between youth and public.” It is a channel where local environmental groups, experts, and young activists meet regularly based on government support, and aims to discuss medium- to long-term measures against environmental issues and eventually apply them to the region. Since the current climate change discussion is being discussed only in global and global units, the lowest structure of climate change, “local,” tends to be excluded.

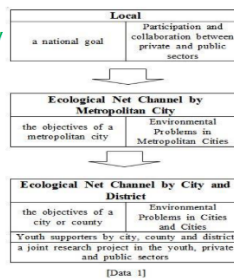
Process

Ecological Net Channel by Metropolitan City

- Set objectives of a metropolitan city
- Control Environmental problems in Metropolitan cities

Distirct Ecological Net

- Set detail goals(District dimension)
- Clearing the gap between perception and action



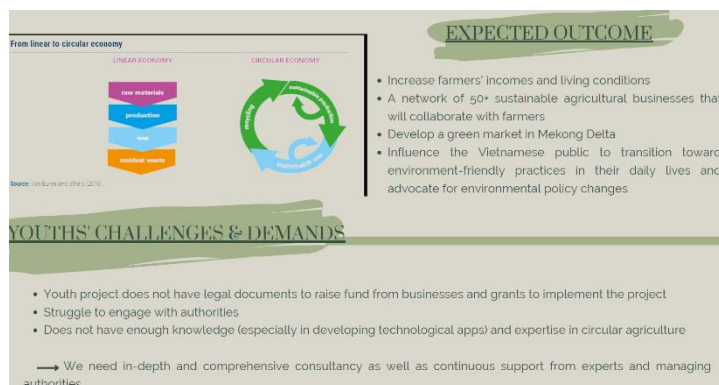
By opening ecological net channels at the city, county, and district levels, each region can focus on different environmental problems facing each other, allowing them to converge from abstract goals set by the metropolitan and provincial ecological net channels to more detailed goals. In addition, there is an advantage of narrowing the distance between perception and behavior in that it promotes awareness of environmental problems, targets

young people living in each region and puts their countermeasures into action. In addition, governance sustainability can be expected through consultation and collaboration between local environmental groups and experts who have studied the region for a long time, and not one-time, medium- to long-term projects based on cooperation from the public sector.

Team TEA proposed a project to strengthen the connection between local governance and the youth to raise their awareness and promote practical action in the fight against air pollution in South Korea. In detail, the project will include a mobile application and campaigns to join hands with the government to fund air purifier installation in many public places in heavily polluted cities. The project is called “Air-Fare” to remind our participants of the price we are paying for our previous and current generation’s actions and the much higher price our children will pay if we do not act now.



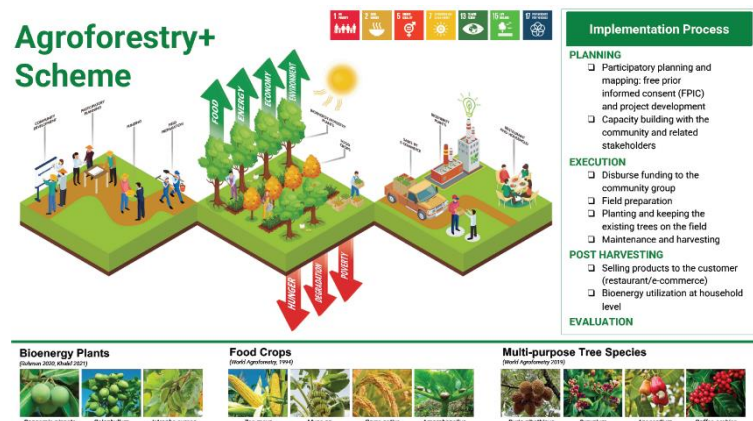
Promoting inclusive climate action and resilience building and ensuring leaving no one behind



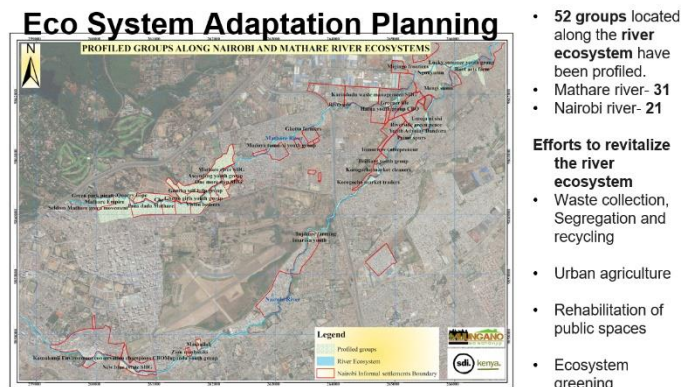
Team HaAnTa presented the initiative on “Green Farm: The Future of Vietnam’s Circular Agriculture”. The initiative is an app called Green Farm that helps farmers transition from conventional to circular agriculture practices, thus improving their living conditions, mitigating the effects of climate change, and pioneering circular agriculture methods in Vietnam. The app aims to provide helpful information

on circular agriculture, instruct the farmers on effectively implementing the method, and connect farmers with businesses and youth volunteers.

Team Wanatani proposed “Agroforestry+: Integrating food-energy-environment nexus for sustainable ecosystem and social resilience.” Agroforestry+ is an advanced agroforestry system that incorporates bioenergy plants and allows various stakeholders, including young people, to work hand-in-hand based on their capacity to enhance the benefits. Differing from the conventional practice, Agroforestry+ will integrate social enterprise with a Penta helix approach and the local communities as the main actor. This aims to set the agroforestry products to be utilized optimally, and a wide range of people can benefit.

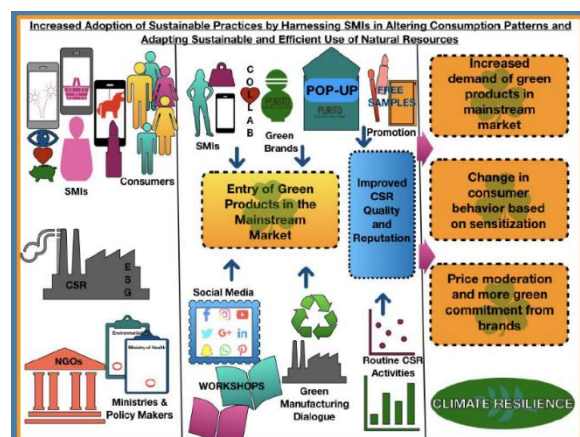


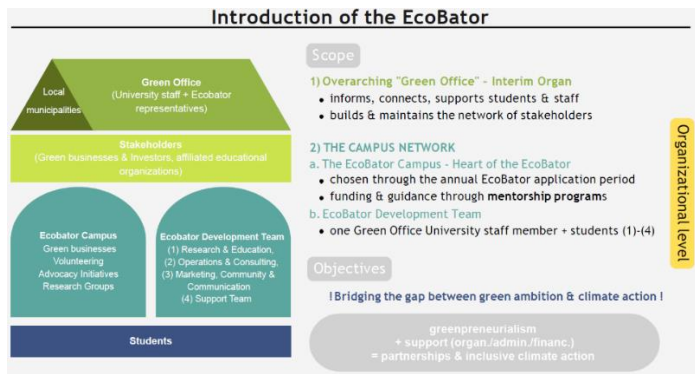
Team Climate Justice League proposed inclusive, climate-just social and economic development and national urban policy and practice. The youth-led proposed program seeks to advance, Promoting inclusive climate action and resilience building and ensuring leaving no one behind amongst youth in Kenya’s Mukuru, Kibera, Huruma & Mathare informal settlements. Youth (aged 35 and below) comprise about 80% of the population in Nairobi’s urban informal settlements. Investing in a youth empowerment program sets the city toward greater prosperity and inclusivity.



Fostering partnerships with the private sector for climate action and building resilience

The initiative of **Team Up-Kreen** is built on the idea that the need for improvement in green purchasing can be fulfilled by Korea’s collectivist approach, i.e., by utilizing young Social Media Influencers (SMIs), which could bridge the gap between the consumers and cosmetic companies (private sectors).



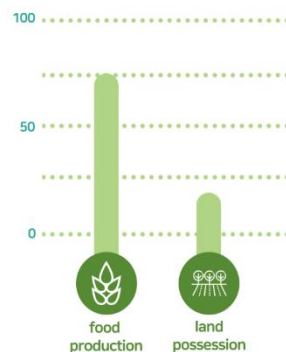


Team EcoBators proposed “A Multipurpose Green Platform on Campus to Foster Inclusive Climate Action and “Greenpreneurship” of Young People.” By creating a multi-level platform rooted in a shared framework that fosters communication and meaningful partnerships between universities and the public and private sector, it strives for sustainable practices led by the youth to become the norm on

campus and beyond.

Team Cli-mouth proposed a policy to redesign school meals in developing countries. The policy intends schools to choose the most nutritious, environment-friendly, efficient, student-satisfying, and price-competitive meal designed and composed by the youths. When chosen by the local school, they can provide it with the support of the local government. Our policy aims to solve climate

change in two ways: combating malnutrition and enhancing education. Their second proposal for the solution is to make a community of the private sectors that can restrict each other’s CO2 emissions, which generally results in the deficiency of the crop and malnutrition. It is universally known that it is the private sector (especially large corporations) that emit the most amount of CO2.



Winners

Six evaluators evaluated the thoroughness of the presentations according to the essay. The evaluators graded each Team based on the coherence of the content and the confidence of delivery by the presenters.

Team Wantani won the Ministry of the Interior and Safety. Team Ecobators won Ministerial awards from the Ministry of Environment, the Republic of Korea and Team TEA and HaAnTa won Mayoral awards from Incheon Metropolitan.

Closing

Mr. Kyu Chang Ko, Head of the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)/DPIDG/UN DESA, closed the Forum by highlighting that the Forum demonstrated that youth are critical thinkers, change-makers, innovators, communicators and leaders. Given the necessary skills and opportunities needed to reach their potential, young people can be a driving force for achieving the 2030 Agenda. We must attentively listen to young people in addressing the root causes contributing to climate change and other social and economic issues. To do so, we need to be honest, responsive and accountable, and we need to be bold and resilient as well. He thanked all the Teams for sharing their wisdom and ideas.

Way Forward

UNPOG will continue the Youth Forum to bring young people's views, ideas, solutions, and innovations to policy discussions on issues that matter to them. UNPOG will reform the Youth Forum to better reap the potentials of the youth for innovative solutions to address governance challenges, translate the initiatives into local actions. The reformed Forum will provide a space for candid discussions among young people and policymakers to identify gaps and next steps to implement the 2030 Agenda. Participants would also be encouraged to make individual and group commitments for action to build resilient and inclusive societies as the world is trying to recover and get on track on the implementation of the SDGs during this decisive SDG Decade of Action and Delivery.

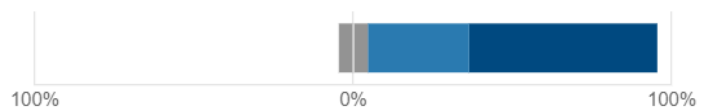
Post-event Survey

22 responses were collected out of 27 participants. Following are the results of the survey.

Relevance (1 Lowest - 5 Highest)

1 2 3 4 5

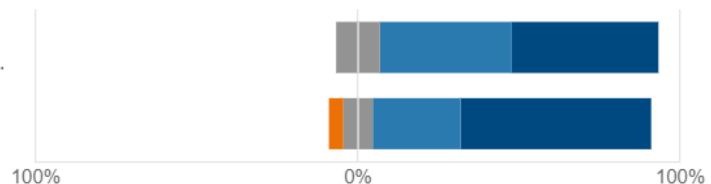
The Forum sessions are informative with quality presentations.



Effectiveness (1 Lowest - 5 Highest)

1 2 3 4 5

The Forum provided a platform for young people to engage in a dialogue on concrete governance action...



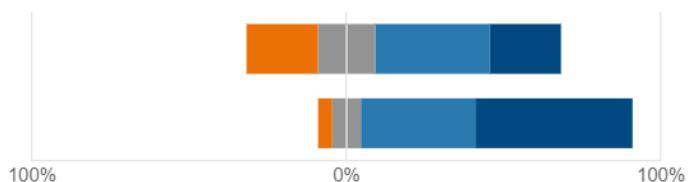
The Forum provided an opportunity for meaningful youth engagement, consultation, collaboration,...



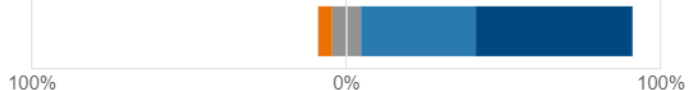
Efficiency (1 Lowest - 5 Highest)

1 2 3 4 5






The time available for presentations and discussions was adequate.



The online platform used was user-friendly and effective.



Satisfaction with the Youth Forum

	Very satisfied	6
	Satisfied	12
	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2
	Dissatisfied	0
	Very dissatisfied	1



Comments from the Teams

- This should be organized on regular basis. The forum should organize another forum which focuses on informal settlements since these are marginalized groups who lack access to basic services like water, electricity, health, shelter. The winners had very good innovative ideas but for sure it will only benefit the formal areas which contributes to only 20 percent of the city's population, in the case of my region. Thanks for the opportunity and congrats to winners.
- Thank you for providing a meaningful platform to young people from various backgrounds of expertise. I hope this forum will sustainably accommodate young people to deliver their ideas to a broader range of participants. Thanks to the organizers for your hard work!



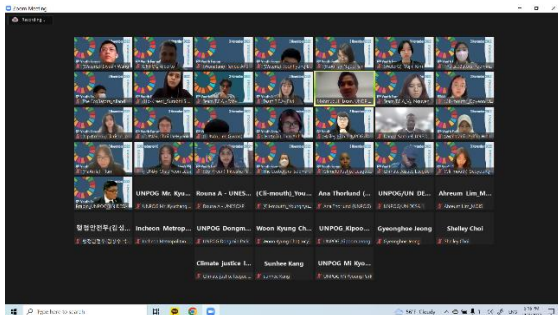
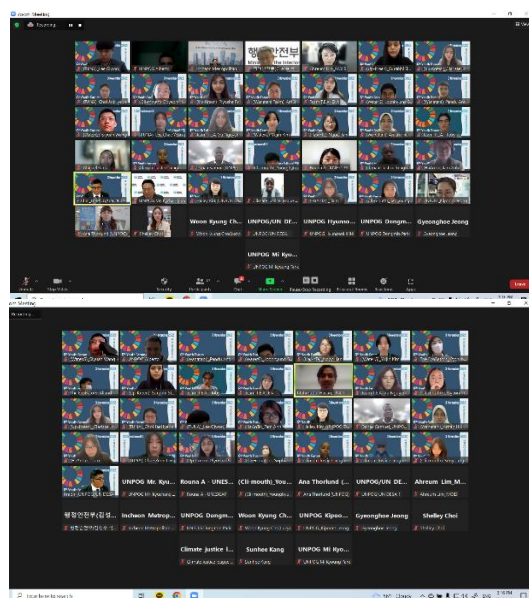
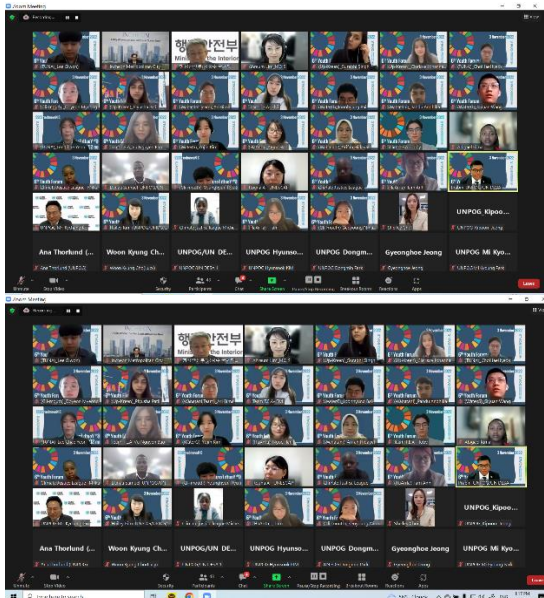
3 November 2022

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6th Youth Forum Outcome Report

