



“Building a Greener Future: Education as a Climate Solution”

Side Event: 11th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

February 21, 2024, 16:30-18:00 GMT+7,

Theatre, Ground Floor, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok

Organizer(s)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Regional Office in Bangkok

Co-organizer(s)

Save the Children, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Plan International,
World Vision, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Association of Southeast
Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat

Event Format

In-Person with option to view online

Registration

To register for this side event, please use the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uq5PHbM5-kuwswlpVrERIAeqsOQ8MzNPuh-WaUVAR2dUOUhTRERLWIFJRUEwWUMySDNRskpUVTVMs4u>

For in-person participation: To attend the side event in-person, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the APFSD by February 6 using the link here:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1007683/>

Please register using the option “Registration for Others” and choose your side event. Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Center.

Background

Strong education systems are essential to power the shift to safer, greener, more equitable and just societies. Learning about climate and environmental protection, in addition to developing 21st century skills, can strengthen an individual's resilience, including the ability to think critically and other socio-emotional competencies that are central for environmental and climate action. Building a more secure, sustainable world where every boy and girl can fully achieve their potential requires prioritizing and financing education.

The world's interconnected crises, from climate change to economic and food security, affect the well-being of children, denying them their basic rights. Estimates show that 244 million children will not set foot in a classroom this year, while 1 billion are at extremely high risk of suffering from the climate crisis, impacting their health and ability to learn. The economic downturn and debt challenges force the poorest families to decide whether and which children can go to school. Girls are often more at risk of dropping out of school and being forced into domestic labour and early marriage.

This event will highlight new research on the impacts of the climate crisis, country progress, young people's perspectives, and the power of multisectoral partnerships, including UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership, to innovatively address the impacts of climate on children through education.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

- How are the climate and learning crises impacting poverty, gender equality and economic stability?
- What is the impact of these crises on children and young people? What are their recommendations?
- How are countries responding to these crises and using education to advance climate action?
- What is the role of education in climate action? How can investing in education and climate contribute to sustainable development, children's wellbeing and achieving gender equality and inclusion?
- How can climate financing be more child-responsive and used to support education and children's learning outcomes?

Through a diverse panel, our side event aims to amplify the voices of children and young people, highlighting the profound impact of climate on their ability to survive, thrive, and learn; and highlight education's role in achieving SDG 13. Anticipated outcomes involve fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue among countries, youth, and civil society to jointly address climate and education crises. We aim to encourage cross-sector collaboration

on climate issues by sharing concrete program and financing examples. Furthermore, we seek to build momentum for the UNESCO Greening Education Partnership and advocate for climate-smart education systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

Programme

Building a Greener Future: Education as a Climate Solution		
Networking and coffee	Refreshments would be provided	25 min 16:00– 16:25
Opening		
Ms Soohyun Kim, Director of the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok	Opening Remarks	5 min 16:30-16:35
Mr Roger Yap Chao Jr., Assistant Director, of Education, Youth & Sport Division, ASEAN Secretariat	Video Message from ASEAN Secretariat	2 min 16:35 – 16:37
Panel Discussion		
Ms Antonia Mandry, Programme Specialist, UNICEF	Moderator Introduces panelists, panelists take their seat	3 min 16:37-16:40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Anita Paudel, Program Director, Sustainable Development and International Relation, NPC National Planning Commission of Nepal (SDG report) Ms Angelica Natasha Co, Chair, Committee on Welfare of Children, House of Representatives, Republic of the Philippines Ms Monika Budha, Youth Representative, Nepal (TBC) Ms Deepali Gupta, Advocacy and Regional Partnerships Specialist (Asia Pacific), 	Panel Discussion: questions to be developed	60 min 16:40 – 17:40

Global Partnership for Education (GPE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC, Cambodia Representative • TBC 		
Closing		
Mr Shaheen Chughtai, Regional Advocacy and Campaign Director, Asia Regional Office, Save the Children, Save the Children	Closing remarks	5 min 17:40 – 17:45

For information, please contact Ms Faryal Khan, Programme Specialist at UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok, at f.khan@unesco.org