

Concept Note: Side Event

79th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

“Acceleration of Climate Action: Engagement and empowerment of Youth for the future”

Date: May 17, 2023

Time: 15.30- 17.00 hrs

Modality: Hybrid

Venue: MR-A, Level 1, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Organizers: The United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism for Asia-Pacific and its Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Raising Climate Ambition, which includes: Environment and Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific (UNFCCC/RCC Asia Pacific); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Children’s Fund East Asia and Pacific (UNICEF); United Nations Environment Programme for Asia and the Pacific; Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP)

Background:

Youth are the inheritors of the future and, when properly engaged, catalysts for innovative and driven actions in the present. As such, they are among the most crucial stakeholders for accelerating climate action both today and tomorrow. As a region with a large Youth population that is uniquely challenged and threatened by climate change, the Asia-Pacific continues to focus their enhanced attention on engaging and supporting Youth in the climate action arena, building off the pre-existing vibrant Youth space that the region has to offer. The Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions (YECAP) platform, for one, was convened in February 2021 to capitalize on the key strengths of convening partners and has expanded to include regional United Nations agencies. Some of these activities are well-aligned with the objectives of the Issue-based Coalition (IBC) for “Raising Ambition for Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific.” These include opportunities for the Youth to influence the development, implementation, and monitoring of climate change policies such as NDCs, LT-LEDS, and NAPs. This will help the Youth from the region—when provided with a scope to engage—to be more involved in important international, regional, and national climate negotiations. Therefore, this side event aligns closely with the theme and function on the 79th Commission Session and adds further diversity and value to the event.

Objectives:

The objectives of this session are:

- a) Advancing the knowledge of young leaders on opportunities available in Asia and the Pacific for them to engage with.
- b) Sharing examples from the region on Youth-inclusive climate governance strategies and actions.
- c) Providing a platform for Youth to reflect on challenges and opportunities building on the YECAP Training Program.
- d) Formulating a way forward with engaged United Nations agencies to support young leaders in the lead up to COP 28 by sharing opportunities and knowledge.

Registration:

In person:

To attend in person, you must first register on Indico at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1003482/>

- For those **only attending the side event**, select "Registration for others (Media, Side Events, Exhibition, etc)" under Representation type when you register and **then also** register via a separate form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/t0R6SwdJcz>
- For those attending the full Commission Session, government/organization credentials are required.

Following these registration instructions is important for organizers to facilitate participant's access to the venue.

Online:

To attend online, please register at <https://forms.office.com/e/t0R6SwdJcz>

- **Meeting link** <https://shorturl.at/mrK02> →



Registration is important for organizers to support participants virtually.

Provisional Agenda:

Opening Remarks	10 minutes
Speaker 1	Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP Co-Chair of IBC on Raising Climate Ambition

Speaker 2	Mr. Mozaharul Alam, Regional Coordinator, Climate Action, UNEP ROAP Focal Point of UNEP, IBC on Raising Climate Ambition
Panel Discussion (Moderated session – 2 Qs for the panelists)	60 minutes (Moderated by UNFCCC/RCC Asia Pacific)
Hyunjin Chang, ACE Team, UN Climate Change Secretariat	ACE as a tool for engaging with Youth
Fairda Malem, ACE Focal Point of Thailand (Online)	Sharing experience of engaging with Youth through ACE activities in Thailand
Panelist from Timor Leste	Bringing Youth-inclusive climate action example from Country 2
Panelist from Mongolia	Bringing Youth-inclusive climate action example from Country 3
YECAP Training Program representative	Reflecting on the YECAP Training program (<i>to be nominated by the participants in Day 2, 16 May</i>)
Serena Bashal, YECAP Partner representative (UNICEF)	Sharing experience from COP27 and engagement at the Children’s and Youth Pavilions
Clarence Gio Almoite, Co-convenor of Asia Pacific Youth Environment Network (APYEN)	To share challenges around accessing Climate Finance by Youth
Q&A	10 minutes
Closing Remarks	10 minutes
Speaker 1	Akiko Yamamoto, Regional Team Leader, Asia and the Pacific, for the Nature, Climate, and Energy Team of UNDP
Speaker 2	Andrea Camponogaro, Global RCC Lead, UN Climate Change Secretariat

For more information on this side event, please contact:

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