

# Asia Pacific Youth Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development



The future belongs to us and we, the youth from 15 countries of the Asia-Pacific region are aware of the urgency and threats posed by different environmental problems including climate change. We believe that the current global economic models are affecting the overall environment and natural resources, as a result the global ecological footprint has exceeded by 30% contributed by and seen largely in high carbon emissions, climate change and global warming.

We realize that the institutional frameworks and mechanisms prepared at the Rio Summit, most importantly Agenda 21 and UNFCCC, have failed to meet the high expectations from them, mainly due to weak political commitment, weak institutional mechanisms, less efficient governance, and lack of human and financial capital.

We strongly advocate for the justice, equity (intergenerational equity and north-south equity) and global sustainability.

We are here to claim our safe future and we demand from the global leaders and global citizens to:

1. Be aware of the impact of climate change and vulnerability of the poor people in Asia-Pacific region ranging from top of the world to low land coastal areas. We are facing the increasing frequency and severity of disasters, melting of glaciers and Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), declining water resources, loss of forest coverage and biodiversity, declining agricultural productivity and increasing food insecurity, health impact, sea level rise and coastal flooding, environmental refugees and overall socio economic problems.
2. Act urgent and immediately to mitigate the climate change by reducing emission of GHGs at sources, the global temperature rise should be limited to 1.5 degree C from the pre industrial level and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration should return to 350 PPM.
3. Immediate commitment for the mitigation of emission of Black Carbon and develop strategies to minimize the Atmospheric Brown Cloud (Trans-boundary Air Pollution) within the region.
4. Strong commitment from the relatively higher GHGs emitting nations within the region (like India and China) and globally to revise their development path and make transition to low carbon development path. We also urge to our respective government to plan and follow the low carbon development path.

5. Provide adequate and long-term financial support as a grant to the poor, most vulnerable and marginalized community for the climate change adaptation (NAPA implementation) and mitigation at the national and local level. Any funds related to climate change to be channeled via globally agreed framework within the UN process. We are strongly against any financial assistance as a loan (climate loan) and the finance should be free of climate corruption and should follow the principles of good governance i.e. authority, responsibility, accountability and transparency.
6. Respect our right to move towards prosperous future and support the low carbon development path through the development and transfer of clean technologies, research, conservation, promotion and sharing of traditional indigenous knowledge, belief and values.
7. Increase significantly investment in promoting green technologies and economic sectors like alternative energy resources, waste management, clean energy transport system, development of green parks, organic agriculture, urban farming and recreational sites in urban areas.
8. Develop flexible, transparent and accountable mechanisms and common strategy and platform in regional level with multi stakeholder approach which should address all the dimensions of sustainable development i.e. social, environment and economic.
9. [Agree to develop standards for all environment goods and services and setup certification mechanisms when they go the market.]
10. Agree to establish simple but efficient environmental governance from central to local level in all member countries and in development arena to ensure environmental issues are better coordinated, and more reflective and responsive to public interest. Agree to facilitate establishment of local, decentralized economies where ownership of the natural resources and business profits are equitably shared amongst local stakeholders.
11. Develop compensatory mechanisms for resource sharing between upstream and downstream resource managers/beneficiaries and as well as people living in the rural areas for their contribution in environmental conservation and have benefit sharing mechanisms in place.
12. Promote research, scientific study and information sharing within the region and globally to understand the problem more clearly and develop sustainable solutions.
13. Enhance the capacity and ensure the role of youth to contribute for the sustainable development by including them in the decision making process locally, nationally and globally.
14. Finally, we urge to the people around the globe, especially youth, to develop environmental voluntarism within themselves, adopt the sustainable lifestyle, hold their government accountable to safeguard future.