



# Technical Assistance Consultant's Report

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Project Number: 47213-001  
November 2016

## 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Forum Program Report

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ADB Youth for Asia team

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Asian Development Bank





# 4th ASIAN YOUTH FORUM YOUTH FOR GLOBAL GOALS

## Program Highlights

10-12 August 2016  
Manila, Philippines

# ADB YOUTH FOR ASIA



## The 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Forum was organized by



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has embraced the vital role that civil society participation plays in the eradicating poverty in the region. From planning and design consultations to project implementation and monitoring, civil society's participation results in more effective and sustainable development efforts.

Because youth and youth-led organizations are important members of civil society, ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center started the Youth for Asia initiative in 2013 to support young people in contributing effectively to development. ADB Youth for Asia seeks to mainstream youth participation in ADB operations as it believes that empowered youth are innovative and effective development partners.

### In partnership with







The 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Forum (AYF4) was held from 10 – 12 August 2016 in the ADB Headquarters in celebration of the UN International Youth Day. Under the theme, “Youth for Global Goals,” AYF4 sought to enable youth to contribute to the new 2030 global agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Recognizing that the current generation of young people will mature during the period covered by the SDGs, ADB through its Youth for Asia initiative has committed to empower youth to contribute to the new set of goals. Youth for Global Goals (Y4GG) also refers to the initiative launched in partnership with AIESEC.

AYF4 also served as the culmination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Youth Exchange (APYE2), an innovative capacity-building program for youth on the SDGs.



# 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Forum Key Facts:

Over 400 youth delegates from across **Asia and the Pacific** convened around the theme “**Youth for Global Goals**” in collaboration with stakeholders from **ADB**, various **UN agencies**, **multinational corporations**, **NGOs**, **government** and **other youth organizations**



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FOR ASIA





## 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Forum Objectives

- Strengthen the evidence-base for youth's contribution to sustainable development
- Increase the recognition among the international community of young people's role in achieving the SDGs by showcasing successful cases of youth contribution in ADB operations and development partners
- Increase youth's understanding on their roles in achieving the SDGs
- Deepen ADB members' engagement with youth, and
- Raise awareness amongst potential public, private and philanthropic funders of the opportunities to support youth



# Sessions



The Knowledge Sessions tackled People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships identified in the **Switched On: Youth at the Heart of Sustainable Development Goals**. These sessions featured a multi-stakeholder panel discussion, interaction between experts and the youth audience and youth input.

Through the shared knowledge of each panel discussion, these sessions helped deepen the understanding of how successful youth initiatives on SDGs can be encouraged, strengthened, and replicated.

The Actions Sessions were done in coordination with Youth for Asia project designers and ADB project officers. Through the session's design, participants were able to develop outputs such as proposals, consultations, and youth roadmaps. Led by partners such as UN agencies and civil society organizations, the action sessions served as an innovative platform to involve youth in their projects.



AYF4 Youth Open Sessions and Networking Spaces enabled youth to interact with ADB staff as well as representatives from other organizations. AYF4 also held interviews and other forms of dialogue with the key representatives through the Digital Media Zone (DMZ) which served as an interactive platform for sharing knowledge on youth and their contribution to the SDGs.



# DAY ONE HIGHLIGHTS



The first day featured a series of plenary sessions in which the forum was officially opened by Carmela Locsin, Director General, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department of ADB. She was later on joined by a panel of experts from ADB and partners such as UNEP, Plan International, ILO, AIESEC and UNFPA.

The first two knowledge sessions tackled focused on the SDGs under “PEOPLE” and “PLANET” which were led by other sector experts and ADB operation staff.

The afternoon half of day one featured action sessions led by ADB experts on Transport, Education and Urban Development.



# DAY TWO HIGHLIGHTS

The second day of the forum served as the culminating event for the Asia-Pacific Youth Exchange (APYE) event, an innovative two-week capacity building program that ran parallel with AYF4. Participants from the APYE program shared their field-visit findings and outputs with the plenary and before a panel of specialists from ADB's sector groups as well as local government representatives.

The following knowledge sessions tackled the SDGs under the PROSPERITY and PEACE groupings which featured a diverse set of panelists, this time representing organizations and sector groups working in education, innovation and human rights. The afternoon action sessions served as an opportunity for the participants to develop youth-led outputs, this time with partners including Microsoft, UNESCO and Plan International.





# DAY THREE HIGHLIGHTS



The last day of the forum focused solely on the final SDG grouping, PARTNERSHIPS which featured a final knowledge session led by panelists from the UN SDG Action Campaign, ADB and the local government of Laguna. The final action session featured two Youth Space and leadership capacity building led by Ashoka.

AYF4's final and closing session featured a youthful summary of all the key messages and themes that resonated most throughout the three day conference. After two closing messages and a call to action, ADB's Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development formally concluded the forum by delivering the closing remarks with a final "partnership web" activity led by AIESEC's Jessica Herrera. The "Partnership web" sought to further emphasize the critical role of partnerships across all sectors and organizations in realizing the global goals in this generation.

AYF4 held its International Youth Day Celebration at the culminating networking activity and cultural dinner held with various cultural performances and presentations by the forum's country delegation groups.



# ADB YOUTH FOR ASIA

