

# **EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (ESD) : A BEST PRACTICE OF RCE ASIA PACIFIC – YOUTH MOVEMENT ON SDGs GOAL 13&14 (CLIMATE ACTION & LIFE BELOW WATER)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) was established since 2003 as a multi-stakeholder global network and been endorsed by UNU-IAS (University Institute of Advance Science) and RCE Asia Pacific-Youth was officially run since 2016 with several communities building, online discussion, youth collaboration, SDGs Challenge and the recent one was its Virtual Youth Summit which successfully presented some best youths around the region to present their projects related to SDGs 13&14 focused on Climate Action and Life Below Water. The first Asia-Pacific SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Challenge was held in February 2018 beforehand. From February to March 2018, it collectively engaged approximately 5,660 youth around the SGDs on 13 projects (reports received) in Malaysia, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Bogotá and Australia which received more than USD\$7,000 worth of funding too. This paper tried to share this best practice by using case studies on data from 2016-2018. Further, it will encourage more youths to take role in practicing or localizing SDGs through making impact to society in the same time through a sustainable way.*

**Keyword: ESD, SDGs, RCE, Youth**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The world has agreed to change the development target from MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) into SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) since the meeting in Quito through HABITAT 3 meeting was conducted in 2016. Based on Asia PaCific Urban Forum-Youth (APUFY) also be gained some main points to follow such as priority on young people who are capable to offer unique perspectives and ideas, in addition to advocating for their priority interests, and should be empowered as stakeholders, caretakers, and leaders for Asia-Pacific's sustainable urban development. The second point is that tomorrow's leaders are already taking action today in their communities and cities to engage politically and to offer innovative solutions to urban challenges; local authorities and development partners should not be afraid of their increased participation, and should encourage their active involvement. And the third one is that young people including vulnerable youth should be involved in practical policy making and implementation of solutions to urban challenges of Asia-Pacific towards people-centred urban development. On this framework then RCE also been connected. Furthermore, as follow ups of RCE Asia Pacific-Youth movement since 2016 (previously declared on RCE Global Meeting 2016 and RCE Asia Pacific Meeting 2017), we have launched SDG Challenge which lasts six

months till now. It took 31 projects around Asia Pacific with youth participation and concern on SDG Goals 13 and 14. According to RCE Asia Pacific Meeting in India, November 2017, both RCE AP-Youth leaders have presented the benefit, potentials and good things would happen if RCE Youth could be moved quickly and sustainably.

### **CONCEPT OF RCE YOUTH COORDINATORS**

By time, the framework on how the RCE Asia Pacific be run was also a question. It took some initiatives among the members to propose. It cannot neglect all the inputs we gained from the RCE Asia Pacific Meeting which highly supported the role of youth by then. Here follow are sample of role we arranged in building sustainable system since youth structure is new in RCE body.

1. The age range for RCE Youth Coordinators shall be 35 years of age and under.
2. The RCE Youth Coordinator shall be based in the region of the individual, national, and/or regional RCE community they represent. As the function of the RCE Youth Coordinator is to represent Youth in his/her RCE, region or country, it is of essence that the representative is engaged with Youth at the respective level and within the respective region.
3. It is important that RCE Youth Coordinators work with a diverse cross-section of Youth from different backgrounds in order to fairly represent them within the RCE community.
4. Each RCE Youth Coordinator will serve for a period of two years, with the possibility of serving another two years. This extension is at the discretion of the individual RCE in the case of Individual RCE Youth Coordinators, at the discretion of the RCE community in the given country for National RCE Youth Coordinators , and finally at the discretion of the regional RCE community in the case of Regional RCE Youth Coordinators.

The ways were tough because we should encourage, made some links, promoted the movement to every member one by one in some months. At least, the progress from 2016 to 2017 gained a brighter perspective on how the youth member of RCE in Asia Pacific can get involved further. Those are some responsibilities should be taken by the youth coordinators among the member country:

1. Developing, initiating, and communicating about new and ongoing cross-RCE activities related to ESD and Youth in their RCE, region, and country
2. Staying up-to-date on relevant youth platforms and activities tied to ESD/SD in the country and region

After the making of those systematic structure and for sure kind of supports, the strong ones, we initiated a project based programme should be run. It would be a good portfolio for the members and worldwide on seeing the real works of youth. This by then namely SDGs Challenge as we proposed and introduced previously during RCE AP Meeting in India 2017.

## **RCE ASIA PACIFIC-YOUTH COORDINATION IN PREPARING VIRTUAL YOUTH SUMMIT**

To facilitate all of those, RCE Yogyakarta and RCE Great Western Sydney on RCE Asia Pacific Youth framework did a youth forum together with several communities in Yogyakarta which concern too on SDGs. It was held at July 16, 2018. There were 25 youth representatives from various backgrounds of youth communities. Every community here was encouraged to get interact each other in order to gain bigger network. At least three priority sectors would move to follow ups: the education (1), the environment (2), and the climate action and consumption production (3). Education communities represented by Kantong pintar, Jogja Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Nada Bicara, Jogja Museum Lovers, ASEC (Actual Smile English Club), and many more will gather to give workshop forward. Collaborations were built to develop knowledge. It is also new concept of participation in the development process. Afterward, the updates on projects run also were conducted. RCE Asia Pacific Youth leaders have received several numbers of projects across the Asia Pacific members. This is further explained on the next sub chapter.

## **RCE ASIA PACIFIC SDGs CHALLENGE 2018**

RCE Youth considered very well that there are at least 717 million of youth (aged 15-24 year old) in the world while from those numbers, 60% are in Asia Pacific itself (UNESCAP, 2016)<sup>\*)</sup> This huge potency leads us to strongly encourage people to consider AC-ME-FOR-NET-NOW, which stands for **Access-Media-Forum-Network-Acknowledgment** on youth-world-development.

The SDG Challenge 2018 was run from 1 February to 15 August 2018 and then followed by the first RCE Asia Pacific-Youth Virtual Summit on 24 September 2018. This challenge invites youths to run ground led-project and report every progress they have. This was opened for individual under the flag of RCE by sending their application with the acknowledgment of their RCEs. This project was led by RCE Greater Western Sydney and RCE Yogyakarta with supports from the UNU-IAS. From February to March 2018, it collectively engaged approximately 5,660 youth around the SGDs on 13 projects (reports received) in Malaysia, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Bogotá and Australia which received more than USD\$7,000 worth of funding too.

This paper tried to share this best practice by using case studies on data from 2016-2018. From those participations, we selected some best projects as best practice to be presented. The summit was done through an application namely Zoom and it was freely to access by all of the participants worldwide. There were 9 presentations from 9 different projects and countries as follows:

1. Ms. Naomi Kroll : The Plastic Lid Project (RCE Greater Western Sydney, Australia)
2. Ms. Hana Syarifah : Sancang Conservation Service Camp (RCE Yogyakarta, Indonesia)
3. Ms. Patricia Sasidaran : Youth Participation in SDG 14 – Towards a Healthy Ocean 2018 (World Youth Foundation, Malaysia)

4. Mr. Nguyen Tan Phat : Chay Nhat – Run and Pick up Rubbish (UNESCO ESD Youth Leader, Vietnam)
5. Ms.Jessie Ablett : Sustainable Schools Expo – Waste Not Want Not – Do More with Less (RCE Gippsland, Australia)
6. Mr. Ajay Kumar : Green School Green Community Program (RCE Delhi, India)
7. Mr. Zul Ilham : YES (Youth for Environmental Sustainability) (RCE Central Semenanjung, Malaysia)
8. Ms. Woo-jin Lee: Knowledge to the world (RCE Tongyeong, Republic of Korea)
9. Mr. Toby Thorpe : Youth for Climate Action (RCE Tasmania, Australia)

### **LESSON LEARNED**

There was no one point conclusion we raised at the floor. The most important thing is that impact we made from those youth based initiatives can make people move and be aware on what we face related to Climate Action and Life Below Water. From the climate action we had main important points that youth leaders in Asia Pacific still find any obstacle (we see it as challenge) on a better system to make a faster linkage between schools/education institution-government-society on understanding and localising the SDGs. People at the grassroot mostly still do not understand what kind of climate change we face actually, how is the danger, how to overcome. So curriculum at school as the implementation of ESD needs also any improvement.

One the other goal, SDGs number 14 about Life Below Water encouraged us to be concern on reducing plastic waste. The cleaning beach or any surface from plastic need to be done co-joint with other fun activities to make people more aware. Tones of plastic will lead to more physical pollutant at the earth. Luckily, Asia Pacific still has strong local wisdom to be promoted to penetrate this concern especially to youths. Further input is still needed to make a stronger consideration on SDGs, not only as part of world goal, but the solution to take.

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