



**United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)
External Working Group**

--- **Report: UN MGCY engagement in
Asia Pacific Urban Regional Meetings** ---



**UN Major Group for
Children and Youth**
the space for children and youth in the United Nations



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UN MGCY Participation in Asia-Pacific Urban Forums & Meetings

Jakarta, Indonesia
October, 2015

1. Executive Summary

From 17 - 22 October 2015, three meetings relating to sustainable urban development and the New Urban Agenda in the Asia-Pacific Region took place consecutively in Jakarta, Indonesia. These were the Asia-Pacific Urban Youth Assembly (APUFY), the 6th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-6) and the Asia-Pacific High Level Preparatory Regional Meetings for Habitat III (APRM). The UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) were active in all three forums, ensuring that the priorities and recommendations of youth from the Asia-Pacific region were strongly represented and heard over the course of these meetings. In addition to hosting panel sessions and organising side events, the team were active in creating policy-documents, meeting bilaterally with member states and stakeholders, and raising youth priorities in main and side sessions. This report summarises the engagement of the UN MGCY over the course of these meetings.

2. Introduction

From 17 - 22 October 2015, three meetings relating to sustainable urban development and the New Urban Agenda in the Asia-Pacific Region took place consecutively in Jakarta, Indonesia. Each had a different focus, in terms of stakeholders and outcomes, but all were centred around contemporary and emerging urban issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) were active in all three of these forums, with an aim to actively participate as youth in those proceedings, advocate the priorities and recommendations of regional youth, and to ensure that youth were fully engaged in all aspects of the forums. A summary video of the highlights from all three forums may be seen [here](#).



3. UN MGCY Activities in Jakarta

a. Asia-Pacific Urban Youth Assembly (APUFY)



i) Background

The Asia-Pacific Urban Youth Assembly, also known as APUFY, was an official side event of the Asia Pacific Urban Forum. Held on 17-18 October, 2015, it provided a regional platform for 300 Asia-Pacific Youth from 31 countries to articulate urban issues and solutions impacting their lives and communities, mainly through a series of parallel sessions and discussions. This event was organised by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of the Indonesian Government, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The summary video of APUFY may be seen [here](#).

ii) Representation

Name	Organisation	Country
Aashish Khullar (OP Rep)	Children & Youth International	India
Aizat Shamsuddin	Komuniti Muslim Universal (KMU)	Malaysia
Alice Claeson	IFMSA-Sweden	Sweden
Christopher Dekki (CYI Board Member)	IMCS-Pax Romana	Syria/USA
Gusti Ayu Fransiska Dewi	Rainforest Alliance	Indonesia
Hideaki Tonoike	One Young World/OECD	Japan
Hiroataka Koike (DOP Rep)	Japan Youth Platform for Post 2015	Japan
Jacque Trieu	World Vision	Australia



Joce Timoty Pardosi	BEM FHUI 2015	Indonesia
Mayeda Rashid	CQUniversity Australia, RMIT University Australia, Bushfire and natural Hazard CRC	Bangladesh
Mizan Bustanul Fuady Bisri	Kobe University	Indonesia
Mohamad Nizam Hosen	Dhaka Regional Youth Forum	Bangladesh
Mohammad Rafiq	World Vision	India
Paskalis A. Toda	IMCS - Pax Romana	Indonesia
Ravi Tissera	IMCS - Pax Romana	Sri Lanka
Sachi Suzuki	Tohoku University	Japan
Sakura Kasai	UNDP China intern	China
Sharon Lo (RFP, North and Southeast Asia)	UN MGCY	Hong Kong
Thye Yoke Pean	Bandung Institute of Technology	Singapore
Tia Rowley	Australia	Australia
Vandana Sonker	World Vision	India
Vincy Abraham (RFP, South & Central Asia)	A38 Foundation for International Law	India

iii) Participation

1. Collaborating Partner of APUFY

Firstly, the UN MGCY was a core partner organiser of UN Habitat in the organisation of the actual APUFY event along with Asian Development Bank. In particular, the Deputy Organising Partners (DOP) of the UN MGCY Habitat III working group played a critical role in the planning and preparation for the event, and UN MGCY member Alice Claeson spent one month in the run up to the event volunteering in an operational role to facilitate the whole event.

2. Organisers of two Parallel Sessions

The UN MGCY organised two Parallel Sessions which occurred over the course of APUFY. The first, entitled "Policy Introduction: Finalisation of the One Page Youth Declaration" occurred on 18 October at 11.30pm. This was designed towards introducing participants to the general Habitat III process and outline the



contributions made by young people. Various members of the panel gave examples of how youth have played roles in policy and decision making processes across the Asia-Pacific region. The session concluded with a summary overview of the Asia Pacific Children and Youth Position Paper Toward the New Urban Agenda, which enabled participants to give comments, feedback and recommendations regarding the document. This session was moderated by Hirotaka Koike (Japan Youth Platform for Post 2015) and featured Hideaki Tonoike (One Young World), Raphaëlle Roffo (UNDP), Vandana Sonker (World Vision), Ravi Tessera (IMCS - Pax Romana), Linus Sijenyi (UN-HABITAT Youth Unit), Vincy Abraham (A38 Foundation for International Law) and Sharon Lo (UN MGCY).

The second Parallel Session organised by UN MGCY was entitled “Advocacy Workshop: Strategy & Training” which occurred on 18 October at 3.30pm. The aim of this session was to share youth experiences in this area and to provide training for participants for best practices regarding advocacy. Overall, the session highlighted how advocacy is a powerful tool to empower groups to make their voices heard in policy rooms. This session was moderated by Chris Dekki (IMCS - Pax Romana) and featured Mohammad Nizam Hosen (World Vision International), Paskalis A. Toda (IMCS - Pax Romana), Sakura Kasai (UNDP China intern) and Aashish Khullar (Children and Youth International).

3. Speakers in three Parallel Sessions

In addition, UN MGCY members were featured speakers in three additional Parallel sessions. They were:

- i) Youth Involvement in Child-Friendly Cities: Mayeda Rashid (Save the Children), Mohamad Nizam Hosen (Dhaka Regional Youth Forum)
- ii) Youth Leadership in Disasters and Beyond: Mizan Bustanul Fuady Bisri (Kobe University), Sachi Suzuki (Tohoku University)

4. Policy Outputs

The Asia-Pacific Children and Youth Position Paper was put together after the culmination of months of online and offline consultations facilitated by youth, and was informed by the key themes arising from APUFY. A summary of this paper was presented in the UN MGCY policy parallel session, and participants were able to review and comment on the document through an email which was sent out by APUFY organisers. This document was then used to advocate youth priorities in the subsequent Jakarta meetings. This document was presented and adopted at the APUFY Closing Ceremony by Paskalis A. Toda (IMCS - Pax Romana).

iv) Key Documents

- 1) **Asia Pacific Children and Youth Position: Toward a New Urban Agenda - [here](#)**
- 2) **UN MGCY APUFY Closing Speech - [here](#)**
- 3) **Notes of all parallel sessions - [here](#)**



b. Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-6)

i) Background

The 6th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-6) was hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), in partnership with the Government of Indonesia Ministry of Public Works and Housing over 19-21 October, 2015. APUFY was the region's largest and most inclusive multi-stakeholder meeting on urban issues, and it aimed to provide an essential platform to discuss critical and emerging urban development issues, strengthen existing relationships and encourage the formation of the new stakeholder partnerships. The 2015 theme for APUF-6 was "Sustainable Urban Development in Asia-Pacific: Towards a New Urban Agenda", clearly linking with the broader regional Habitat III process. [Click here](#) for a video summarising the aims of APUF-6.

ii) Representation

Name	Organisation	Country
Aashish Khullar (OP Rep)	Children & Youth International	India
Aizat Shamsuddin	Komuniti Muslim Universal (KMU)	Malaysia
Aldita Karunia	N/A	Indonesia
Alice Claeson	IFMSA-Sweden	Sweden
Bukhi Prima Putri	Our Roots Institute	Indonesia
Christopher Dekki (CYI Board Member)	IMCS-Pax Romana	Syria/USA
Emmy YR	N/A	Indonesia
Felicity Cain	N/A	Australia
Gusti Ayu Fransiska Dewi	Rainforest Alliance	Indonesia
Hideaki Tonoike	One Young World/OECD	Japan
Hiroataka Koike (DOP Rep)	Japan Youth Platform for Post 2015	Japan
Jacque Trieu	World Vision	Australia
Joce Timoty Pardosi	BEM FHUI 2015	Indonesia
Mayeda Rashid	Save The Children	Bangladesh



Mizan Bustanul Fuady Bisri	Kobe University	Indonesia
Mohamad Nizam Hosen	Dhaka Regional Youth Forum	Bangladesh
Mohammad Rafiq	World Vision	India
Nilima Thapa Shrestha	N/A	Nepal
Pandu Kartika Putra	N/A	Indonesia
Paskalis A. Toda	IMCS - Pax Romana	Indonesia
Ravi Tissera	IMCS - Pax Romana	Sri Lanka
Rozita	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	India
Sachi Suzuki	Tohoku University	Japan
Sakura Kasai	UNDP China intern	China
Sharon Lo (RFP, North and Southeast Asia)	UN MGCY	Hong Kong
Thye Yoke Pean	N/A	Singapore
Tia Rowley	Australia	Australia
Vandana Sonker	World Vision	India
Vincy Abraham (RFP, South & Central Asia)	A38 Foundation for International Law	India

iii) Participation

1) Youth Speakers on Plenary Panel

Firstly, two youth speakers (Vincy Abraham, UN MGCY; Joce Pardosi, BEM FHUI 2015) were speakers alongside other stakeholders on the plenary session entitled "Achieving a People Centred Urban Future". This plenary focused on stakeholder inclusion, ensuring that all parties are incorporated within all aspects of the urbanisation process. In addition to advocating youth priorities and recommendations in this session, both representatives stressed the need for youth to be seen as equal partners in the process, and should be engaged from a planning through to policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

2) Youth Participation



Overall, youth were very active participants in asking questions during both plenary sessions and thematic workshop sessions. Their comments and questions raised went beyond the realm of youth-related issues to include more in-depth questions on the technical aspects of various urbanisation issues.

3) Stakeholder Engagement

Given that this was a multi-stakeholder forum, UN MGCY representatives made a concerted effort to meet bilaterally with relevant government, NGO and other stakeholders during the workshop sessions and break times. These meetings were used to showcase the two-page policy brief developed out of the Asia-Pacific Children and Youth Position, summarising the priorities of regional young people. These networks will be leveraged beyond these Jakarta meetings to encourage stakeholders to engage with youth, and to co-organise consultations with UN MGCY.

4) UN MGCY Booth

In addition, UN MGCY were able to have a booth in the Exhibition Area, where people could find out more about our work, to obtain a copy of the two-page policy brief (mentioned above) and to sign up to receive more information about how to join our mailing list. The team had a rota to ensure that people were at the booth during break and lunch times, ensuring that full advantage was taken to network and promote UN MGCY with interested stakeholders.

iv) Key Documents

- 1) **Two-page policy brief - [here](#)**
- 2) **Minutes from workshop sessions - [here](#)**

c. The Asia-Pacific High Level Preparatory Regional Meetings for Habitat III (APRM)

i) Background

In the run up to the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016, seven regional meetings would occur to discuss regional perspectives on current and emerging urbanisation issues that should be addressed during the Habitat III process. All of the statements made over the course of the regional meetings would eventually help to shape the New Urban Agenda. The meetings held in Jakarta over 21-22 October, 2015, were the first of the Habitat III regional meetings to be held. They were hosted by the Government of Indonesia.

Although 55 countries were invited to attend these meetings, only 27 member states sent representatives (including three observer countries). In addition to the member states, constituent groups within the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), and other civil society stakeholders (such as ISOCORP) were invited to give statements.

ii) Representation



The UN MGCY delegation consisted of 13 representatives, with an additional 17 Indonesian delegates boosting the youth constituency.

Name	Organisation	Country
Aashish Khullar (OP Rep)	Children & Youth International	India
Aizat Shamsuddin	Komuniti Muslim Universal (KMU)	Malaysia
Alice Claeson	IFMSA-Sweden	Sweden
Christopher Dekki (CYI Board Member)	IMCS-Pax Romana	Syria/USA
Hideaki Tonoike	One Young World/OECD	Japan
Hiroataka Koike (DOP Rep)	Japan Youth Platform for Post 2015	Japan
Jacque Trieu	World Vision	Australia
Joce Timoty Pardosi	BEM FHUI 2015	Indonesia
Ravi Tissera	IMCS - Pax Romana	Sri Lanka
Sakura Kasai	UNDP China intern	China
Sharon Lo (RFP, North and Southeast Asia)	UN MGCY	Hong Kong
Thye Yoke Pean	N/A	Singapore
Vincy Abraham (RFP, South & Central Asia)	A38 Foundation for International Law	India

iii) Participation

In these meetings, UN MGCY Participation occurred in five ways.

1) Bilateral meetings with Member States and Stakeholders

Throughout the meetings, youth worked hard to meet directly with Member States and stakeholders. In addition to advocating regional youth priorities and recommendations for the New Urban Agenda, they had many conversations about how those stakeholders could incorporate youth in their country into their decision making and implementation processes regarding urbanisation. Member state stakeholders included representatives from the Governments of Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Singapore, East Timor, Azerbaijan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Japan,



Philippines and Indonesia. Non-governmental stakeholders included representatives of the OECD, Isocarp and Action Aid.

2) Coordination of and Participation in Side-Events

In order to diversify the agenda of the meetings and give civil society more voice, several side events were held shortly before and after the hours of the regional meetings.

UN MGCY helped to organise and host a side event entitled **“Can you hear us now? Amplifying Young Asian Voices in the New Urban Agenda!”** on 21 October, 2015 at 5.30pm. Christopher Dekki moderated this session, which featured Hiroataka Koike (UN MGCY H3 DOP), Alice Claeson (IMFSA) who spoke on helping to organise APUFY), Jacquie Trieu (World Vision) talking about the priorities of children, and Aizat Shamsuddin (Komuniti Muslim Universal) and Ravi Tissera (IMCS Pax Romana) who shared about their experiences of mobilising youth at a grassroots level in Asian countries.

In addition, Hiroataka Koike, Jacquie Trieu and Christopher Dekki spoke in the **“General Assembly of Partners towards Habitat III”** side event, representing the Children & Youth, and Professionals Constituencies. Aashish Khullar (UN MGCY OP) also spoke in the side event entitled **“Youth ecology projects”** hosted by the Indonesia Green Action Forum and presented the outcome of APUFY.

3) Children and Youth Partner Constituent Group

As chair of the Children and Youth Partner Constituent Group, a member of the General Assembly of Partners, UN MGCY were able to deliver a statement which summarised the key priorities and recommendations of young people in the region on sustainable urban development. In addition to making a strong call for children and youth to be seen as equal partners in the sustainable urbanisation and Habitat III process, the statement also called for the right to safe and inclusive public spaces, a contextualised framework and new ways of financing sustainable urbanisation. It concluded by highlighting the critical importance of linking the New Urban Agenda with other intergovernmental processes to ensure coherency and build a more transformative, inclusive and sustainable future for all. The full statement can be viewed [here](#).

4) Documentation of speeches

During the course of the Asia-Pacific Habitat III meetings, UN MGCY members worked tirelessly to accurately document each of the speeches made by Member States and other stakeholders in all of the sessions held. This was important in understanding the varying priorities within the region and will greatly help in facilitating national-level advocacy in the future. The detailed notes may be viewed [here](#).



5) UN MGCY Booths

In addition, the UN MGCY were able to relocate our booth to be in the corridor outside the main hall in order to effectively talk with stakeholders about the UN MGCY's work and the importance of youth engagement at all aspects of the process. At the booth, we gave away copies of the 2-page policy brief created out of APUFY, and the Children and Youth Partner Constituent Group speech.

iv) Outcomes

Overall, through all of the aforementioned activities, all of the UN MGCY's key priorities were mentioned in the Habitat III Regional Meetings outcome document. In particular, there was a strong stakeholder-inclusion approach throughout the call to action, which highlighted the need for all groups (children and youth, women, etc.) to be included as equal partners in the process.

v) Key Documents

- 1) **Children & Youth Partner Constituent Group Speech** - [here](#)
- 2) **Detailed notes from the High Level Habitat III Meetings** - [here](#)

4. Stakeholder Connections

Over the course of these Jakarta meetings, the team had a lot of opportunity to meet and chat with a number of different governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders. UN MGCY will work to keep in contact with these stakeholders to encourage future youth engagement and to explore potential areas of collaboration with them regarding sustainable urbanisation.

Type of Stakeholder	Number	Examples
Government	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Government of Azerbaijan- Government of India- Government of Indonesia- Government of Nepal- Government of Pakistan- Mayor, Mymensingh, Bangladesh
NGO	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- MercyCorp Indonesia- Partnership for Development Assistance in the Philippines Inc- Action Aid- Oxfam- Asian Development Bank- Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre- Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action- Kemitraan Habitat



UN-affiliated and other International Agencies	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN Habitat Youth Unit - UNESCAP - OECD
Academic	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - United Nations University - University of Sheffield, UK

5. Media Coverage

Given the strong, widespread and successful youth representation across the different forums outlined, many of the media coverage and subsequent articles written about the event highlighted the strong youth voice at these events, and the consistent call for children and youth to be included in developing the New Urban Agenda as equal partners. The following section provides an overview of the media coverage mentioning youth participation in these meetings.

a. Media, News Outlets, or other stakeholders

- i. TIME THE PART OF DIMENSION MAKES CURIOUS (Sept 20, 2015) "Persiapan untuk Asia Pacific Urban Youth Assembly (APUF-6)" - [link](#)
- ii. The Nomad Meets the City The Ulaanbaatar Film Project (Oct 16, 2015) "UB Film project at asia-pacific urban youth assembly - apufy 2015, Jakarta" - [link](#)
- iii. World Youth Parliament for Water (Oct 30, 2015) "Asia Pacific Urban Youth Assembly" - [link](#)
- iv. Citisope (Oct 27, 2015) "Habitat III Jakarta Declaration urges 'radical' urban shift" - [link](#)
- v. World Vision International (Oct 25, 2015) "Children and Youth Shaping our Future Cities" - [link](#)

b. UN Stakeholders

- i) **UN Habitat** (Oct 26, 2015): "Premier Asia Pacific Urban Youth Assembly Launched in Jakarta" - [link](#)
- ii) **UN Habitat Youth Unit**
 - 1) "Asia-Pacific Urban Youth Assembly" - [link](#)
 - 2) "Youth Participation in Habitat III High Level Regional Meeting" - [link](#)
 - 3) "Asia-Pacific Urban Youth Assembly: How it all began" - [link](#)
- ii) **UN Habitat Indonesia** "Asia Pacific Urban Youth Assembly" - [link](#)

c. Academia

- i) University of Sheffield (Nov 10, 2015): "The SDGs: a view from the Asia Pacific Urban Forum in Jakarta" - [link](#)



ii) Bogor Agricultural University (Nov 23, 2015) "Student of IPB Took Part in Asia Pacific Urban Youth Assembly 2015"- [link](#)

7. Conclusion and Next Steps

Overall, young people have been highly engaged in the sustainable urbanisation processes: globally, but also particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, and this was reflected in the strength of UN MGCY's engagement with the three sets of urban-related forums which were highlighted in this report. Many stakeholders we met voiced how impressed they were by the level and quality of youth engagement throughout these meetings. We were particularly pleased that most of the key points outlined in the Children and Youth Partner Constituent Group statement were incorporated into the Jakarta Declaration, with stakeholder inclusion and participatory approaches strongly reflected in the language of the document.

The UN MGCY are keen not to lose the momentum gained during these Asia-Pacific meetings. The Habitat III Working Group is very keen to continue mobilisation, and to learn from the experiences of this region to enable improved and even stronger youth engagement for youth in other regions of the Habitat III process. As of the time of report, follow-up is in process in the following ways:

1) Mobilising young people in the Asia-Pacific Region for the New Urban Agenda

Firstly, UN MGCY are working to mobilise young people who attended APUFY to hold consultations in their communities. To date, many Indonesian delegates have expressed much interest in engaging further by hosting offline consultations in their communities, and UN MGCY are providing support and guidance in this process. In particular, some UN MGCY members (Joce Timoty, Aisya Hanifa) have established the 'Indonesia Youth Meetings': a series of one-day youth meetings which will be held in eight key cities to discuss the urban challenges faced in their regions.

2) Continuing communication with Member States and stakeholders met

Secondly, members of the AP team are working to continue communication with key stakeholders during the various forums and meetings, to encourage them to incorporate youth into their work and to offer to partner to organise nation-wide consultations and support this work. For example, the South and Central Asian RFPs (Vincy and Saket) are working with the Indian and Pakistani Governments to develop a consultation for national youth consultations.

3) Continued advocacy of Asia-Pacific youth priorities and recommendations

Thirdly, key outcome documents from the UN MGCY's engagement in these meetings (policy brief, children & youth partner constituent speech, etc.) will be continued to be used as a basis for advocating regional youth priorities and recommendations for the New Urban Agenda. This will be done through continued participation and advocacy during



UTCs in the region, and through the communication with Member States (mentioned above).

4) Application of AP Experiences for Youth Engagement in Other Regions

APUFY represented a brilliant forum for young people from across the region to gather and discuss sustainable urban development issues. UN MGCY will use these experiences to work with member states and other stakeholders in other regions, to encourage them to hold similar forums and actively incorporate youth during other regional and thematic meetings. In addition, the lessons learnt by the UN MGCY team participating in the various meetings have been documented [here](#). The DOPs and RFPs involved will communicate with members from other regions to ensure that youth engagement in other parts of the Habitat III process will strengthen, with the same mistakes not being repeated.

Overall, youth involvement in the Asia-Pacific urban- and Habitat III-related meetings was strong and we hope that this active engagement will continue through to Quito and beyond.

