



Declaration: Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies for Climate Change through Green Economy Initiatives

We, representatives of the youth of the Asia-Pacific Region¹, are alarmed by the slow pace of action that has marked negotiations on climate change to this point. This will result in nothing less than a future of disastrous impacts for people living in highlands to oceans in our and other regions of the world. We believe that adaptation and mitigation measures developed through collective action and based on principles of green economy will ensure that the goals of the UNFCCC for stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations are met. We therefore encourage you, our government officials and decision makers, to take immediate steps towards implementing the following six key areas, which emerged in discussions among youth participants at the Asia-Pacific Graduate Youth Forum on Green Economy held in Kathmandu, Nepal from September 25 - 29, 2012.



Green Entrepreneurship

We encourage you to strongly support green entrepreneurial programs, projects and green entrepreneur-friendly policies. This will promote a culture of creativity and impact-driven solutions. We also strongly emphasize that youth be given incentives to innovate and that deserving ideas be encouraged through the support of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).



Sustainable Energy

We encourage you to transition to greater reliance on renewable energy solutions like hydropower, solar, wind and biomass technologies through local participation and ownership. We also encourage you to advocate sustainable energy technologies that are affordable and feasible in local contexts and to take serious and meaningful actions for the implementation of these technologies.



Low Carbon Economy

We expect you to be more ambitious and committed towards Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation by ensuring to include diverse sectors, from the energy sector, transportation and infrastructure to existing manufacturing industries. We encourage you to hold all countries at any development level accountable through the implementation of zero-carbon and low-carbon strategies that focus on incentives for transformation and sound waste management systems based on the principles of the four 'R's—reduce, reuse, recycle and reclaim.



Climate Change Adaptation

We ask you to formulate adaptation strategies that are grounded on the traditional knowledge of local communities and that can be owned and sustained by those communities with local resources and skills. We encourage you to focus on resilience building techniques and effective dissemination of information that makes climate science relevant to society.



Collaboration, Policy Implementation and Monitoring

We strongly encourage you to implement and monitor policies in collaboration with local communities at all levels of decision-making. We also encourage you to ensure the utilization of traditional media as well as the growing Information Communication Technologies (ICT's) to enhance opportunities for participatory coordination and collaboration.



Youth Empowerment and Inclusiveness

We encourage you to take a participatory and an inter-generational approach in sound decision-making by including youth in the planning process. Today's international youth community despite their diversity is united by a vision for a better future. Thus, we encourage you to act as mentors to youth by giving them the platform, resources and backing for devising innovative ideas to face the challenges of climate change.



¹ Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam





The *Asia-Pacific Graduates Youth Forum on Green Economy* was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 25 - 29 September 2012. The forum was organized by the joint effort of The Small Earth Nepal (SEN), the Consortium of Capacity Building (CCB) of the University of Colorado at Boulder, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and over a dozen other partners with a funding support from the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) under the CAPABLE program. The forum hosted 40 passionate youth from 13 different countries across the Asia-Pacific region and this declaration is the outcome of the hard work and effort put in by all of them.

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