

RECOMMENDATION

of the 2022 ASEAN-Korea Youth Summit
on “Carbon Neutrality and ASEAN-Korea Youth”

SLOGAN: Act for Net-Zero, Move towards a Better Future



From 9th to 12th of August 2022, 96 youths from ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Member States and the Republic of Korea met at the 2022 ASEAN-Korea Youth Summit, to develop ASEAN-Korean community by exploring a common agenda and to draw cooperative measures on achieving Carbon Neutrality.

Deriving from the group discussion results on each subtopic, discussions conducted by nations for agreements, and Youth Summit I & II, the youth participants imagined the better future as the leaders and identified the recommended actions herein.

Topic 1. Implementation of Carbon Neutrality and the Role of Youth

** Background:*

The concept of carbon neutrality refers to a balance between atmospheric carbon absorption and emission. The main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, is in charge of around three-quarters of emissions. The ecosystem and human health are impacted by the greenhouse gas effects on climate change. ASEAN Youth consist of one third of the overall ASEAN population and the inclusive and sustainable lifestyles can start from the youth and they can influence the other citizen. Youth must take part in efforts to become carbon neutral as well as communal efforts to do so in order to mitigate the effects of the climate issue. Of course there exist gaps in environmental performance between each country. However, if we increase cooperation between individual ASEAN countries, we will solve the problem in a faster way. Youth is the important element in moving innovation and growth forward through their ideas and grassroots-oriented actions to promote sustainable lifestyle, and they are the agents of change, entrepreneurs and innovators. Humans are the main contributor to climate change on earth and we are the ones who bring danger on ourselves by simply not taking consideration of our negligence. What humans can do is to protect it in micro-efforts from each country that can become into macro-efforts all over the ASEAN-Korea Countries. Therefore, the 2022 ASEAN Youth Summit marks the conclusion of a discussion on how students from 11 countries can gather and transform into a carbon-neutral society.

- 1. Promote** the reduction of food waste and support consumers to eat more sustainable food, encouraging local food product use, and avoiding accumulating food waste.
- 2. Recommends** ASEAN-Korea Youth as well as to encourage each nation's people to minimize greenhouse gas emissions from unsustainable electricity usage on unused lightings, air conditioning, and other gadgets that require larger electricity supply.

3. **Encourage** the 5R method which are Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot;
 - a. recommends ASEAN-Korea Youth to promote circular economic principles in combating the explosive growth of the fast fashion industry and general industry;
 - i. donating more unused clothes for upcycling, recycling and supporting charity programs,
 - ii. promoting the essence of thrifting in lowering carbon footprints on fashion,
 - iii. introducing a refilling system in every company that sells drinks and personal care products in order to reduce the use of plastic in our daily lives.
4. **Encourages** ASEAN-Korea Youth to implement actionable capacity building projects to promote a carbon neutral lifestyle in daily life through diverse activities such as, but not limited to, webinars, social media, and campaigns. In addition, the youth can utilize their creativity to contribute in the implementation, while governments can provide more opportunity to share ideas about it.
5. **Noting with deep concern** the unsustainable lifestyle growing in ASEAN-Korea member states and calls for more actionable youth-led initiatives on both individual and community level to promote carbon neutrality in ASEAN-Korea member states driven by youth.
6. **Encourage** the collaboration between Korea-Asean youth and each nation's government, non-government toward a green environment and carbon neutrality;

- a. the usage of the Carbon Inventory reporting system for each country to indicate the exact amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted and take initiative to act accordingly. This can be done by creating ASEAN Data Bank,
- b. Explores the competent collaboration between ASEAN-Korea Youth to collaborate with government stakeholders to promote decision making;
 - i. that can support renewable energy,
 - ii. investing more on youth empowerment,
 - iii. awareness projects led by youth,
 - iv. circular economy business models.

Topic 2. Understanding Environmental Justice and Equal Environmental Rights

** Background:*

Environmental Justice is paramount to ensure environmental rights in ASEAN-ROK. Environmental Justice involves equal treatment and involvement regardless of one's background or social status, which includes factors for example skin color, race, origin and level of income. Environmental Rights refers to equal access to natural resources necessary for survival, right to live in a comfortable area and opportunities for self-development by every individual within and between generations.

Contrary to these definitions, an alarming discrimination on the matter due to economic inequality is present in the region, with twenty of the world's richest billionaires estimated to emit as much as 8,000 times more carbon than a billion of the world's poorest individuals. Cases of environmental discrimination are also rampant in ASEAN-ROK, with the encroachment of environmental rights on the basis of gender, racial, or economic status. The individuals, regardless of one's age, affected by environmental injustice are commonly regularly unaware of their own environmental rights, lack the access to participate in discussions, and are barred from access to justice.

- 1. Aware of** the lack of uniformed understanding of the concept of environmental justice in ASEAN-ROK which causes ineffective actions against environmental injustice.
- 2. Alarmed by** the apparent deviations of regulations and framework on the assurance regarding the protection of environmental rights which consequently causes environmental injustice and inequality of environmental rights.

3. **Acknowledging with deep concern** that the carbon emission gap is expanding between the poor, underprivileged, and middle to higher income communities who are equally obliged to protect the environment regardless of their economic status.
4. **Demands** that States enact comprehensive laws and procedural regulations in the interest of environmental justice including: monetary incentives for environmental acts, an accountable prioritization of sustainable development over economic interest, comprehensive periodic environmental analysis, and increasing government unilateral and multilateral engagement on the issue of environmental justice both nationally and internationally.
5. **Encourages** the non-governmental organizations to promote the definitions and concepts of environmental rights and justice, thus advocating these concepts and definitions to the government stakeholders to be translated into formal regulation to protect environmental rights and justice.
6. **Recommends** incorporating environmental justice concepts and definitions into mandatory national educational curriculum in formal education institutions as it is crucial to raise awareness, build capacity, and advocacy for the youth as the raising leaders in society.
7. **Endorses** active participation and inclusivity of youths in the issue of environmental justice in ASEAN-ROK to realize a more inclusive and responsible carbon-neutral society.

Topic 3. The Future of Eco-Friendly and Green Technology

- 1. Reaffirm** the commitment of ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea to deepen cooperation in green and sustainable infrastructure and technology as stated in the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership (2021-2025).¹⁾

- 2. Strengthen** interest and understanding in environmental issues, sustainable development, and eco-friendly and green technology, by;
 - a. striving to stay up to date with the latest advancements and developments in these domains;
 - b. committing to educating and mentoring others on the importance of these fields;
 - c. serving as a bridge between the older and younger generations and between the government and local communities in communicating these information;
 - d. empowering others to take an interest in and deepen knowledge of these topics.

- 3. Call upon** youths to utilize and adopt eco-friendly and green technologies in daily living, such as energy-saving and smart home appliances and environmentally friendly transportation modes.

- 4. Advise** youths to take a stand against environmentally unsustainable corporate practices by reducing consumption of such goods and services.

1) <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ASEAN-ROK-POA-2021-2025-Final.pdf>

5. **Drive** youth entrepreneurship, social innovation, and scientific research in the field of eco-friendly and green technology, including;
 - a. encouraging, spearheading, and participating in the development of ground-up environmental initiatives;
 - b. establishing sustainability-related start-ups;
 - c. undertaking active involvement in civil society, social enterprises, advocacy groups, and environmental organizations through volunteering or employment.

6. **Urge** youths to actively explore opportunities to participate in local, national, regional, and global environment-related forums, engage in and contribute to public policy discourse as agents of change, and advocate for strong and progressive public policies in support of research, development, adoption, and deployment of eco-friendly and green technologies.

7. **Encourage** fellow youth counterparts in the ASEAN-Korea region to enhance mutual interaction with each other and develop joint partnerships in the field of eco-friendly and green technology, such as;
 - a. the sharing of information through dialogues and discussions;
 - b. the exchange of best practices through study visits and capacity building programmes;
 - c. the development of collaborative solutions through cross-border projects and trans-boundary initiatives.

Topic 4. Environmental Change and Human Health

* Background

The connection between human health and climate change has been scientifically verified. The direct cost of climate change is seen in air pollution, water pollution, and natural disasters such as heatwaves, flooding, droughts and extreme weather, which could cause deforestation and multifarious diseases such as dengue and hypertension. The connections are becoming increasingly clear in ASEAN countries as many are developing countries with lack of infrastructure and its high dependence on natural resources and agriculture. Therefore, it is crucial to improve cooperation between ASEAN member states and with closely-knit regional nations like Korea to address climate-related threats and protect people's health.

1. **Reaffirms** the importance of cooperation of the ASEAN-ROK countries and demands to achieve the carbon neutrality goals by 2050 by following the recommendations listed below;
2. **Demands** the increase of the usage of renewable energy such as solar power, wind power, etc. instead of coal and fuel which is most responsible for carbon emission.
3. **Highly recommends** the usage of technology such as Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) in order to compensate the existing emitted greenhouse gasses including CO₂ and accomplish the goal of net-zero.
4. **Urges** the governments of ASEAN and Korea countries' roles to invest in national medical care systems and local health care systems to make healthcare accessible for all citizens.
 - a. providing an accessible health care in the community,
 - b. check up to vulnerable populations under severe health harming climate change impacts.

5. **Encourages** the governments of ASEAN and Korea countries to strengthen respective economies, collaborate in terms of utilizing the natural resources, and reversing environmental exploitation to sustain the green environment.

6. **Highlights** the importance of the government and NGO's role to encourage youths' action as global citizens since government action and youth support are crucial when it comes to achieving net-zero and carbon neutrality and the quality of life of people. The actions for youth including but not limited to;
 - a. spread awareness for calling actions at a public forum to express views,
 - b. volunteering at health care providers or clinics,
 - c. launch campaigns or projects that engage with organizations in government sector to cooperate between youth and government.

Topic 5. Achievements of SDGs(Sustainable Development Goals) and Youth Participation

** Background*

Initiatives and efforts toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are posing a global urgency to be achieved by the year 2030, which echoes the significance of strategic partnerships and integrations of multiple stakeholders. Working towards the SDGs, the strong engagement of youth participation emerges as a pivotal element to further leverage the embodiment of SDGs in the future ASEAN and Korea community.

SDGs can be the catalyst and enabler for further expansion of education and awareness on multiple areas including climate change, which also becomes a key-factor for youth empowerment and capacity building for youth in the ASEAN-Korea community and beyond.

- 1. Aware of the need to** further strengthen and emphasize the ASEAN-Korea partnerships by engaging multiple stakeholders through the concept of the Whole Nation Approach; promoting youth participation and grassroots level initiatives.
- 2. Calls for** incorporating and standardizing the awareness of SDGs both through formal and informal education: educational institutions and NGOs through;
 - a. realizing and referring to the SDGs4 Quality Education, SDGs10 Reduced Inequalities, and SDGs17 Partnership for the Goals.
- 3. Recommends** raising the awareness of solidarity between ASEAN-Korea with programs such as;
 - a. Webinars, Summits, youth educational programs: ASEAN-Korea Future-Oriented Youth Exchange Programme.

4. **Encourages** youth to participate in the process of forming environmental policies by showing their passion through activities such as;
 - a. Fridays for Future; a youth-led and -organized movement which students across the world are actively joining.

5. **Promote and encourage** the youth to participate in the “Green Initiatives”. The initiatives include four categories that cover all of the SDG goals; Green Education, Green Manufacturing, Green Technology, and Green Partnership.

6. **Benchmark and/or further develop** the UN Climate change application for ASEAN-Korea youth to join and communicate regarding the state and current environmental issues. Expected outcomes are;
 - a. effective solutions drawn from ASEAN-Korea Youth cooperation.
 - b. support raised for environmental causes: climate change fundraising initiative.