

Event Title

Asia-Pacific Youth Assembly

Location

Suwon Convention Center, South Korea

Date

22 October 2023

Event Background and Description

The recent Asian Development Bank survey reports that the Asia-Pacific region is home to more than 2 billion people under the age of 30, making up 54% of the world's young population. Concurrently, urbanization continues to be a defining megatrend in the region. The Economic and Social Council Youth Forum report highlighted that this has largely affected the youth sector. As a crucial population group contributing to and benefiting from urbanization, it is indispensable to actively engage and integrate youth participation in developing sustainable solutions in urban areas for their generation and the future ones to still enjoy.

The Asia-Pacific Youth Assembly, organized by Habitat for Humanity in coordination with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), is a significant platform to draw upon the youth's perspective on context-specific urban and housing experiences from across the region, discuss pressing issues and challenges, and craft solutions in building resilient urban communities and on sustainable and affordable housing solutions. This year's youth assembly is anchored on the four themes identified by the UNESCAP's Asia-Pacific Urban Forum—urban and territorial planning and policies, urban climate action and resilience, inclusive urban digitalization and innovation, and urban finance and technical assistance—and housing challenges in the region. This also provides an opportunity for Habitat for Humanity to discuss sustainable and affordable housing issues.

An online international session is in place to better equip all international participants and maximize their participation at the youth assembly. This is followed by the face-to-face event which includes panel discussions from technical experts as well as youth leaders who have successfully implemented projects in their communities. With the guidance of experts and staff, it also includes breakout sessions on key thematic areas and selected project management components to ensure timely and achievable projects – all geared towards increased resilience and sustainability in urban areas across the region. A world café will also be organized where young leaders can share, network, and collaborate with stakeholders.

This year's action-oriented youth assembly provides a space to kick-off more projects and events addressing the problems and challenges revolving around urban communities and housing solutions. It also opens more opportunities to amplify sustainable efforts in urban areas and allowing the youth sector to take up more space in providing solutions.

Objectives

The main aim of the Asia-Pacific Youth Assembly is to provide an opportunity for the youth to (1) learn from experts on urbanization including housing, (2) craft concrete local projects on sustainable urban communities and housing, and (3) network among fellow youth from across the region.

Outputs:

- **1 Online International Session (August 12, 2023).** Participants will learn about urbanization and housing challenge, strengthen their project ideas, and receive an introduction to the Youth Assembly and the Youth Solutions Micro-Grant opportunity. Ten youth-led projects will be finalized and will be considered for the Youth Solutions Micro-grant.
- **1-Day Face-to-Face Youth Assembly (October 22, 2023).** Around 100 young individuals from each participating country in Asia-Pacific will participate in the face-to-face youth assembly in Suwon, South Korea. To ensure that youth will be empowered to implement their projects and contribute to urban and housing solution, they will improve their knowledge on urbanization, community engagement, project management, and other gaps, as identified during the online international session that may be identified depending in their country's context.
- **Youth Solutions Micro-Grant (July 15, 2023 – April 26, 2024).** This initiative will support five youth-led solutions around housing for sustainable urban communities through a \$2,000 micro-grant. The grant will be used to support project implementation, benefitting approximately 2,500 individuals across the region.
- **2 Online Follow-up Sessions (December 5, 2023 and April 26, 2024).** Two online follow-up sessions will be available for project mentoring of micro-grant winners, to be followed by the presentation of their implemented projects six months after, from which other young people and youth groups may learn.

Program Design (updated as of May 30, 2023)

Online International Session – August 12 (International Youth Day)

<i>Proposed Program</i>		
Time (1 hour 35 minutes)	Activity	Remarks
10:30 am – 10:33 am	Event Video	
10:34 am – 10:36 am	Welcome Remarks	
10:37 am – 10:39 am	Opening Remarks / Youth Assembly Roadmap	
10:40 am – 10:42 am	House Rules and Reminders	
10:43 am – 10:48 am	Icebreaker Game	
10:49 am – 11:09 am	Learning Session on Urbanization and How Housing is a Critical Part in the Solution	
11:10 am – 11:30 am	Breakout Session: A. Budgeting and fundraising B. Monitoring and evaluation C. Campaign implementation	
11:31 am – 11:36 am	Synthesis	
11:37 am – 11:50 am	Breakout Session: 10 Smaller Group Discussion *What are your key takeaways from the learning session and/or breakout session?	
11:51 am – 11:56 am	Synthesis	
11:57 am – 11:59 am	Closing Remarks	
12:00 pm – 12:05 pm	Event Video	

1-Day Face-to-Face Event – October 22

<i>Proposed Program</i>		
Time	Activity	Remarks
AM		
7:30 am – 8:00 am	Registration	
8:01 am – 8:05 am	Event Video	
8:06 am – 8:10 am	Welcome Remarks	
8:11 am – 8:15 am	Opening Remarks	
8:16 am – 8:40 am	Community Game / GTKY	
8:41 am – 9:41 am	Role of Youth in Urbanization and Housing Crisis	
9:42 am – 10:00 am	Community Dance	
10:00 am – 11:30 am	Breakout Session: A. Urban and territorial planning and policies B. Urban climate action and resilience C. Inclusive urban digitalization and innovation D. Urban finance and technical assistance	
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Synthesis	

PM		
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Panel Discussion on the Role of Youth in Sustainable and Resilient Urban Communities and Housing	
2:01 pm – 2:30 pm	Youth Commitments	Affirm content for the Joint Assemblies' Panel Discussion
2:31 pm – 4:00 pm	TBC – Joint Assembly World Café of All Proposed Projects	
4:01 pm – 4:30 pm	Synthesis Announcement	
4:31 pm – 5:30 pm	Break / Preparation for Cultural Night	
5:31 pm – 7:00 pm	Cultural Night Closing Ceremony Dinner	

Note: 1 youth representative from each of the shortlisted youth groups (target of 10) for the Youth Solutions Micro-Grant will be selected to join the face-to-face event in Suwon, South Korea. To continuously engage other members who won't be selected to participate in the face-to-face event, we'll closely work with NOs to engage them throughout the project planning and implementation.

2 Online Follow-up Sessions

There will also be two online follow-up sessions for the awarding of the Youth Solutions Micro-Grant winners and reporting of the implemented projects

- First online session:
 - Open to all: Highlights from the Youth Assembly and Asia-Pacific Housing Forum, online presentation of shortlisted projects, and awarding of 5 Youth Solutions Micro-Grant winners
- Second online session:
 - Open to all: Reporting and sharing of outcomes, lessons learned, and best practices from Youth Solutions Micro-Grant winners' and other youth's projects across the region

Important Dates to Note:

- June 15 - Open Registration for Youth Assembly (through ESCAP)
- July 15 - Open Submissions for Youth Solutions Micro-grant
- August 10 – Close Registration for Youth Assembly online and face-to-face events
- August 12 - Online international session
- September 30 – Deadline for submissions of Micro-grant application
- October 22 – Face-to-face Youth Assembly in South Korea
- November 6 - Online awarding of Micro-grant winners
- December 5 – Launch of the [2024 Habitat for Humanity Young Leaders Build](#); presentation of Micro-grant winner's projects
- April 2024 - HYL B culmination; sharing of experiences and insights on project implementation by Micro-grant winners