



Youth in Action: Driving Solutions for Sustainable Tourism

17 March 2022, 2:00 – 4:30 PM (GMT+8), via Zoom Meetings

Session Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact throughout Southeast Asia, especially for young people. Young people’s educational opportunities and employment prospects in Asia and the Pacific have been severely challenged by the pandemic. Youth have lost employment at a faster rate than adults across the region. Moreover, often they are hired with inadequate job protection and social security, or resort to more informal forms of employment. In the 2020 study by ILO and ADB Youth for Asia¹ (YfA), youth employment in Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia and Thailand have been greatly affected as their economies relied heavily on tourism and export manufacturing, which both experienced disrupted supply chains and cancellations. In another research conducted by YfA, Restless Development and Cambridge University, youth from Indonesia, specifically those in the tourism sector, faced job difficulties, mental health issues, and, in extreme cases resorted to potentially dangerous occupations to cope.

In the YfA Partner Deep Dive Workshop at SEADS 2022, an intergenerational and multisectoral dialogue will explore the future of sustainable tourism in the region and the opportunities that meaningfully engaged young people offer to realize this vision. Participants from government, civil society and youth organizations, academic institutions and others will share opportunities, lessons learned and recommendations for revitalizing a tourism sector that is sustainable, inclusive, and driven by meaningfully engaging with more youth.

The session will be partnered with a solutions search titled *Youth at Crossroads: A Sustainable Tourism Solutions Search*.

¹ <https://www.adb.org/publications/covid-19-youth-employment-crisis-asia-pacific>

Session Objectives

The session aims to:

- Showcase innovative youth-led solutions to promote sustainable tourism, especially during the COVID pandemic
- Unpack emerging opportunities in meaningfully engaging youth in Sustainable Tourism; and
- Provide a space for an intergenerational multistakeholder dialogue on youth's contribution in Sustainable Tourism.

Agenda Overview

Time	Agenda
14:00 – 14:05	Welcome and Introduction to Session
14:05 – 14:25	<p>Technical Overview: Impact and opportunities for youth in sustainable and community-based tourism</p> <p>Based on the recent research of ADB Youth for Asia, Restless Development and Cambridge University,² a youth rapporteur from Indonesia will be presenting COVID-19 impact on young people in tourism. ADB Youth for Asia will be presenting the meaningful youth engagement framework and opportunities on meaningfully engaging youth in tourism. ADB Project Officer will be presenting pathways for recovery on community-based tourism.</p>
14:25 – 14:30	<p>Overview of <i>Youth at Crossroads: A Sustainable Tourism Solutions Search</i></p> <p>The Solutions Search will feature youth solutions in sustainable tourism in Asia and the Pacific.</p>
14:30 – 15:45	<p>Breakout Discussions: Deep Dive into Youth Solutions and Tourism (Fishbowl Discussion)</p> <p>Participants are divided into diverse intergenerational groups to discuss Youth Solutions and opportunities in Meaningful Youth Engagement in Tourism.</p>
15:45 – 16:15	<p>Plenary to share breakout highlights</p> <p>Participants come back to the plenary to present and to deep dive on the outputs of the breakout discussion.</p>
16:15 – 16:25	Synthesis and closing remarks
16:25 – 16:30	Evaluation and Wrap up

² <https://events.development.asia/learning-events/youth-time-crisis-livelihood-diaries-nepal-and-indonesia-during-covid-19>