

Summary Report

Subregional Forum on Youth Participation in Policy-Making for East and North-East Asia

Date: 15-17 August 2011
Venue: Graduate Institute of Peace Studies, Kyung Hee University, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea
Participants: 68 youths aged 18-26 from 5 countries of the subregion: China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation

The Subregional Forum on Youth Participation in Policy-Making for East and North-East Asia was held on 15-17 August 2011 at the Graduate Institute of Peace Studies of Kyung Hee University in Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea. It was the first meeting of the ESCAP SRO-ENEAs 3-year project (approved by the Senior Management Team of ESCAP) to promote youth participation in policy-making, addressing the internationally agreed development goals on youth as enshrined in the “World Programme of Action on Youth” (1995). The Forum was held back-to-back with the Global Model United Nations conference, organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information and hosted by Incheon Metropolitan City on 10-14 August 2011, thereby capitalizing on the presence of subregional youths in the Republic of Korea. Out of the total 68 participants, 35 were attendees of the Global Model United Nations.

The Subregional Youth Forum also marked the closure of the International Year of Youth (12 August 2010 - 11 August 2011) in East and North-East Asia. Globally, the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Youth was held at the UN Headquarters in New York on 25-26 July 2011 to mark the Year. Its outcome document gives the Regional Commissions of the United Nations the mandate to “assist Member States in sharing information on national experiences, lessons learned and good practices in the involvement of youth in the implementation of relevant internationally agreed development goals”. The present Subregional Youth Forum, as well as future activities of the 3-year project, implemented this mandate in the East and North-East Asian subregion.

The three objectives of the Subregional Youth Forum were: 1) Sharing and reviewing good practice of collaboration between youth organizations and policy-making bodies; 2) Formulating action plans on effective youth participation on three topics (Current Socio-Economic Transformation and Youth Unemployment; Human Wellbeing and the Concept of “Happiness” in the Context of Social and Economic Development; and Sustainable Development and the Role of Major Stakeholders, especially Youth); and 3) Identifying ways to channel youth views to policy-making.

As a result of the Subregional Youth Forum, three Action Plans pertaining to the three topics were produced by the participants. Possible avenues for bringing these voices of youth to intergovernmental decision-making processes have been explored at the end of the Forum, and ESCAP SRO-ENEAs is following up with these ideas, including presenting a youth statement at the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea in October 2011.

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