YOUTH CO:LAB
VIRTUAL SUMMIT
2 - 4 JUNE 2021
CONCEPT NOTE
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the important role of youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and calls for action against the challenges faced by young people that limits their economic, social and political inclusion. Young people are responding to the challenges of today with innovative approaches, contributing fresh ideas, creating the world they want, and driving human development for themselves, their communities and their societies.

But at the same time, of the 660 million young people in Asia and the Pacific, around 160 million are not in employment, education or training (NEET), facing dire economic insecurity. In addition, many young people are left out of decision-making processes, which further contributes to their marginalization and exclusion. The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed an unprecedented global crisis, disrupting the lives of millions and creating long-lasting socio-economic impacts that risk reducing the productive potential of an entire generation. For young people, the disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 crisis are exposing and exacerbating their existing vulnerabilities.

Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship. By developing 21st century skills, catalysing and sustaining youth-led start-ups and social enterprises across the region, Youth Co:Lab is positioning young people front and centre in order to solve the region’s most pressing challenges. In addition to supporting youth entrepreneurship, Youth Co:Lab also works closely with multiple stakeholders across the region, including governments, civil society and the private sector, to strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem and policy support to better enable young people to take the lead on new solutions that will help meet the SDGs.
Over the past four years, Youth Co:Lab has been implemented in 25 countries and territories across Asia-Pacific. The national dialogues, regional summits and social innovation challenges have reached over 75,000 participants. The initiative has benefitted over 8,000 young social entrepreneurs and helped to launch or improve over 1,000 youth-led social enterprises. Youth Co:Lab has established transformative partnerships with over 192 key ecosystem players through its Youth Empowerment Alliance. While the COVID-19 crisis presents significant challenges to youth-led social enterprises, Youth Co:Lab has adapted its service offers over the past year to expand holistic and virtual support to young entrepreneurs and changemakers in Asia-Pacific to not only survive the crisis, but to scale solutions with long-term potential beyond recovery.

The Virtual Youth Co:Lab Summit 2021, co-organized by UNDP and Citi Foundation, will serve as a key milestone for the regional youth empowerment agenda by positioning young people and their innovative ideas, front and centre to solve the region’s most pressing challenges. As we celebrate young entrepreneurs’ agility and resilience in responding to these unprecedented times, we must also meet the moment and step up our collective efforts to support young people and their transformative solutions to lead the way in our journey beyond recovery, towards 2030. This year’s summit will focus on three thematic priorities: Leaving no youth behind; uplifting women entrepreneurs; and supporting climate change and green recovery. The objectives of the summit are to: 

1. Enhance the visibility of Youth Co:Lab and provide showcasing opportunities for young social entrepreneurs across the Asia-Pacific region; 
2. Foster a sense of community between individuals and partners by providing opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange; 
3. Lessons learning from YCL national activities 2020-21 and planning of national activities for 2021-2022; 
4. Discuss key trends and new evidence that are shaping the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem and examine how policymakers can strengthen and future-proof youth entrepreneurship ecosystems across the region.

The Youth Co:Lab Summit expects to engage over 1000 participants from various sectors of the youth empowerment agenda including youth leaders and entrepreneurs, government representatives, academia, champions for development, UN agencies, media, and the start-ups and investors community.
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<th>TIME (GMT+7)</th>
<th>SESSION</th>
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<td>10:00 – 10:15</td>
<td>Ice Breaker and Welcome</td>
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| 10:15 – 11:30 | **0.1 Youth Co:Lab: Looking Back, Moving Forward** | • Mr. Beniam Gebrezghi: Civil Society and Youth Programme Specialist, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub  
• Mr. Yibin Chu: Head of Corporate Citizenship, Asia Pacific, Citi  
• Youth Co:Lab Team |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | **0.2 Ideas Marketplace** | Showcases our youth-led social enterprises and provides an opportunity to connect them with essential ecosystem support |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | **0.3.A. Government Session** | Engage government representatives from across the region to connect, share best practices, and learn about ways to amplify and build on efforts to date.  
• [Facilitator] Mr. Savinda Ranathunga: Regional Youth Programme Coordinator, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub  
• Ms. Eleanor Horrocks: Impact Measurement Consultant, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub  
• Ms. Tina Jabeen: CEO and MD, Startup Bangladesh Ltd.  
• Ms. Afamasaga Faauiga Mulitalo: CEO, Ministry of Women Community and Social Development, Samoa  
• Mr. David Chua: CEO National Youth Council, Singapore  
• Dr. Zainah Bt. Shariff: Deputy Director General, Youth Development Division, Youth and Sports National Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Malaysia  
• Mr. Sushil Ram: Programme Manager, Commonwealth Secretariat  
• Ms. Afamasaga Faauiga Mulitalo: CEO, Ministry of Women Community and Social Development, Samoa |
| **0.3.B. Youth Empowerment Alliance Session** | Introduce the Youth Co:Lab Springboard Amplifier Programme to national partners and identify the current gaps in strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem and providing start-up support services, which helps better design the curriculum of the Amplifier Programme.  
• [Facilitator] Ms. Ruoxiao Song: Partnership and Innovative Financing Specialist, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub  
• [Facilitator] Ms. Mélanie Mossard, Director of Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Impact Hub Phnom Penh  
• Mr. Zeeshan Shahid: Project Manager, National Incubation Centre Pakistan  
• Mr. Erad Kawsar: Country Director, YGap, Bangladesh  
• Ms. Jimin Ryu, Associate, Impact Collective, Korea |
| **0.3.C. UNDP – Citi Joint Session** | Foster deeper bonding between Citi and UNDP colleagues, in preparation for better teamwork in the future and facilitate sharing and discussions of best practices of Youth Co:Lab national programme plan and implementation  
• [Facilitator] Ms. Ke Lin; Youth Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Consultant, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub  
• [Facilitator] Ms. Arina Dafir: Corporate Citizenship Manager, Citi Asia Pacific  
• UNDP and Citi Colleagues |
| **0.3.D. Springboard Graduation** | Culmination of the Springboard Plus Programme and will include reflection activities and sharing of entrepreneurial stories and next steps in the programme  
• [Facilitator] Ms. Sze Wai Cheung; Youth Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Consultant, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub  
• Nesh Sooryan: Venture Partner at Accelerating Asia Ventures  
• Amra Naidoo: Co-founder & General Partner at Accelerating Asia Ventures  
• Reyasat Chowdhury: Co-founder & CEO at Shuttle (Bangladesh)  
• Afghanistan Shahzad: Co-founder at Mobiliti (Pakistan)  
• Hasib Ahmed: Co-founder at AmarLab (Bangladesh) |
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<td>10:00 – 10:45</td>
<td><strong>1.1. Opening Remarks</strong></td>
<td>• Ms. Kanni Wignaraja: Assistant Secretary General Assistant Administrator &amp; Regional Director Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP  • Mr. Peter Babej: CEO, Asia Pacific, Citi  • Ms. Lei Motilla: Co-Founder, AI4GOV (Philippines)</td>
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<td>11:45 – 12:00</td>
<td>Break to visit Ideas Marketplace</td>
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<td>12:30 – 12:40</td>
<td>Musical Performance</td>
<td>• Hear and Found (Thailand)</td>
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<td>12:40 – 12:45</td>
<td><strong>1.4. Welcome to Youth Startup Showcase</strong></td>
<td>• Daisuke Takatsuki: Principal, Asia Operations Team, CVC Capital Partners</td>
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<td>12:45 – 13:15</td>
<td><strong>1.4.A. Regional Demo Day Showcasing – Climate Action</strong></td>
<td>• Mr. Lin Hwang: Co-founder, DamoGo (South Korea)  • Mr. Robin Lewis: Co-founder, MyMizu (Japan)  • Ms. Sagufta Janif: Founder, The Fusion Hub (Fiji)  • Mr. Haaziq Ibrahim: Founder, DemiLaut (Malaysia)  • Ms. Sothearath Sok: Founder, Junlen (Cambodia)</td>
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<td><strong>1.4.B. Regional Demo Day Showcasing – Diversity and Inclusion</strong></td>
<td>• Mr. Felix Tan: Founder, Skilio (Singapore)  • Mr. Nofi Bayu Darmawan: Founder, Komerce (Indonesia)  • Mr. Napat Phanprasitthikit: Co-founder, Hint (Thailand)  • Mr. Eddie Li: Co-founder, Walking Partner Design Lab (Hong Kong S.A.R)  • Ms. Aishath Ashfa: Founder, E’HEE (Maldives)</td>
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• Ms. Fai Wechayachai: East and Southeast Asia Regional Chapter Manager, ANDE  
• Ms. Ingrid D’Lima: Head of Campus Recruitment and Employer Brand, Asia Pacific, Citi  
• Ms. Esmeralda Lo Tam: Founder, EI8HT SPORTS and EI8HT GOALS (Samoa)  
• Ms. Thùy Anh Ngô: Founder and CEO, HASU (Viet Nam)  
• Ms. Allison Morris: Consultant, Adolescent Development & Participation, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Break to visit Ideas Marketplace |  |
| 12:00 – 12:05 | 2.2. Welcome to Youth Startup Showcase | • Ms. Amra Naidoo: Co-founder & General Partner at Accelerating Asia Ventures |
| 12:05 – 12:35 | 2.2.A. Regional Demo Day Showcasing – Alumni Impact | • Mr. Fahad Ifaz: Co-founder, iFarmer (Bangladesh)  
• Reyasat Chowdhury: Co-founder, Shuttle (Bangladesh)  
• Mr. Ali Shabbar and Mr. Wamiq Hasan: Founders, DeafTawk (Pakistan)  
• Mr. Tanzin Shadid: Co-founder, AmarLab (Bangladesh)  
• Mr. Abraham Ali Shah: Co-founder, Mobiliti (Pakistan) |
| 12:35 – 12:45 | Musical Performance | • Tuyang Initiative (Malaysia) |
| 12:45 – 13:15 | 2.2.B. Regional Demo Day Showcasing – Women’s Empowerment | • Mr. Jalalodin Mustari: Founder, Aretes Style (Philippines)  
• Ms. Divya Rathod: Founder, SilveryNanos “HAPITO” (India)  
• Ms. Chenyu Zeng: Co-founder, Clear Plate (China)  
• Ms. Khirun Mumpuni: Founder, Kitong Bisa (Indonesia)  
• Ms. Laraib Abid: Founder, Flare of MASHAL (Pakistan) |
• Ms. Iris Pi, China  
• Mr. Alfredo Lorenzo Sablay, Philippines  
• Mr. Zawad Alam, Bangladesh |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | 2.4. Youth Co:Lab: A Movement to Meet a Moment | • Mr. Christophe Bahuet: Deputy Regional Director for Asia & the Pacific, Director, Bangkok Regional Hub  
• Mr. Richard Tesvich, Head of Public Affairs, Asia Pacific, Citi  
• Ms. Shiropa Tawhida: Founder, Moner Bondhu (Bangladesh) |
Contact Information

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Social Media

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