



## **11<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development Youth Climathon** Innovative solutions for the acceleration of climate action in Asia and the Pacific **Concept Note- FINAL SESSION**

**Venue:** Online and United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

**Organizers:** United Nations ESCAP, Hackathon Thailand, Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform, UNESCO, UNFCCC RCC AP, and Global Climate Action Partnership and Asia LEADS

**Date:** 20 February 2024 at 13:00-14:15 (GMT+7); **Event page:** <https://bit.ly/YouthClimathon2>

### **Background**

There is a growing recognition of the critical role that youth play in climate action. As highlighted in the [youth statement](#) presented at the 79<sup>th</sup> ESCAP Commission Session, youth across Asia and the Pacific are calling for more engagement in climate action and support for their development, including in implementing climate action solutions. Youth are in a strong position to drive solutions forward as they are in tune with the issues and developments of the present, are technologically savvy, and have the energetic, innovative, and disruptive approaches needed to accelerate climate action. As the recent United Nations Secretary-General [policy brief](#) on meaningful youth engagement in policy and decision-making processes points out, “Youth are key to identifying new solutions that will secure the breakthroughs that our world urgently needs.”

Nowhere is this more applicable than in the Asia-Pacific region. Asia and the Pacific is home to many of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change and is home to over half of the global youth. It is also the largest emitter of greenhouse gases. While progress needs to be accelerated for all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be met by 2030 in Asia and the Pacific, only SDG 13 on climate action has seen an overall **regression in progress**, according to ESCAP’s [SDG Gateway](#). Limited decarbonization and green growth across sectors, inefficient food systems, mounting losses due to natural disasters, and continued deforestation and other forms of ecosystem degradation are some of the major reasons for the poor progress. Additionally, a lack of engagement across the whole of society stands as a major challenge. Thus, international cooperation and collaboration is mentioned in the Secretary-General’s [Climate Action Acceleration Agenda](#), which would also entail engaging youth in climate action for a sustainable regional future. Fortunately, societies are already leveraging the presence of large young populations, but more needs to be done.

The [11<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (APFSD)—held from 20-23 February 2024—will examine the multiple crises of **poverty, food security, and climate change** in the region and their relationship to each other. The APFSD is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and presents an ideal opportunity to bring **innovative youth solutions on climate action** forward to a diverse regional audience.

## About

Organized by United Nations ESCAP, Hackathon Thailand, Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform, UNESCO, the UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific, and Global Climate Action Partnership and Asia LEDS Partnership as an associated event to the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), this climate action ideathon is engaging youth from the Asia-Pacific region (ages 18-30) to develop practical, yet innovative, solutions to accelerate climate action.

This final session of the APFSD Youth Climathon will see the presentation of innovative youth solutions for climate action from the Youth Climathon finalists. Four talented teams of youth will present their solutions covering the themes of urban resilience, climate smart agriculture, and natural ecosystems. These solutions represent over a month of work from preceding workshops and pitches and are backed by the passion and ingenuity of youth. Youth are critical stakeholders in climate action and in securing sustainable futures. Engaging them in solutions today is key for tomorrow.

Team Name	Key Description
<b>Carbon Phaseout</b>	Carbon Phaseout's GAIA app guides users in choosing travel options with minimal waste and emissions to protect ecosystems in the Asia-Pacific region by 2030.
<b>Terra Grow</b>	Terra Grow addresses SE Asia farmers' tech hesitations with a climate smart agritech solution, optimizes production and resource efficiency through precision agriculture techniques, empowering Southeast Asian farmers for more sustainable and resilient farming practices.
<b>Triple Echoes</b>	Triple Echoes introduces Echo Block, an advanced bio-based construction material uniquely equipped with an activated carbon layer and increased porosity, not only addresses the urban heat island phenomenon in Kuala Lumpur but also tackles oil palm biomass accumulation, offering a versatile and cost-effective solution for construction in both urban and rural settings.
<b>YouthDee</b>	YouthDee addresses urban heat challenges with Thermocane Shield, a sustainable heat insulator from repurposed sugarcane waste, addressing urban heat islands in the Asia-Pacific, designed for SMEs to reduce electricity costs and minimize air conditioning usage, contributing to greenhouse gas emission reduction.

## Who can participate?

This event is open to Climathon and APFSD participants (onsite and online) and any other interested persons (online). Given its international nature, it will be held in English. Please register by **6 February** at <https://bit.ly/ClimathonReg>

Please read the registration form carefully. For onsite participants, you must also register on the UN Indico system using the form "Registration for Others" here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007683/registrations/>

## Session Objectives

The objective of this final Youth Climathon session is to present youth solutions to a diverse panel and audience of APFSD participants. It will provide an opportunity for intergenerational learning and collaboration and highlight the importance of engaging youth in the development of climate action solutions as key stakeholders.

**For more information**, please contact: Christian Mortelliti at [christian.mortelliti@un.org](mailto:christian.mortelliti@un.org) and Sindy Marattanachai at [sindy@hackathonthailand.com](mailto:sindy@hackathonthailand.com)

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