



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
INCHEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Sustainable Development Goals Summer Camp for College Students

17-19 July 2017, Tongyeong, Republic of Korea

Hosted by

United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) in collaboration with Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Yonsei University and Incheon National University

#### 1. Background

The role of youth is crucial in the implementation of SDGs. One in every three people alive today is under the age of thirty, most of them living in Asia and Africa. Over the past few years, young people have been actively engaged in the discussion on SDGs and its implementation. The participation of youth should be ensured at all relevant levels because it affects their lives today and has implications for their future.

Since the adoption of SDGs, the Korean Government requested UNOSD's support in raising awareness for the SDGs. Specifically, there was a request for developing partnership activities for the young generation in collaboration with Yonsei University at the 2016 Steering Committee of UNOSD. The more the youth understand the content and the complexities of SDGs, the better they will be able to promote sustainable development as global citizens. Consequently, this summer camp will focus on how these goals touch upon the three dimensions of development -economic, social and environmental, and how each student's interest fits with one or more of these goals.

The Ministry of Environment and Yonsei University have been developing SDGs awareness programme. Incheon National University is also one of the leading academic institutions in sustainable development education in the region. Tongyeong Regional Centre of Expertise for Education on Sustainable Development (hereinafter as RCE Tongyeong) has been recommended by the Ministry of Environment as the venue for the Summer Camp for its prominent reputation as leading environmental education institution in Korea, as well as its convenient facilities and amenities suitable for this activity.

With this backdrop, this year's SDGs summer camp for college students will be hosted by UNOSD in collaboration with Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Yonsei University and Incheon National University. The summer camp is designed to promote SDGs awareness and global citizenship among the youth of ROK by providing the platform to learn and share ideas and experiences about the SDGs, and to promote their engagement in SDGs dialogues reflecting on the current Korean circumstances.

The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) supports U.N. Member States in planning and implementing sustainable development strategies, notably through knowledge sharing, research, training and partnership building. This summer camp will be

held in accordance with the 2017 work programme of the UNOSD as a part of partnership development component (3.3).

## **2. Objectives**

The objectives of this summer camp, with a major focus on the role of youth community in the implementation of SDGs, are: 1) To build and enhance youth's knowledge on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and their implementation in the context of the Republic of Korea; 2) To promote youth's engagement in dialogues on SDGs' implementation in the ROK; and 3) To build and expand UNOSD's partnership for promoting the SDGs.

## **3. Participants and Format**

Around 40 college students from Yonsei University and Incheon National University will participate in the summer camp. Universities will propose a list of students with due consideration of diversity and balance (e.g., gender, major, , nationality, etc.). UNOSD will finalise the list of participants based on the recommendation made by the two participating universities. Students are requested to conduct preparatory research on one of the SDGs before the summer camp and participate actively in group discussions during the summer camp. UNOSD staff and Professors and Teaching Assistants will deliver lectures and provide the necessary guidance for the group work and plenary discussions.

The Summer Camp will feature plenary sessions for 1) familiarizing the SDGs in national and international context; 2) deliberations on the role of youth community and 3) discussions on specific themes (e.g. water and sustainable tourism) which are of particular importance to the ROK context. UNOSD staff and domestic resource persons will deliver the presentations and lead the discussions. The breakout sessions and final group presentation will be highly interactive and will provide a platform for students to express themselves among other groups of young people on a more hands-on approach to the implementation of the SDGs. This event will be conducted in English.

## **4. Programme**

The tentative programme is provided in a separate document.

## **5. Schedule and Venue**

The Summer Camp will be held at Tongyeong Regional Center for Expertise on Sustainable Development Education (RCE Tongyeong), Republic of Korea. It is scheduled from 17 to 19 July 2017.

## **6. Organisers**

This event is hosted by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) in collaboration with Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Yonsei University and Incheon National University.

## **7. Outputs**

The summer camp will produce two primary outputs. They include:

- 40 college students with enhanced knowledge on Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation, particularly in the context of the Republic of Korea
- A short report on the training, with recommendations for similar future trainings