



Contribution to the ESCAP Seventh Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

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[UNISC International]

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Agenda item(s): Review of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017

Organization profile

In compliance with the UN Charter, our organization is developing policy recommendations and actual activities in the Asia-Pacific and African regions, based in Japan, on environmental issues, education issues, and work style reform, to realize the full achievement of the SDGs. Today, the Asia-Pacific region is facing issues such as extreme weather and sea level rise due to climate change, and we believe it is important to provide input on infrastructure development and other aspects to address these issues. We are working with national laboratories and local governments to address these issues, including the development of Internet access and educational resources.

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Main messages, recommendations, or points for consideration

- Consider the creation of a new form of democracy through the promotion of appropriate information disclosure and participation in the decision-making process itself, whereby citizens, organizations, and businesses can review the outcomes and processes of state decision-making on the environment and development.

- The training of green jobs and green skills to configure social infrastructure based on green infrastructure considering the damage caused by extreme weather through today's climate change should be expanded, and comprehensive social infrastructure, including communications, healthcare, and education, should be built over a long period of time.
- Promote the transformation to sustainable social infrastructure and investment in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the environmental sector to promote the development of ambitious environmental protection policies through the creation of green industries and spatial environmental protection zones, including land, sea, and underground, in consideration of biodiversity and environmental preservation.

Background and main text

In today's Asia-Pacific region, against a background of remarkable economic development, wildfires, floods, and droughts are occurring frequently due to climate change, and this has led to a wide variety of problems, including the collapse of coastlines, an increase in landslides, and the decline of local industries. In particular, the loss of territory and local communities in states classified as SIDS and LSDs is a particularly prominent problem. To address this problem, it is essential to build a sustainable social infrastructure over the long term through technology transfer and human resource dispatch, in addition to mere financial investment.

Today, according to WHO, 24% of the world's population is under the age of 24, and the number of young people in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to be over 1 billion. UNESCO statistics need to show that more than 40% of young people in Asia and the Pacific are deprived of learning opportunities due to the COVID-19 epidemic and extreme weather conditions caused by climate change. These lost learning opportunities are likely to lead to job constraints in the future, which could overshadow future social infrastructure building.

In addition, democratic decision-making in many countries has made it more difficult for policies to be clearly, fully, and quickly implemented, making it difficult to curb today's growing authoritarianism, both from a policy and economic perspective.

Thus, I believe that there is a need to review the current state of development and environmental protection, and the state of democracy that makes these decisions, so that policy decisions can be a little more quickly and reflect multiple perspectives. On this basis, we believe that there is an urgent need for a system that guarantees the opportunity for the next generation to present their views considering the views of the next generation and that it is necessary to take a fresh look at future activities for sustainable development and environmental conservation in the Asia-Pacific region.

To collectively address these issues related to climate change, development, and compensation for learning opportunities, it is imperative that we promote ambitious policy decisions in partnership with civil society, business, and youth organizations, with the highest priority on promoting investment in the development of sustainable social infrastructure through investments in educational capital within our own countries. There is a strong need to expand social infrastructure throughout the land and deepen knowledge of sustainable development through investments in education and infrastructure facilities. It is also imperative to set up a sustainable economic foundation by promoting activities through the

development of green jobs and green skills in partnership with small and medium enterprises and civil society organizations.

To solve these problems, our organization would like to advocate the need to implement an examination of the adequacy of decision-making regarding the protection of human rights and environmental conservation through a system that implements the participation and review of citizens, including youth, in all decision-making processes, as follows

- Promote public access to information that will allow citizen groups and businesses, including youth, to review past environmental protection and related policies, and ensure that there is a place to present the results of these reviews to politicians and bureaucrats.
- Allow all sectors to take part in the policy-making process and promote a debate that shapes a new, flexible, and diverse democracy.
- Promote comprehensive support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop ambitious and sustainable green and development-oriented technologies, including financial, human, and technical resources, and job creation.
- Fostering engineers who can build sustainable social infrastructure by cultivating skills and technologies that lead to green jobs through lifelong and recurrent education.
- Consider the development of ambitious environmental protection policies through the establishment of spatial ecological protection zones, including land, sea, and underground areas, for the purpose of creating sustainable social infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Promote a shift to a sustainable and economically rational social infrastructure, such as compact cities that utilize existing and new infrastructure.
- To expand the infrastructure required for sustainable living, such as education, healthcare, telecommunications, and auxiliary sewage treatment, so that the standard of living and environmental protection can be raised.
- Stimulate investment in projects related to climate mitigation and adaptation, and promote the expansion of green industries to build sustainable supply chains in the ASEAN region
- Consider the creation of a new form of democracy through the promotion of appropriate information disclosure and participation in the decision-making process itself, whereby citizens, organizations, and businesses can review the outcomes and processes of state decision-making on the environment and development.
- The training of green jobs and green skills to configure social infrastructure based on green infrastructure considering the damage caused by extreme weather through today's climate change should be expanded, and comprehensive social infrastructure, including communications, healthcare, and education, should be built over a long period of time.
- Promote the transformation to sustainable social infrastructure and investment in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the environmental sector to promote the development of ambitious environmental protection policies through the creation of green industries and spatial environmental protection zones, including land, sea, and underground, in consideration of biodiversity and environmental preservation.