



## **Youth Recommendations for Environmental Action**

We, the young people of Southeast Asia, express our deepest concern for the ongoing climate and ecological crisis. We are also deeply saddened by the displacement of individuals and groups from the consequences of climate change and poor city planning. Nevertheless, as the generation of resilience, we remain optimistic that appropriate actions can still be undertaken to tackle these issues.

We have highlighted several action points that can be undertaken by regional and domestic leaders, civil societies, NGOs, private sector, and youth across the region to ensure the existence of a healthy and sustainable cities and environment for our futures.

In ensuring the fulfilment of environment related human rights, we call on regional policymakers and local government leaders to:

1. Facilitate participation of a diverse range of stakeholders in the governance of environmental rights issues by including indigenous, religious, rural, youth and LGBTQIA+ communities, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities in the policymaking process.
2. Conduct comprehensive environmental and human rights assessments during the planning of development projects by:
  - A. Improving data collection systems such as for carbon inventory.
  - B. Taking due consideration of the current environmental state of a development location.
  - C. Analyzing both the economic benefits as well as the environmental impacts by evaluating insights from both scientists and environmental experts with economic experts and deciding on a balanced approach.
  - D. Obtaining a free, prior, and informed consent from indigenous communities when the development location involves indigenous land.
3. Mainstream environmentally conscious lifestyles and ensure the people's right to receive information by:
  - A. Organizing a series and repeated nationwide campaign both online and offline for the (1) need to reduce or cut back on the usage of single-use plastic; (2) proper waste management by households; and (3) wildlife conservation.
  - B. Making environmental education part of schools' curriculum during the compulsory education period covering interdisciplinary, intersectional, conservation and justice approaches.
4. Protect environmental defenders and reinforce accountability for perpetrators of environmental crimes by:
  - A. Decriminalizing environmental activists or human rights defenders for criticizing or protesting land conversion.



- B. Enforcing accountability mechanisms to environmental protection laws beyond financial penalty or imprisonment time to include mandates for environmental rehabilitation such as reforestation and mine rehabilitation.
5. Prioritize the use of sustainable energy resource by:
- A. Investing in green energy development.
  - B. Imposing carbon tax as both a deterrent and encouragement for excessive emitters of greenhouse gas to reduce their emissions, switch to more sustainable resources or adopt new technologies that produce clean energy.

In preventing internal displacement as well as securing the livelihoods of individuals and groups who have been displaced from climate change and unbalanced city planning, we call on regional policymakers and local government leaders to:

1. Preserve natural resources to allow local communities to retain food and income sources by:
  - A. Ceasing overexploitation of natural resources by both public and private actors.
  - B. Mainstreaming ecotourism principles to both foreign and domestic travelers.
2. Develop rural areas responsibly to create better employment opportunities for rural communities to prevent overurbanization by:
  - A. Enabling some centers either financial or governmental to be based in rural areas.
  - B. Providing social security measures to support women in rural areas who are sole providers and primary family caretaker to allow for a stable home and family environment.
3. Develop city preparedness to handle and overcome disaster events by:
  - A. Equipping developers with urban development guidelines that ensure measures to handle possible disaster events are set up and conducting a post-development assessment to ensure the measures are set up properly.
  - B. Mainstreaming awareness of causes for disaster events and advising preventative measures that each member of the public should take.
4. Ensure basic livelihood needs for displaced communities are met by:
  - A. Providing access to adequate shelter, clean water, healthcare, and healthy food.
  - B. Rehabilitating areas hit by disaster events to enable a safe and dignified return of displaced communities to such areas.
5. Create opportunities for displaced communities to improve their livelihoods by:
  - A. Informing the cultural practices in the relocated area to eliminate animosity with existing communities and allow for healthy interaction between each community.
  - B. Empowering displaced communities to attain decent work by affording vocational training.



In support of the above-mentioned calls, we encourage civil societies, NGO, CSO and the private sector to:

1. Collaborate with the public sector to increase capacity and awareness on environmental impacts during development of policies or projects.
2. Provide safe platforms for youths to have an intergenerational dialogue with members of the previous generation and current decision makers on the need to prioritize environmentally friendly action.
3. Distribute basic needs support for displaced communities such as toiletries, feminine hygiene products, medicine, and food.
4. Provide counselling services to protect the mental health of displaced communities especially for children.
5. Be transparent of product development stages and processes to enable consumers to make responsible and informed decisions in making a purchase.
6. Invest in green technology and provide training for people who have held jobs in unsustainable industries to adapt into working in the green energy industry.

We further encourage our youth peers to:

1. Be proactive in making environmentally conscious decisions daily such as using reusable shopping bags, reducing electricity consumption, and saving water.
2. Use social media to promote environmentally friendly lifestyles.
3. Communicating with family members on the need to make certain lifestyle adjustments to avoid contribution to further environmental degradation.
4. Volunteer in locations of displaced communities with a positive and accepting attitude to create a welcoming environment for the displaced persons.

We, the youth of Southeast Asia recognize a collective responsibility in ensuring the existence of a healthy and sustainable environment. Our hopes for a future where each one of us can live with a peace of mind rather than surrounded by devastation rests on the actions that must be taken by each person in their respective capacities as a leader, member of an organization/corporation and an individual.

Youth of Southeast Asia

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