**Third Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies**

**between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*Tokyo, Japan / Online*

*20-21 July 2022*

*Side Event Summary*

|  |
| --- |
| **Event title**  |
| *Youth Day – Designing the future beyond the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the 2030**Agenda* |
| **Overview of event and key messages** |
| This side event provided different fields of expertise with an opportunity to analyse and discuss the recent global issues in a synergistic and collaborative way. Whilst Yurika Morii from Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability played a role as the main moderator to keep coherence, we could try to make collaboration among youth generations and with other multi-stakeholders. It must have been so meaningful for not only three host youth groups (Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability, Change Our Next Decade, and Climate Youth Japan) but also all other participants from global youths to other multi-stakeholders to exchange their opinions on the issues and create the synergistic cooperative motion throughout the event. Although we are aware of the difficulties of global issues, we could also find the great potential of synergistic cooperation regardless of social position, ethnicity, gender, and any other social categories. |
| **Speaker notes (including remarks by moderator)** |
| ***Opening Session******Ms. Yurika Morii (the main moderator), International Advocacy Coordinator, Japan******Youth Platform for Sustainability,*** *announced the brief programme of the event, introduced the host youth groups (Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability, Climate Youth Japan, Change Our Next Decade), and explained the objective of the event which is to promote further synergistic cooperation among youths and with other multi-stakeholders beyond the fields of expertise.****Mr. Tasuku Azuma, Head of International Department, Japan Youth Platform for******Sustainability,*** *presented on the function of Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability and its main visions, and the policy proposal from the perspective of JYPS such as securing youth participation in Technical Advisory Group (TAG), travel fund for youth, and ensuring that materials from this conference is fed into other international conferences.****Session 1******Mr. Ryo Toyoshima, Change Our Next Decade****, facilitated the discussion based on his perspective from experience on biodiversity conservation****Ms. Aoi Mochizuki, COP27 Project Team, Climate Youth Japan****, facilitated the discussion on the question; how can the youth participate in the long-term policy making processes such as G20, COP, and HLPF? Mentioned while the policy making process is long, we need to stay active to achieve the goal of implementing youth voices.****Mr. Mirus Ponon, Founder and Chairperson, ASEAN Youth Advocate Network****, shared ASEAN Youth Advocates Network, and mentioned the importance of raising awareness about SDGs and empowering the youth through inclusive manner, starting at local efforts.****Ms. Rena Kawasaki, Second Generation CFO, Euglena****, emphasised the current issues of lack of youth empowerment, non-local approach to SDGs, and the risk of youth wash, while commenting that international conferences should cater their schedules and funds to the youth’s needs to ensure their continued participation.****Mr. Muhammad Kenzo Baskoro, Partnership Team, US-ASEAN Young Professional Association,*** *addressed the necessity to establish platforms, to increase local youth representation, especially for vulnerable youth, which require genuine interest from adults. Also addressed the value of local data to measure the progress toward SDGs, and the grassroot actions as opposed to international conferences, and thinking ahead for the future youths.****Mr. Wataru Suzuki, Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity,*** *responded to Mr Baskoro and Mr Ponon with an example from his organisation funding global youth biodiversity network (GYBN), which is now considered a major stakeholder in international conferences.****Mr. Sergey Kononov, Manager program coordination, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change****, stressed the value of youth-led actions of raising awareness and de-conceptualisation, and that this should occur at the existing local level, although the attitude toward youth engagement is contingent on the regional and national contexts. Also commented that he was ‘impressed’ by the position of Chief Future Officer.****Mr. Yusuke Inoue, Director for Promoting Zero-carbon Lifestyle, Ministry of the Environment Japan,*** *spoke on the time taking nature of policy making at global level, and the establishment of a new council involving youth, whom he described as important for domestic policy making and decarbonisation of society.****Ms. Nadine Salame, Associate Sustainable Development Officer, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs,*** *addressed that youth of today will be responsible for the world tomorrow, and showed appreciation for delivering the youth side event.****Session 2 Presentation******Ms. Mizuho Shibasaki, Vice-President, Change Our Next Decade****, presented the vision, the current domestic and international activities of Change Our Next Decade, and the policy proposal which empathised the importance of youth participation in decision-making process and the importance of synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and biodiversity conservation.****Mr. Soma Kondo, Energy Team Leader, Climate Youth Japan****, presented the vision of Climate Youth Japan, and the proposal which emphasised the importance of energy policy for an equitable and fair transition, the climate-nature nexus and the community-driven measures on climate change adaptation, diverse discussions for consensus building, and climate justice to think climate change as a security issue.****Mr. Haruhisa Tokito, Organiser, Fridays for Future, and Mr. Beck Feifan Ochiai, Organiser, Fridays for Future****, presented the climate injustice happening in Japan especially on the environment for international residents, intergenerational gap, the increase of vulnerability of people in the fishing and the agricultural industry, and the climate justice happening around the world which relate to Japanese companies.****Session 2 Discussion Session 1******Mr. Hiroyoshi Uchida, Principal Policy Advocacy Advisor, Climate Youth Japan****, facilitated the discussion session on nature and climate synergies and trade-offs. He brought three discussion topics on the necessity of conducting both climate crisis measures and biodiversity conservation, provoking the further change of multi-stakeholders’ behaviour, and involving nature and climate perspective in the business sector.****Mr. Kizashi Koga, President, Climate Youth Japan****, stated that the importance to think of trade-off even more despite that the wider society has started to share the seriousness of climate change issues and the importance of decarbonisation, and pointed out the importance of synergistic collaboration and cooperation with multi-stakeholders including the business sectors.****Ms. Kotoko Yadomaru, President, Change Our Next Decade****, pointed out the risks of adaptation of climate change measures given trade-offs in nature, and stated the importance to minimise trade-offs between climate change measures and nature conservation. She also emphasised the importance of synergistic cooperation and the role of youths to accelerate nature friendly actions and prevent green wash.****Session 2 Discussion Session 2******Mr. Tasuku Azuma, Head of International Department, Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability****, facilitated the discussion on the question; “How can we strengthen further synergistic connections between multi stakeholders including youth, business, governmental and international organisations or groups?” Also mentioned that many youth have signed up for this side event, who could have participated in-person with**appropriate funding for travel.****Mr. Haruhisa Tokito, Organiser, Fridays for Future****, mentioned the significance of raising awareness on climate change and justice, to extend partnership and increase chances of collaboration. Also shared his experience in attending a COP26.****Mr. Hiroyoshi Uchida, Principal Policy Advocacy Advisor, Climate Youth Japan****, addressed that it is essential for youth and adults to speak on equal terms, and that there should be more seats for UNFCCC COP to strengthen youth representation. Another point conveyed was untangling the uncooperative stereotype of youth and fostering a sustainable partnership with adults.****Ms. Rena Kawasaki, Second Generation CFO, Euglena****, explained the current issues pertaining to youth wash and its mechanism, and the value of providing a safe platform for youth to share their ideas. Also echoed Mr Hiroyoshi Uchida’s point on confrontational stereotypes of youth that hampers the intergenerational dialogue.****Mr. Muhammad Kenzo Baskoro, Partnership Team, US-ASEAN Young Professional Association****, mentioned the issue of misrepresentation via poor data collection and measurement framework that puts developed countries at an advantage and emphasise their progress, whereas the true aim should lie in drawing out the actual issues in the developing countries.****Closing Session******Ms. Chika Suzuki, Co-Secretary General, Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability, Ms. Aoi Mochizuki, COP27 Project Team, Climate Youth Japan, and Ms. Kotoko Yadomaru, President, Change Our Next Decade*** *explained the key points of the policy proposal, which include a norm-changing shift towards achieving SDGs integrating the synergies between climate change and biodiversity, and meaningful youth engagement, to resiliently adapt to the current issues.****Mr. Minoru Takada, Team Leader (Energy), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs,*** *acknowledged the difficulty to make swift change at global scale, and asked the youth to clarify the needs of the youth and emphasised the value of communicating them to other stakeholders to gain their support.****Mr. Sergey Kononov, Manager program coordination, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change****, positively assessed the proposal which pays proper attention to synergies while acknowledging the estimated challenges in the new norm and standard making process and the complexity of inter linkage. He emphasised the importance of thinking and measuring the impact to society and engaging with multi-stakeholders for youth participation.****Mr. Akio Takemoto, Head of Programme and Administration of United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability****, stated the importance of further cooperation and collaboration even beyond the definition of youths.****Mr. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies****, acknowledged the importance of new norms and standards, the further discussion on biodiversity, and the active participation of youths.* |