



6TH UNEP TUNZA SOUTH EAST ASIAN YOUTH ENVIRONMENT NETWORK (SEAYEN) REGIONAL MEETING, BALI, INDONESIA 22 MARCH TO 27 MARCH 2013

A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE 6TH UNEP TUNZA SEAYEN REGIONAL MEETING

Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and its TUNZA youth engagement strategy in the Asia and the Pacific Region organised the UNEP SEAYEN Regional Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, from 22 to 27 March 2013.

Regional Meeting

The 6th UNEP TUNZA South East Asian Regional Meeting was held in conjunction with the UN High Level Panel Meeting on the Post-2015 Development Agenda hosted by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and co-chaired by H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, while H.E. David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, one of the three co-chairs, was represented by H.E. Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development of the United Kingdom.

The UNEP TUNZA South East Asian Youth Environment Network was conducted on the theme “Youth Stake in Post Rio+20 and UN Post-2015 Agenda”. Youth leaders and officials from ten ASEAN member countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, were represented at the meeting to review regional and country-level youth environmental activities and projects, share best practices and develop an action plan for the year.

In his opening address, James Soh, Executive Director, National Youth Achievement Award Council of Singapore, and Advisor, UNEP SEAYEN, thanked the youth leaders of ASEAN for their leadership and contributions in raising the level of awareness on environmental sustainability in their respective countries and their collective efforts in championing the cause collectively in the region.



The 6th UNEP TUNZA South East Asian Youth Environment Network Regional Meeting in session.



James Soh, Executive Director, National Youth Achievement Award Council of Singapore, and Advisor for UNEP SEAYEN, delivering the Welcome Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 6th UNEP TUNZA South East Asian Youth Environment Network Regional Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia.



Satwant Kaur, Regional Information Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, addressing the youth delegates from 10 ASEAN member countries.

In the ASEAN region, we have to raise the level of awareness among our young people on the importance of environmental sustainability and the vital role they can play to make an impact and a difference through their leadership and contributions, said Mr Soh.

Mr Soh believes that youth of today who will be leaders of tomorrow can make huge differences not just in the region but beyond.

In her address, Ms Satwant Kaur, Regional Information Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, encouraged the youth to act responsibly and be role models in the region. She was indeed very encouraged by their enthusiasm and commitment to make the region a better place for its citizens.

Nyoman Sujaya, Head of Environmental Board of Bali Province, who represented the Governor of Bali, welcomed the UNEP TUNZA SEAYEN youth leaders to Bali on behalf of the Bali Government as well as the Balinese people. He said he hopes that Bali's nature that has been well known in the world as a paradise island will also inspire and encourage youth leaders to find solutions to the world's environmental problems. He further stressed that in dealing with various environmental issues, the Government of Bali Province and the Regency/City Government work regularly on efforts to decrease environmental and natural resources pollution and damages through mitigation efforts and adapting to impacts of climate change. He pledged the strong support of the Bali Government towards youth leadership development in this area.

The youth delegates spent 2 full days discussing and deliberating on the issues that affect their community. They also shared what they have done in their own countries and brainstormed possible solutions for the issues that were raised.

As a collective group, they also came up with some proposed projects which will be carried out as regional projects.

James Soh, Advisor to UNEP SEAYEN, also briefed the youth leaders on the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund which was set up by the Singapore Government to provide project funding for ASEAN youths. Mr Soh's presentation on the funding mechanism was very well received by the ASEAN youths.

The ASEAN youth also worked extra hard into late hours of the night to come up with the Bali Youth Declaration which would be presented to the UN High Level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda Co-chairs.



Nyoman Sujaya, Head of Environmental Board of Bali Province, addressing the UNEP SEAYEN delegates at the Opening Session.



Nyoman Sujaya interacting with the Indonesian youth leaders at the Regional Meeting.



Satwant Kaur and James Soh with Nyoman Sujaya discussing the various environmental issues faced by the region in Bali, Indonesia.

“In dealing with various environmental issues, the Government of Bali Province and the Regency/City Government work regularly on efforts to decrease environmental and nature resources pollution and damages through mitigating efforts and adapting to impacts of climate change.”

**I Made Mangku Pastika
Governor of Bali**

Involving the Youth in the UN Post-2015 Agenda

Following the Regional Youth Meeting, the youth participated in a High Level Meeting from 25 to 27 March 2013 and participated in discussions with Members of Parliament and leaders of civil society.

The conference served as a platform for the youth leaders to understand the meaning of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and understand how youth can play a role in shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The conference ensured that youth views and ideas are included in the development of this important agenda and also allowed them to jointly create a new set of goals on issues that are important or will have an effect on young people.

The Regional Meeting has enabled youth leaders to understand the meaningful actions youth can take to reflect the aspirations of Rio+20, generate new project ideas and plan development activities post-2015.



ASEAN youth leaders and officials at the closing of the 6th UNEP TUNZA South East Asian Youth Environment Network Regional Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

Proceedings of the 6th SEAYEN Regional Meeting

The South East Asian Youth Environment Network (SEAYEN) was set up as part of UNEP's TUNZA youth engagement strategy to work with young people on environmental programs at a sub-regional level. The 2013 meeting has come on board with the following initiatives:

World Environment Day

World Environment Day (WED) is one of the biggest and widely celebrated events for positive environmental action. The theme for 2013's World Environment Day was "Think. Eat. Save" and aims to reduce food-waste.

Since the delegates represent their own countries through nominations by their national focal points, country-based local projects will be expected from the meeting representatives. Aside from their own projects, each delegate will be tasked to coordinate with their respective national youth councils for environmental projects to be held on World Environment Day.

SEAYEN will also launch a sub-page at www.seayen.org which will aim to provide awareness about World Environment Day, the theme, and the projects that will be launched on that day. Aside from World Environment Day, the website will also acknowledge the importance of Water Cooperation and will thus include a section on Water.



Youth leaders from Brunei Darussalam presenting their country report.



Indonesian youth leaders presenting their environmental projects carried out in Indonesia.



ASEAN youth leaders working on the UNEP SEAYEN Youth Declaration to be presented to the UN High Level Panel Meeting on Post-2015 Development Agenda in Bali.

Video Competition

The delegation recognised that Social Media is a useful and effective tool to reach out and relay information to the public and that video production can be an influential media platform that integrates both graphics and sounds. Thus, the delegation decided to launch a Self-video contest to bring up water issues in the different ASEAN countries. Social Media and Video production will be used to convey the short messages from the ASEAN youths.

Contestants may use their own cameras whether they are professional cameras or cellular phone cameras to capture a short video not more than 10 seconds about their message on prevalent water issues in their countries. Contestants may post or send to the Facebook page for the competition. Content of the videos may be voiced out in their native tongue (provided that they include English subtitles in their video).

Water Website

The delegation decided to raise awareness by creating a website that shows the current status of water availability and accessibility in South East Asia. Updates will be uploaded on a monthly and annual basis. People will be invited to take photos and videos that they would upload to the website that show the water problem and the various solutions to address it. The sharing of photos and videos revolve around the theme of "Past, Present and Future"; that is: Problems + Solutions = Future.

The delegation also identified the PUB of Singapore and other water organisations as potential partners for this action.

Local Community Action

Increasing tropical forest awareness and river cleanliness management are two common issues of the local community brought up during the delegation. The delegation agreed that there is an urgent need to protect these forests from further degradation. Since ecotourism is a long-term sustainable means of protection, the local community has to willingly volunteer to be an active stakeholder of eco-tourism which entails sharing of their local wisdom and sustainable practices which will be fused later on.

Thus, the delegation decided to initiate a three-day camp by interacting with the local community in a selected village in their respective countries. The theme of the workshop will be determined according to the country's need. During the three-day period, environmental learning activities such as kayaking skimmer can be introduced to the community whereas for forest preservation, two-way learning between the youths and local community through interpretative trip can be initiated. Introducing proper planting methods may also be helpful to ensure that forests that are cleared for farming are fully utilized.

The successful Regional Meeting held in Bali saw the election of Youth Representatives of the 10 ASEAN Member Nations. The elected Youth Representatives will work closely with the UNEP SEAYEN Secretariat based in Singapore which supports future development of various youth initiatives. The NYAA Council of Singapore also provides the youth of the region with funding through the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund administered by the National Youth Council of Singapore.

The Regional Conference ended with a high note where a UNEP SEAYEN Youth Declaration was adopted. Copies of the Youth Declaration were submitted to H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, and H.E. Achim Steiner, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. A copy was also presented to H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, who chaired the UN High Level Panel Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.



Elected UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives from the 10 ASEAN member nations.

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NATIONAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD COUNCIL



UNEP SEAYEN delegates brainstorming on possible solutions to mitigate environmental problems in the region.



UNEP SEAYEN delegates sharing best practices with their counterparts during the Regional Meeting.



James Soh presenting a certificate of participation to Laos representative.

“As a major human resource for development, we, young people are key agents for change and driving force for sustainable development and technological innovation. If nurtured through partnership, our potentials will be unlocked to become important resources for the continuing development of not only the Southeast Asian region, but of the world.”

**Youth Declaration Statement
6th SEAYEN Regional Meeting 2013**



Partners for Youth
and the Environment

