ADB YOUTH FOR ASIA

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Youth for Asia Today

Believing in the power of empowered youth as a force for innovative and effective development, the Asian Development Bank launched ADB Youth for Asia (YfA) in 2013. This places the ADB at a very unique spot as it is the **only multilateral development bank** that has a young and dynamic team embedded in its operations.

YfA **enables young people and governments to work together** to deliver project components contributing to the SDGs. It fulfills its mission by ensuring that **ADB's policies, programs and projects are youth-inclusive**, that **young people are empowered as co-equals** in intergenerational partnerships, and that such **partnerships are institutionalized and strengthened**.

Key Collaborators

Integrated Operating Model

Youth for Asia develops solutions to leverage the Voice, Insight and Action of youth for the SDGs

VOICE

Influence change

INSIGHT

Generate and share knowledge

ACTION

Catalyze delivery of the SDGs

PARTNERSHIPS AND TECHNOLOGY

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Defining Meaningful Youth Engagement

"Under enabling conditions, youth representatives actively participate throughout the program life cycle and enter into youth-adult partnerships that empower youth and may contribute to positive and long-lasting labor market outcomes"

Plan International, Citi Foundation, and Youth Employment Funders Group (2021)

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Meaningful Youth Engagement Framework

1 **Youth Diversity and Representation**
The youth employment program selects youth participants who represent diverse groups of youth, including the most vulnerable, through inclusive selection processes.

2 **Youth Engagement-Enabling Environment**
The youth employment program provides safe, conducive and accountable engagement conditions for youth throughout the program life cycle.

3 **Youth-Adult Partnerships**
Throughout a youth employment program, a shared-value partnership between youth and adults from funder, implementer and other pertinent organizations underpins and leverages the efforts of all youth involved in the program.

4 **Youth Participation**
The youth employment program ensures that the involvement of young people is rights based, appropriate to their developmental abilities and continuous.
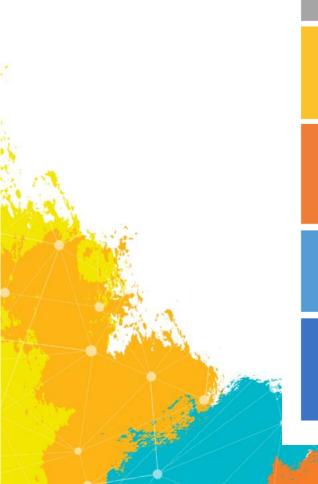
5 **Youth Empowerment**
Through the youth employment program, the young participants grow empowered, enhance project quality and youth employment outcomes and influence labor market developments in favor of the program's targeted youth.

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Pillar 1: Youth Diversity and Representation

Youth representation is fair, inclusive and context-specific. It recognizes young people's heterogeneity, and promotes unity among youth involved in the program.

Fair

Program structures and roles are equitably distributed among young people

Inclusive

Efforts are made to ensure youth engaged represent the diversity of the population

Context-Specific

The specific circumstances of young people are reflected in the youth engaged

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Pillar 2: Youth Engagement-Enabling Environment

Engagement-conducive project environments are characterized by *safety, conduciveness and accountability,* and help make well-meaning intentions to engage youth possible.

Safe

Programs keep young people safe and promote their best interests

Conducive

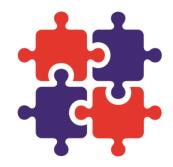Program environments provide youth-friendly spaces, working methods, and resources

Accountable

Stakeholders hear youth inputs without judgement and feedback on how these will be leveraged in the program

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Pillar 3: Youth-Adult Partnerships

Genuine, shared-value youth-adult partnerships are the foundation of meaningful youth engagement practices. These partnerships enable young people to "take a valued position in society" and for communities to "benefit from their contributions, ideas and energy" (UNICEF, 2018).

Shared-Value Creation

Partnerships maximize value creation and provide net benefits to both

Equality

Both youth and adults are seen as valued stakeholders and contributors.

Joint Work

Partnerships have common objectives, shared decision-making and ownership, and two-way learning.

Common Norms

Youth and adults practice trust, acceptance, respect, mutuality, and reciprocity.

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Pillar 4: Youth Participation

Participation in itself is a complex notion that can be understood in a variety of ways, but it is a core ingredient of meaningful youth engagement. Youth participation that promotes meaningful youth engagement, it must be *rights-based, age and developmentally appropriate, and continuous.*

Rights-based

Young people participate because it is their right, and because it is a prerequisite for claiming other rights.

Age/Developmentally Appropriate

Opportunities cater to the young people's ages and developmental capabilities.

Continuous

Participation spans a full spectrum of interventions, including decision-making – from start to finish.

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Pillar 5: Youth Empowerment

Meaningful youth engagement both culminates from and leads to a sense of general multidimensional empowerment of young people. Youth empowerment has the following characteristics: *personal empowerment, community impact, and system-level influencing.*

Personal Empowerment

MYE builds a sense of ownership, which motivates youth to acquire the information and learning, skills, tools and networks to contribute and grow.

Community Impact

Engaged young people create "better informed, increasingly youth-responsive initiatives and ideas", which can affect change in young people's communities.

System-level Influencing

Empowerment culminates with young people's ability to call out and work with system-level actors to address root causes of development issues

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