

INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE OF ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS & YOUTH ADVOCATES

Report

2022



Background

Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center (APDA), together with UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (UNFPA APRO), held a hybrid Intergenerational Dialogue of the Asian Parliamentarians and Youth Advocates to Address Meaningful Youth Engagement on 2-3 June 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. This dialogue is a continuation of last year's programme that was named "Inter-Generational Dialogue 2021", and its objective is to follow up and share good practices of meaningful youth engagement and youth policies/laws, especially in the COVID-19 context. Furthermore, this event aims to strengthen partnerships between parliamentarians/NCs, CSOs, and youth advocates in respective countries and explore modalities for meaningful youth participation and engagement.

This intergenerational dialogue aimed to share a common understanding of meaningful youth engagement and good examples of youth engagement to inform action plans in respective countries. At the same time, this dialogue was intended to connect parliamentarians, youth advocates, and CSO representatives in their respective countries in order to facilitate follow-up discussions on action plans.

This year the Intergenerational Dialogue focused on Dialogue as well as a field visits to show the actions taken by policymakers and civil society focusing on the adolescents and young people in Thailand. The event also provided a new avenue and sharing platform of various initiatives done by Young People contributing on Youth Adult Partnership and various emerging issues.

Covid 19 Pandemic Threatens Children and Youth Education in an Unprecedented Scale.

The Covid-19 pandemic causes a major disruption of education and learning on an unprecedented scale. Children and youth are being profoundly impacted, with the most marginalized being disproportionately affected. Youth and Parliamentarians thrive to address the task of learning from the crisis and how to mitigate its effects in education. Education delivery is radically changing to ensure continuity of learning whilst schools are closed during lockdown, children, teachers, and governments have to adjust to distance education as a new learning reality. The disparity rise results from prolonged school closure and leads to poor learning outcomes. Good communications with key groups, including parents and teachers, so that they understand the level of risk involved in opening schools and in keeping them closed and the importance of adopting mitigating behaviours at home and in the wider community.

Covid 19 Impacts

Education

- Youth are learning online
- More youth doesn't have an opportunity to have an education
- Some youth have no chance of returning to school

Employment

- Amplifies youth voices during covid 19
- Promoting youth employment
- Services to support youth employment

Participation

- Leading responses in all levels
- Youth are eager to help and engage on all levels
- Youth show great potential during Covid

Objectives

The main objectives of the Intergenerational Dialogue of Asian Parliamentarians & Youth Advocates were:



1. To form and promote partnerships between parliamentarians, Civil Society Organisations, and youth partners in respective countries and explore modalities for meaningful youth participation and engagement.



2. To include youth ideas and generate recommendations in developing the Intergenerational dialogue.



3. To help build a common ground for the dialogues during the Intergenerational Dialogue.



4. To share good examples /different modalities of meaningful youth engagement either in general or COVID-19 contexts, both online and offline engagement



5. To understand the priority of young people and their engagement in respective communities.



6. To understand what meaningful youth engagement means to different groups.

OPENING REMARKS

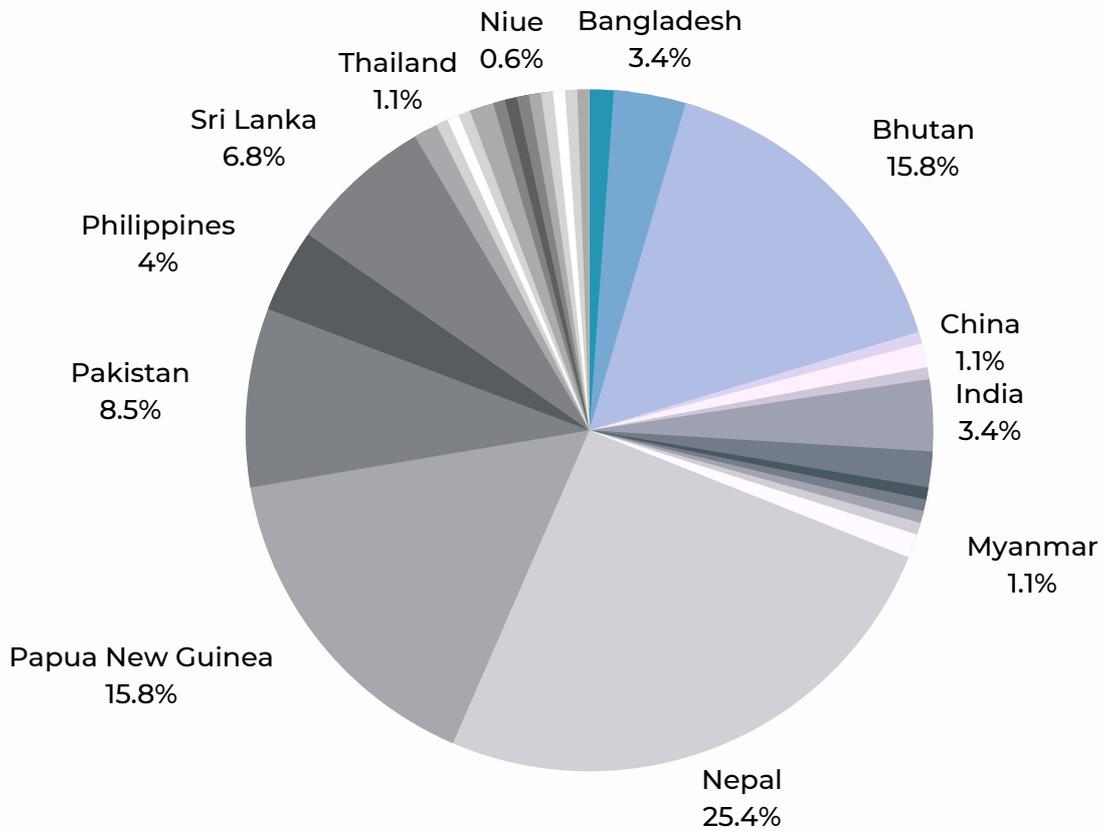


Opening remarks from Honourable Ayano Kunimitsu, Japanese Parliament member. She highlighted the objectives of this event, she also focused on the learning from the previous 2021 Intergenerational Dialogue.

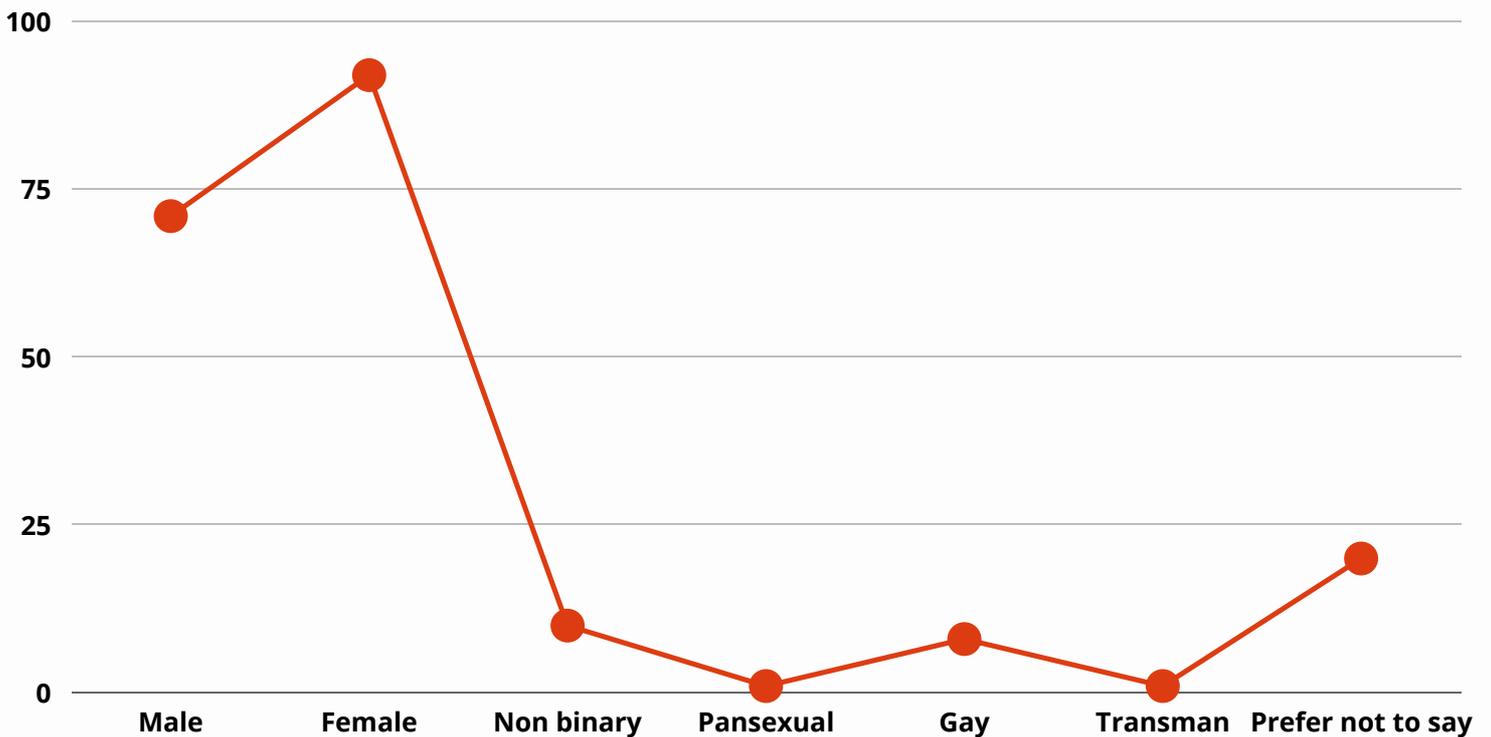


After the speech of honourable Ayano Kunimitsu, Japanese Parliament member Dr. Jet member of parliament from Thailand and secretary general of the asian form of parliamentarians on population development continued the session saying about the important the youths in ones country and how youth engagement is the key for development. along with him Mr. Klaus beck say that how IGD 2022 brings together the young people and parliamentarians from across the region on how we can work together collectively towards the achievement of agenda 2030 and the sustainable development.

Country Chart from Online Participants



Gender Chart from Online Participants



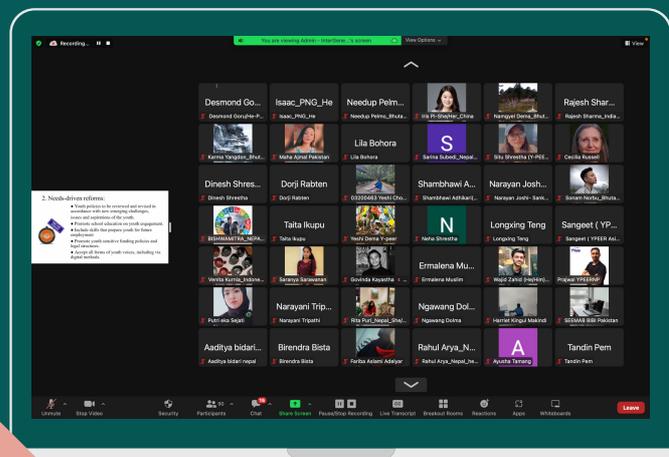
The event was held in hybrid

In the Intergenerational Dialogue of Parliamentarians and Youth Advocates, whose theme discussed "Meaningful Youth Engagement" In the dialogue, youth advocates and parliamentarians engaged both virtually and physically and continued to consolidate the progress and the gap in the Asia Pacific Region, dedicated to promoting the sustainable development and meaningful youth engagement. Moreover, the dialogue built on the implementation and policies during Covid 19 pandemic in different countries along with meaningful youth engagement through various activities at community, national and regional levels.



13 Parliamentarians and 13 Participants attended physically at the event in Bangkok, Thailand.

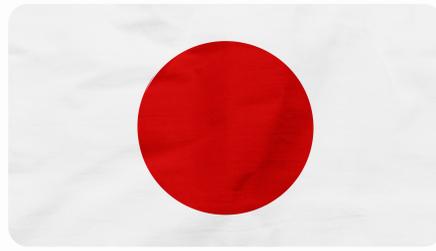
A total of 170 youth participants from over 34 countries attended the youth advocates to address meaningful youth engagement in zoom actively.



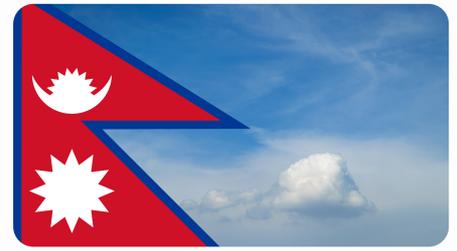
Country From Where Participants were present in Person



Thailand



Japan



Nepal



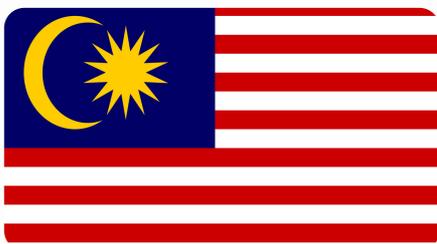
Srilanka



Bhutan



Cambodia



Malaysia



Indonesia



Philippines



Bangladesh



Australia



Vietnam



India

KEY REMARKS

An in-person session with Parliamentarians and youths

• India

The Indian Parliamentarians states that they give incentive to unmarried young girls, which reforms the early marriage. Therefore, this is a great activity to address the prevalence of child marriage. Besides, the Parliamentarians suggested that youth should come forward to take action and be more involved in decision-making about their lives.

• Nepal

Furthermore, in Nepal, led holistic programs empowering the youth. Their national election is working to deliver on the promise of youth engagement as a substantive right for all children and youth.

• Bhutan

Bhutan is building skills for people so that they could sustain themselves on their own and have a good quality of life; this further emphasizes the inclusiveness of youth employment. Moreover, there are NGOs supporting youth councils which is a good sign for meaningful youth engagement. However, people in Bhutan have limited understanding and don't accept same sex marriage and LGBTQI.

• Srilanka

The Sri Lanka parliamentarian highlights that youth recommendations should think further in larger levels and use experience to make informed decisions as well as listen to the government. In addition, the SriLanka parliamentarian states that they are progressing on youth engagement with the involvement of youth ideas, discussion, education youth and changing the world together.

• Phillipines

In Philippines, they recommend that digital skills are valuable skill in the future, and youth should have access and education about digital skills. Moreover, they just have national election which will engage youth to make new policies. This is particularly important as it raises youth voices to the parliamentarians. It is their life and their future.



MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



The Meaningful Youth Engagement for Intergenerational Dialogue of the Asian Parliamentarians and Youth Advocates was divided into 5 sessions:



No. 01 – Follow-up with Intergenerational Dialogue 2021

To help give your audience an overview, this section can include a brief description of the goal, its relevance to your sector or industry, and the specific sub-targets your organization is addressing.



No. 02 – Role of parliamentarians to address youth policies and legislation

To help give your audience an overview, this section can include a brief description of the goal, its relevance to your sector or industry, and the specific sub-targets your organization is addressing.



No. 04 – Youth engagement in COVID by government and self

To help give your audience an overview, this section can include a brief description of the goal, its relevance to your sector or industry, and the specific sub-targets your organization is addressing.



No. 05 – Systems for engaging young people in the future

To help give your audience an overview, this section can include a brief description of the goal, its relevance to your sector or industry, and the specific sub-targets your organization is addressing.



No. 06 – Young people and the law

To help give your audience an overview, this section can include a brief description of the goal, its relevance to your sector or industry, and the specific sub-targets your organization is addressing.

Mr Lakey Tshering member of Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center, shared the presentation highlighting the recommendation from Intergenerational dialogue 2021. Mr Lakey also shared the survey report 2022 Intergenerational dialogue, which was more than 170 online Participants filled before the event. Mr Lakey also mentioned the result of the survey and how it can be reflected in the next two days.



" Youth engaging COVID by government and self "

SAFALTA MAHARJAN, NEPAL

Safalta Maharjan delivered her speech about youth engagement in COVID, she also talked about how underdeveloped countries are tackling the gaps regarding youth engagement. She also talks about how important youth engagement is in every country, saying, "A child who is competent to form his or her own opinion shall have the right to participate in the decision-making process of family, community, school or other public institution or organization on the matters concerning him or her. "



PRIM RAJASURANG
WONGKRASAEMONGKOL , THAILAND

The Covid 19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on youth, especially on mental health issues, their well-being, education and youth employment. There is also good potential for youth participation and engagement to help the country. " In Thailand, youth council made online camp to empower and educate youth during Covid 19, and the organization have human resources to engage with youth in all levels."



The motivating examples, speeches, and presentations made by the youth speaker led to the third session, where there were two youth speakers Ms Safalta Maharjan from Nepal & Ms Wongkrasaemongkol, Rajasurang (Prim) from Thailand.

For the fourth session, the virtual participants were put into five breakout rooms, and the in-person participants were divided into two groups to discuss the questions.

The questions discussed in the in-person groups were:



Following are in-person discussion:

GROUP ONE

1. What youth engagement systems are working best in your country?

- CAMBODIA

- In Cambodia, Individual persons or groups represent the individual communities. Peer support groups are also there, and one youth leader represents the whole youth community.
- Meeting with government and youth representatives.
- Parliament focusing on young girls aged 16-19, Girl2leader Cambodia advocates for girls to dream big in terms of career and political participation.

- PHILIPPINES

- In the Philippines youth council is active.

- MALAYSIA

- In Malaysia, there is a Malaysian youth council which volunteers in institutions, and as a whole, its work is seen as a huge success too.
- The Government of Malaysia can also get the data by engaging.

INDONESIA

- In rural areas of Indonesia, a government development planning system is happening.
- Also, at the provincial and national levels, government development is happening.
- Governments are including youths too.
- Peer support is working, and also youth representation in different areas.

SRILANKA

- National youth parliaments
- National youth council
- Ministry of youths

BANGLADESH

- Volunteerism, Dialogues

VIETNAM

- 2030 Youth force

Following are in-person discussion:

GROUP ONE

2. What new idea do you have that could help engage young people better?

- Conducting study visits to nearby districts about youth engagement.
- Conducting digital engagement which has Govt. Youth CSOs from all geographical areas will also help to reach the rural level.

3. What recognition or aid do young people require in your country?

- Access to Information
- Proper education
- Soft Skill Training & Capacity building
- Participation in decision making
- Ensuring safety
- Engaging youth Parliaments representatives in general parliaments meeting
- Mental health counsellors in school



Following are in-person discussion:

GROUP TWO

1. What youth engagement systems are working best in your country?

- Employment creation
 - Public consultation
 - brand/Recognition
 - Institutionalization of systems
 - Educational programs on the issues, fears and challenges
-

2. What new idea do you have that could help engage young people better?

- Changing the way to use social media, using media properly.
 - Gaining good relationships between parliamentarians and young people.
 - Having social privacy and safe space.
 - The collection of data and fact-based should be increased at the government level.
 - Encourage collaboration and not force things to happen quickly.
 - Employment and engagement in aspirations.
-

3. What recognition or aid do young people require in your country?

- Providing training and growth opportunities.
- Prioritizing youngsters and showing more interest in young people and to their interest too.
- Providing certificates or financial support.
- Career counselling,
- Engaging young people of every area, including rural and giving equal value and importance same as to the educated and urban youths.



Following are the key recommendations made in the session

Virtual group discussion

ROOM 1

1. What youth engagement systems are working best in your country?

-NGOs in the country work for the youth in a good way by motivating them to do well. Lack of understanding of what to do is, however, a problem in the community.
.-Lack of information and structure on the functioning of youth groups is also a concern.

-NGOs Engage a lot of young people and understand the functioning of NGOs for Child rights and advocacy.

-In many countries, a Major engagement system worked were- the National youth forum- took place quarterly or yearly. They decentralized, and they delegated young people, which was a very good engagement. The government formed the youth group at the National level and is parallel to Civil society.

-Young people lead and delegate tasks and take up leadership and decision-making role also helped in many countries.

-Youth groups from Bangladesh NGOs represented the youth groups on SRHR however, not on the National level.

-For Bhutan, RENEW/ NCWC/ Y-PEER/ SCOUTS/ Youth development fund has worked hand in hand to engage youths and give them platforms for discussions and deliberations. They work with youth to engage in discussions and also reach out to national and local levels.

-Various programs in schools and colleges also help engage young youths as they better understand youth-related issues.

-To conclude, NGOs played a major role in engaging young youths

Following are the key recommendations made in the session Virtual group discussion

ROOM 1

2. What new idea do you have that could help engage young people better?

-Give more facilities to join groups as many are unaware of what NGOs are or how to be a part of them.

-Awareness programs to update and make people aware of the NGO sessions. Through various mediums like social media, schools and colleges.

-Government should introduce online platforms for youth engagement. The online or offline initiative needs to make a blind letter option for security purposes

3. What recognition or aid do young people require in your country?

- Awareness and advocacy on Issues relating to suicide, rape cases and such criminal acts for people to be aware of the consequences as well as legal, medical, and emotional support to the victims.

-Proper Aid for better mental health facilities

-Youths need support from friends and family for mental health issues, which is a very serious concern at the moment.

-More facilities for people with disabilities and vulnerable groups

-If students are taught how to learn the new system instead of only studying from textbooks.

-Provide proper internet facilities to people from backward communities to engage them equally in youth-related forums.

Following are the key recommendations made in the session Virtual group discussion

ROOM 2

1. What youth engagement systems are working best in your country?

- The Philippines

- Bill that strengthens youth capacity building
 - Allowances/honorarium for local youth officials coming from their budget.
 - establishments of Local Youth Development Councils wherein policies are monitored by organizations all over the country.
 - Philippines Youth Engagement Plans
 - Continuous conduct of the NYAS (National Youth Assessment Study), a survey of all youth from PH, to determine to profile and identify key priorities to formulate the Philippine Youth Development Plan 2023-2028
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Papua New Guinea

- Establishing Youth Council in all the districts in PNG
 - Partnering with civil societies and international organization
 - Youth Policy
 - International Youth based organization supporting and partnering with youth-based organizations and NGOs in PNG
-

Afghanistan

- Presence of NGO and youth-based organizations (YPEER) supporting youths in Afghanistan
 - Lack of proper systematic way of supporting youth
-

China

- Providing financial support for entrepreneurship and employment of youth

Following are the key recommendations made in the session Virtual group discussion

ROOM 2

Indonesia

- many digital/online youth-led organizations and movements and also government-sponsored programs which embrace young people in digital literacy actions
- training program by the ministry of communication and informatics to increase
- competence in the ICT field, which aims to prepare graduates who have not or are not currently working to have professional competence

Pakistan

- various organizations working for youth engagement. Pakistan implements a unique and self-sustaining model to introduce the concept of youth social entrepreneurship. It offers a comprehensive package to youth, from inspiration to experimentation to training and funding.

2. What new idea do you have that could help engage young people better?

- Conducting events and programs that would engage youths productively
- Advocating and disseminating information regarding SRHR, GBV and topics related to such topics and issues.
- Establish a single, centralized database for youth organizations, NGOs and CSOs as a directory to widen networking and partnerships in the rollout of youth policies and engagements. Inculcate youth development in the academe setting, provide it as a full course and invest in research and development for the said courses.
- Establish a single, centralized database for youth organizations, NGOs and CSOs as a directory to widen networking and partnerships in the rollout of youth policies and engagements.
- provide accessible grants and funding to youth grassroots movements, especially those in rural or least advantaged areas and young indigenous communities

Following are the key recommendations made in the session Virtual group discussion

ROOM 2

- Establish a single, centralized database for youth organizations, NGOs and CSOs as a directory to widen networking and partnerships in the rollout of youth policies and engagements.
- Provide accessible grants and funding to youth grassroots movements, especially those in rural or least advantaged areas and young indigenous communities
- Inculcate youth development in the academe setting, provide it as a complete course and invest in research and development for the said courses.
- Instil the essential 21st-century skills by providing leadership opportunities to youth by creating a youth engagement plan and hosting more youth engagement workshops
- Encouraging youth and supporting their ideas
- Apart from the educational system, there should be other increased options that can support youths' interests or passions, such as sports, music etc.

3. What recognition or aid do young people require in your country?

Afghanistan

- Financial assistance
- Programs regarding mental health, SRHR, gender equality and so on

China

- Recognize the contribution of youths and encourage them to voice their opinions

Following are the key recommendations made in the session Virtual group discussion

ROOM 3

1. What youth engagement systems are working best in your country?

- **Pakistan: Marking International Youth Day to raise awareness about youth engagement in political, cultural and legal issues and contributes to creating stronger and more inclusive communities.**
 - **Empower youth**
 - **India, Indonesia and Nepal: Use of social media**
 - **Bhutan- Y-PEER and Department of youths and sports**
-

2. What new idea do you have that could help engage young people better?

- **education and capacity building**
 - **An online or offline platform is provided to share views or opinions where the government can work on it.**
 - **Youth departments need to be formed.**
 - **Authorities need to organised training and programs even in rural places**
 - **Youth parliaments to be formed**
-

3. What recognition or aid do young people require in your country?

- **Technology that helps to be creative**
- **Scholarship to be provided**
- **More information on mental health, human rights and adolescent health**

Following are the key recommendations made in the session Virtual group discussion

ROOM 4

1. What youth engagement systems are working best in your country?

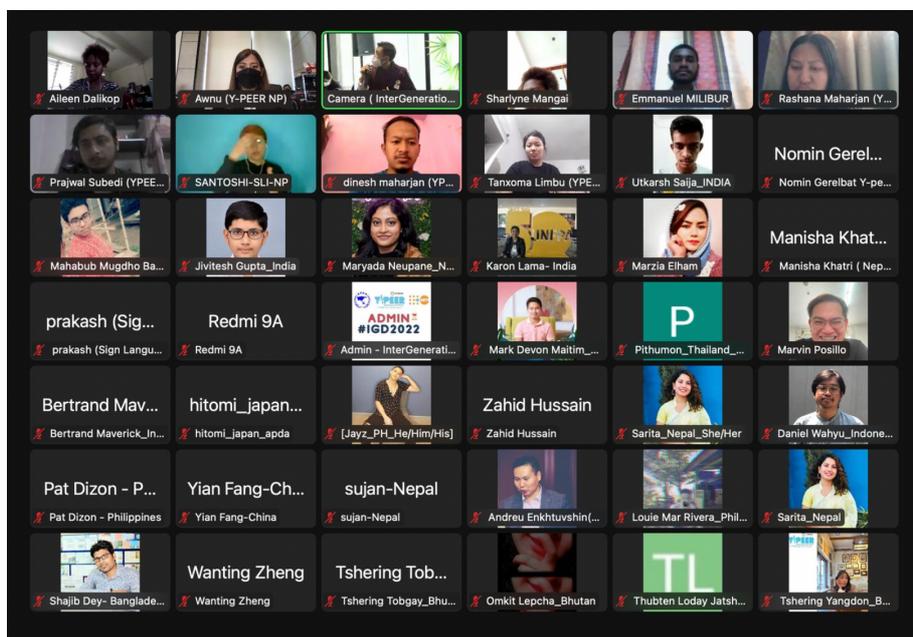
- Youth-led organizations (NGOs) are there who are promoting youth engagement.
- Political initiatives and policies

2. What new idea do you have that could help engage young people better?

- Ensuring the meaningful engagement of young people from the grassroots level
Create a digital or physical platform to meet and share their needs

3. What recognition or aid do young people require in your country?

- Capacity Building Session, Better Career Opportunities and other youth empowerment programs
- Sensitization and inclusion of parents and teacher



Following are the key recommendations made in the session Virtual group discussion

ROOM 5

1. What youth engagement systems are working best in your country?

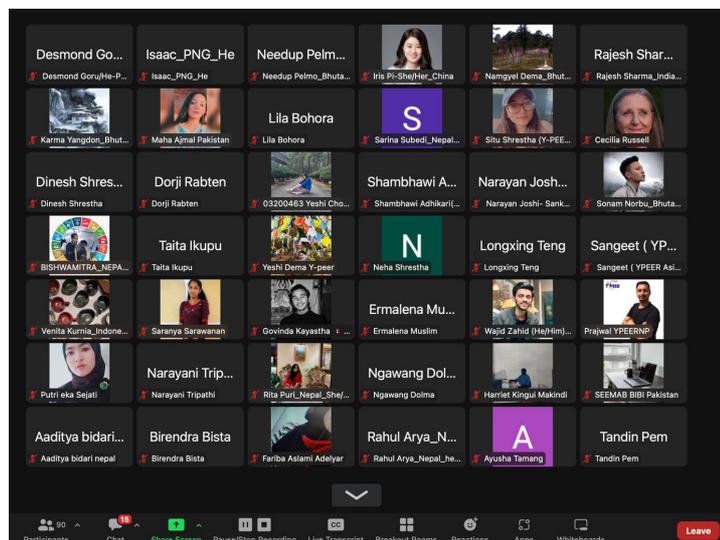
- Youth-led organizations & Collaboration with other youth-led organizations
- Engaging youths in decision making
- Youth Clubs and various adolescent-level works

2. What new idea do you have that could help engage young people better?

- More capacity-building activities
- Gender Transformative Education and Approaches along with Gender Inclusivity even in public spaces
- Mobilization of Digital Platforms
- Youth leadership programs & Youth Governance

3. What recognition or aid do young people require in your country?

- Grants, funds & Scholarships opportunity
- Skills Development Trainings
- Information floor regarding various opportunities
- Creative engagement as in music, arts and so on.
- School Counsellors
- More Inclusive spaces



Testimonial from Youth Participants

“

Wongkrasaemongkol, Rajasurang (Prim), Thailand

“It’s an honour for me to be a part of the Intergenerational dialogue, as it brings youth advocates to engage with the policymakers. It is a wonderful opportunity to share experiences and collaborate internationally. I would like to represent how young people contribute to society and raise awareness and educate the youth about the progress, sharing the possibilities and success. I believe that together we will go further and make this world a better place.”



“

Awnu Shrestha, Nepal

“I am a youth advocate working with young people with disabilities, I am expecting that this intergenerational dialogue will not only address young people’s issues but how can focus on ideas and the work that young people are doing to support policymakers and national governments.”



Testimonial from Youth Participants

“

• **Nhi, Vietnam**

"I believe that young people's voices play an essential role in every aspect of our life, and they need to be heard more by policymakers, governments, and stakeholders. Therefore, I expect that this dialogue will be the place where the youth can share their concerns about social issues and give specific recommendations.

As a young person with experience in doing social activities and managing many youth groups, I hope to be able to bring those experiences to share with parliaments and young people in the dialogue."



“

Ram Dulip, Sri Lanka

As a young human rights activist, i believe young people should be heard by the responsible & decision-making elders in the parliament. I am expecting to talk about the laws that affect young people from all walks of life.



POSITION PAPER

**INTERGENERATIONAL
DIALOGUE**

20
22

Organised by:



Supporting Organiser



www.ypeerap.org/positionpaperigd

This report was prepared by Ms.Anju Shrestha (Awnu) with the technical support of IGD2022 team members Mr.Lakey Tshering, Ms.Ayeshwini Lama, and the Lead Consultant of the event Mr.Sangeet Kayastha. The organizing team would like to express thanks to all the supporting members of APDA, YPEER AP, and UNFPA APRO for making this activity a success.

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The report also expresses the support of other partners and donors such as YouthLEAD and Robert Carr Fund that contributed directly and indirectly to make this activity a great success.

Useful Links related to the activity

Video from IGD2022:

www.youtube.com/c/YPEERAsiaPacific

Photos of IGD2022:

https://www.facebook.com/YPEER.asiapacific/photos/?ref=page_internal&tab=album

Video of IGD2021

<https://youtu.be/eiwHNz2Ec38>

Report of IGD2021 and IGD2022

www.ypeerap.org/igd2022

Position Paper

www.ypeerap.org/positionpaperigd

More Details on upcoming events and opportunities



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