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Citi Foundation



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YOUTH C:LAB

SUMMIT 2022

Singapore

A circular graphic composed of red dashed lines, resembling a fingerprint or a stylized globe, positioned to the right of the '2022' text.

4 -7 July | 2022

Concept Note

#Jointhemovement

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BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the important role of youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and calls for action against the challenges faced by young people that limits their economic, social and political inclusion. Today, young people are more connected, more creative, more informed and more persuasive than any previous generation. They are responding to the challenges of today with innovative approaches, contributing fresh ideas, creating the world they want, and driving human development for themselves, their communities. However approximately 300 million young people are either unemployed or underemployed. In other words, nearly half of the 700 million young people in the Asia-Pacific region face economic insecurity. In addition, many young people are left out of decision-making processes, which further contributes to their marginalization and exclusion.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further unleashed an unprecedented global crisis, disrupting the lives of millions and creating long-lasting socio-economic impacts that risk reducing the productive potential of an entire generation.

For young people, the disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 crisis are exposing and exacerbating their existing vulnerabilities. In 2020 alone, the crisis resulted in an estimated loss of 17 million jobs for the region's young workers.

WHAT IS YOUTH CO:LAB?

Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship. By developing 21st century skills, catalysing and sustaining youth-led start-ups and social enterprises across the region, Youth Co:Lab is positioning young people front and centre in order to solve the region's most pressing challenges. In addition to supporting youth entrepreneurship, Youth Co:Lab also works closely with multiple stakeholders across the region, including governments, civil society and the private sector, to strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem and policy support to better enable young people to take the lead on new solutions that will help meet the SDGs.

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OUR STORY SO FAR

Over the past five years, Youth Co:Lab has been implemented in 28 countries and territories across Asia-Pacific. The national dialogues, regional summits and social innovation challenges have reached over 200,000 participants. The initiative has benefitted over 11,000 young social entrepreneurs and helped to launch or improve over 1,240 youth-led social enterprises. Youth Co:Lab has established transformative partnerships with over 200 key ecosystem players through its Youth Empowerment Alliance.

While the COVID-19 crisis presents significant challenges to youth-led social enterprises, Youth Co:Lab has adapted its service offers over the past year to expand holistic and virtual support to young entrepreneurs and changemakers in Asia-Pacific to not only survive the crisis, but to scale solutions with long-term potential beyond recovery.

Building on past successes and learnings, Youth Co:Lab plans to deepen engagement in existing markets and expand to 29 countries and territories across the region from 2022 – 2023 (namely Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam).

The programme will also focus on diversity and inclusion by scaling up outreach to marginalized groups, deepening mentorship and capacity development through the Springboard pre-incubation platform, conduct ecosystem diagnostics and co-create action-oriented research to strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems, and engage ecosystem partners at the regional and national level in the development of young people's 21st century skills.

OUR APPROACH TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

To deliver Youth Empowerment means adopting an integrated approach that aims to strengthen individual and institutional capabilities while building for an enabling environment that promotes young people's agency in shaping tomorrow's world and achieving the SDGs.

Our approach is three-pronged: it works at the downstream, mid-stream and upstream level, concurrently, to actively engage all actors and drive collective action.

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YOUTH CO:LAB SUMMIT 2022

The Youth Co:Lab Summit 2022 in Singapore, co-organized by UNDP and Citi Foundation in partnership with National Youth Council Singapore, will serve as a key milestone for the regional youth empowerment agenda by positioning young people and their innovative ideas, front and centre to solve the region's most pressing challenges. As we celebrate young entrepreneurs' agility and resilience in responding to these unprecedented times, we must also meet the moment and step up our collective efforts to support young people and their transformative solutions to lead the way in our journey beyond recovery, towards 2030.

THEME FOR THE SUMMIT 2022:

The 2022 Summit is envisioned to highlight, encourage and celebrate the role of youth in our crucial Decade of Action; Showcasing and inspiring youth to Action especially aligning on the larger Youth Co:Lab themes of Youth in Climate Action and Leaving No Youth Behind.

Also given the focus of the National Youth Council in Singapore to push youth towards taking an action in realising their vision of the future, the theme can provide a base to curate the specific agendas, showcases and ecosystem partners.

YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is arguably the biggest threat our world faces today. The consequences range from countries disappearing, famine and widespread destruction of lives and properties.

The August 2021 release of the AR6 Report highlights the urgency of the situation, with the UN Secretary General declaring a "code red for humanity".

The Glasgow Climate Pact out of COP26 saw countries raising their climate ambitions, however the world is still short of where it needs to be to stem the impacts of climate change.

Sustainable Living



Green Economy



Green Energy



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Meanwhile across the Asia-Pacific region, temperatures are increasing, floods and droughts are becoming more intense, and sea-levels are rising - with disastrous impacts for young people that live there.

However, the climate crisis is not inevitable and youth, who see climate change as a major priority, are an important part of the solution. Using innovation, creativity and passion, young people, including young social entrepreneurs are among the strongest advocates for change.

A recent UNDP survey found that, while 63 percent of the people in Asia and the Pacific recognize climate change as a global emergency, young people are more likely than any other age group to do so. But change is not easy, and young people require all our support to make it happen. Whether in the form of new partnerships, dedicated accelerators to scale up young people attempting to tackle climate change or research to showcase the ways in which young people are already making a difference, Youth Co:Lab together with partners are stepping up their support for young climate activists.

In Singapore, the Green Plan 2030 is calling for a nationwide movement on the area of sustainable development.

With focus on nature to green energy, green economy and sustainable living, there is a role for organisations and citizens to contribute and not just be a part of a more sustainable Singapore but also further the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Here too, the role of youth is paramount. Their education, their initiatives and their action are envisioned to be a critical component to achieve the targets in the Green Plan 2030.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

When it comes to achieving the SDGs, the progress in Asia-Pacific is uneven. While important gains have been achieved, progress has often been made amongst those groups that are easiest to reach, leaving many of the poorest and most vulnerable – including youth – behind.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also undoubtedly exacerbated the inequality gap further. To be able to fully prosper as a region, it is paramount that vulnerable and marginalized communities and youth are given the tools and means to thrive.

Youth Co:Lab's "leave no one behind" principle reflects going the extra mile to reach marginalized community and provide support to social enterprises that are bringing services and products to underserved groups.



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With Youth Co:Lab's operational experience and immersion in the ecosystem, some of the key efforts made include, co-designing and collaborating with partners from the marginalized groups for regional and national programme, providing suitable and customized mentorship capacity development and bridging opportunities and resources such as crowd-funding campaigns and small grants.

As we look towards 2030 and beyond, it is imperative that Youth Co:Lab together with partners examines how entrepreneurship can help vulnerable and marginalized communities to thrive, and how we can create more resilient, peaceful and sustainable societies.

Given the specific context of Singapore, the idea is to incorporate LNOB as a theme across the Summit. Through our inclusion of speakers, participants, our sessions and workshops planning, we will infuse the element of inclusivity through out the agenda. Specific efforts to direct the outreach and communications to vulnerable communities will also be made so the participant profile is inclusive of all youth in Singapore.

The objectives of the summit are to:

Provide a regional platform for young social entrepreneurs across the Asia-Pacific region.

Foster a sense of community between individuals and partners by providing opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange.

Discuss key trends and new evidence that are shaping the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem and examine how policymakers can strengthen and future-proof youth entrepreneurship ecosystems across the region.

Identify and inaugurate collaborative initiatives to further strengthen the ecosystem towards Youth in Action.

Inspire, engage and generate platforms of actions for youth participants, to further strengthen Youth in Action.

Reflection on YCL national activities 2021-22 and planning for 2022-2023.



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WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?

The Youth Co:Lab Summit expects to engage over 250 participants, approximately 100 international guests and 150 national delegates, from various sectors of the youth empowerment agenda including youth leaders and entrepreneurs, government representatives, academia, champions for development, UN agencies, media, and the start-ups and investors community. The 250 participants are solely for the in-person segment. The reach through our virtual platforms is expected to engage a few thousands in audience.

Key Objectives of the Summit for Youth Participants:

Networking and showcasing opportunities to get further support and scale their existing social ventures.

Capacity development through curated workshops on thematic areas of Climate Action, Women Development and Inclusivity, Social Entrepreneurship, the Future of Work, and Inclusivity.

Become a part of a community of regional and national youth that can become a force to take action and create change.

Be inspired through the sessions by hearing from other youth, industry experts and other speakers.

Be offered avenues through which they can start their own journey and take action.

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PRE-FORUM

4th and 5th July | 2022

Pre-forum will consist of sessions and activities based on the key stakeholders of the summit. National Youth Champions will attend the Youth Co:Lab Regional Springboard which focuses on capacity building and personal development, through workshops and activities. Following the workshops, national youth champions will showcase during the regional demo-day to attract funding and support from investors and youth empowerment alliance.

Sessions will be curated to engage policymakers, representatives from UNDP and Citi Foundation, and the youth social entrepreneur community. They are envisioned as parallel sessions that could each address a specific conversation agenda and help build the community bond. Further sessions and activities could be co-created that complement the structure of the summit and bring a greater focus on the thematic areas of the summit 2022.

** Detailed agenda for the pre-forum will be shared separately.*



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MAIN SUMMIT

6th and 7th July | 2022

INSPIRE & LEARN

Through the two days, we will aim to inspire attendees and provide learning and sharing opportunities. Following the opening remarks from co-leading partners, the summit will include keynote speeches and plenaries on the themes of the summit 2022 including youth in action and SDGs, climate change, leaving no one behind, and more. Workshops and lab spaces will provide an opportunity to improve awareness and share ideas related to key challenges and opportunities related to youth entrepreneurship in the region.

In the evening, delegates are invited to attend the “Cultural Night” to witness the Singaporean culture and showcase their own.

CALL TO ACTION

The duration of the summit will also heavily focus on convening conversations related to implementation of ideas and building partnerships. Significant collaboration announcements will feature in the summit, allowing an inspiring culmination with closing remarks from co-leading partners and Youth Co:Lab leadership.

The agenda is proposed anticipating a significant in-person event alongside a virtual component.

If given the COVID-19 situation and restrictions, some of this is not possible, we will plan for an agenda where the in-person element is concentrated nationally with the regional connections happening on the virtual platform.



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AGENDA | MAIN SUMMIT

6TH JULY | DAY 1

TIME: (GMT+8)



09:30 – 10:00	Delegates' Arrival and Registration
10:00 – 11:00	Opening Remarks
11:00 – 11:20	Fireside Chat on Climate Action
11:20 – 12:00	Panel Discussion: Youth and Climate Action
12:00 – 13:00	Networking Lunch
13:00 – 14:30	Youth and Climate Change Innovation Workshop Women's Entrepreneurship Hotseat Access to Innovative Financing Solutions for Youth
14:30 – 15:00	Networking Break
15:00 – 16:00	Youth Co:Lab Talks: Youth Champions (TedX Style)
18:00 – 19:30	Singapore Cultural Night

Based on the success of the inaugural virtual summit last year, it is envisioned that the Youth Co:Lab Summit 2022 will adopt a hybrid format, blending in-person and virtual event elements to create a unique and unified experience for participants, while ensuring adherence to health and safety protocols in the context of COVID-19.

A detailed version of the agenda can be shared separately.

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AGENDA | MAIN SUMMIT

7TH JULY | DAY 2

TIME: (GMT+8)



09:30 – 10:00 Delegates' Arrival and Registration

10:00 – 12:00 Youth Co:lab Regional Showcase

12:00 – 13:00 Networking Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 Youth and the Future of Work Workshop
Youth Co:Lab Unconference

14:00 – 15:00 Panel Discussion: Future of Work

15:00 – 15:15 Networking Break

15:15 – 16:00 Closing Remarks and Call to Action

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