



## ASIA-PACIFIC URBAN YOUTH ASSEMBLY AT APUF-6 (APUFY)

17-18 October 2015 (Jakarta, Indonesia)

### Summary of Outcomes

#### Introduction

1. The first-ever Asia-Pacific Urban Youth Assembly at APUF-6 (nicknamed “APUFY”) was held from 17 to 18 October 2015 at the Ministry of Public Works & Housing and Shangri-la Hotel Jakarta respectively. The forum was organized by the Ministry of Public Works & Housing, Republic of Indonesia in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) along with core partners, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Major Group for Children & Youth (UN MGCY) and support from over 10 international partners and three Indonesian national partners.
2. APUFY was an official associated event of the Sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-6) held over 19 to 21 October 2015 and immediately preceding the Habitat III Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting (HLM) held over 21 to 22 October 2015 also in Jakarta, Indonesia.
3. APUFY participants consisted of 300 youths 18-32 of age, hailing from 31 countries and of them 22 Asia-Pacific countries. Youth participants were selected out of an online open application process that received ca. 1,500 applicants. Demonstrating strong urban interests and commitment to action, 150 youth participants represented Indonesia’s cities, and the other 150 came from countries all around Asia and the Pacific.
4. The platform of APUFY facilitated active sharing of emerging good practices and youth-led leadership examples on Asia-Pacific urbanization through 12 thematic parallel sessions (90 minutes each) and two intensive training workshops (five hours each).
5. The insights and best practices shared at APUFY fed fresh perspectives into the ongoing discussions of Asia-Pacific’s inputs for the global “New Urban Agenda.” The successful conclusion of APUFY in Jakarta achieved a new step and demonstrated a model in strengthening constructive partnerships between governments, development partners, and young people in tackling the challenges facing Asia-Pacific cities.
6. The Youth Assembly offered the following key message as shared in the Opening Speech:

*“Young citizens in Asia-Pacific can help their urban communities and cities by going beyond their own personal needs or interests and concerns of youth population only, to engage with each other to create holistic and inclusive urban solutions for everyone in their cities. Meaningful youth participation in urban development policies can enhance inclusive urban governance, ensure protection of urban environment, and lead to innovative and entrepreneurial approaches in doing so. In other words, “smart is must but not sufficient,” and strong values and looking out for the benefit of all members of the community are needed.”*

7. The following summary presents the key recommendations made at APUFY by the speakers, facilitators, and participants. For a more comprehensive account of discussions, please refer to the **APUFY Outcomes Report** shared here at <http://www.apufy.org>.

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **Voice of Youth Workshop: Debate & ICT as Tools for Development**

8. Aside from collecting information and opinions through social media platforms, ICT tools should also be used to shape, manage and monitor the progress of projects and initiatives.
9. Youth can become more visible in public policy by actively bridging the gaps between youth and government agencies or NGOs.
10. While digital tools are excellent resources for supporting and starting projects, in terms of reach, other platforms should also be considered to involve a more inclusive youth demographic.
11. Involving universities, education and training institutes, and youth organizations in public policies can help create constructive dialogue between youth, NGOs and government agencies.

### **Dialogue with the Governor of Jakarta and Minister for Youth & Sports**

12. Having more public spaces for recreation and activities in social housing and public spaces generally which encourage multigenerational interaction.
13. Electronic planning and budgeting that allows transparency because data is easily accessible.
14. District level discussions that go to city and then province level.
15. Making things transparent allows youth to get involved through forums such as APUFY.
16. Social media and QLUE program.
17. Creating incentives for young people to innovate for cities and participate, not just about entertaining young people without results and not just about financial support, but also how to harness the creativity of youth.
18. Utilizing ICT that is not just about entertainment but focuses on encouraging youth to innovate.

## THEMATIC SESSIONS

### **Session 1 – *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*: Unity in Diversity**

19. Unity in diversity is a model for development processes.
20. The challenges and solutions to Unity in Diversity are multicultural education, entrepreneurial skills and social engagement.

### **Session 2 – Creating Cities for Everyone with Data Innovation and Participatory Design**

21. Technological implementations and utilizations are needed more to generate faster and specific response to key issues, instead of making public forums or dialogue which consume more time, energy and resources. In addition, we also need simple and accessible technologies that can be used by everyone in the communities.

22. Women groups especially mothers are more active in voluntarily compiling data in their communities, especially in the context of Indonesia. They are very critical about the communities, so they are one of the best resources for gathering data and in mapping the issues in their communities
23. We need a champion for the top down and a local figure for the bottom up. We need people in the government who are willing to be open, understanding and welcoming innovations of technology and data for their communities.
24. Harmonizing the data between the local and national government is crucial for data accuracy, especially those in rural areas, putting aside complex bureaucracy and politics.
25. Development and information regarding development should be fair and inclusive. This doesn't always mean equal, but it means that citizens wealthy and poor could all access the same information to develop their own communities.

### **Session 3 – Policy Introduction: Finalization of One Page Youth Declaration**

26. Young people should be involved in developing, creating and reviewing policy
27. Protection for the rights of LGBTQI people and communities
28. Education and training about LGBTQI and sexual reproduction
29. Protection for girls is highly important and every girl should be equipped with self-defense ability
30. Inclusive participation for marginalized people
31. Inclusion of all stakeholders especially marginalized people in development planning
32. Education should be inclusive.

### **Session 4 – Mobilizing for Change: Tomorrow's Leaders Taking Action Today**

33. Young people have a very clear grasp of problems in their communities and can offer valuable inputs to local government, which have the ability to revitalize government mindset, ideas and programs.
34. There is a need to balance the offline and online activity. Media is a great means to begin opening important and sometimes difficult conversations - but it is a starting place, not an end or a goal in itself.
35. Platforms should be established to discuss social and political issues, and these platforms should be linked to structured trainings on different tools and methodologies in order to develop solutions.
36. To translate the passion instilled within youth into impact, collective action is required. We should provide platforms for youth to get together to collaborate and tackle important issues.
37. Strengthening collaboration between different initiatives and facilitating knowledge sharing should be prioritized in order to address fragmentation.

### **Session 5 – Youth Involvement in Child-Friendly Cities**

38. All children and youth have a right to the city. The New Urban Agenda must ensure that children and youth are represented and involved in local, national and regional decision-making processes.
39. Children and youth bring unique perspectives and solutions. We must recognise their role and capacity in shaping our future cities, and support them with skills and knowledge to fully understand and advocate their rights.
40. Create platforms where children and youth dialogue directly with government, policy makers, service providers and partners for creating child friendly cities.

### **Session 6 – Innovating our Way Out of Traffic Jam: Urban Mobility Transformation**

41. Mobility is more than transportation, and governments and partners should recognize every person's capacity and right to move freely in the city.
42. Consider personal safety, especially for vulnerable groups, in transportation and urban mobility, and public and private sectors can work together to address safety.
43. Challenge the idea of cars as a standard means of transportation by limiting the physical space allocated to car lines in favour of pedestrians and public transport.
44. Ensure independent accessibility to a wide range of transportation means for persons with disability, for example with accessible roads, public transportation stations as well as vehicles.
45. Use integrated urban planning and design to encourage walking and cycling modes by ensuring that these options are safe, comfortable and functional.

### **Session 7 – Investing in Youth Innovation**

46. Aside from identifying funding strategies for youth-led projects, it is also important to first know how to create a project that is sustainable and addresses real needs.
47. Capacity-building and community involvement can sustain projects because of the shared value created through the project
48. The funding strategy to exercise depends on what you want to do and where you want your idea to go (e.g. venture capitalists, grants, sponsorship, selling etc.).
49. Working as volunteers and accessing grants are great but are not sustainable. If you want to grow, you need an income.
50. Good ideas with sound research and addressing critical problems are more likely to get funding.

### **Session 8 – Urban Climate Resilience**

51. Performing research assessments in collaboration with government
52. Offering effective programs and solutions that can be readily implemented by the government
53. Regular discussion between the government and stakeholders
54. Create monitoring processes as a secondary means of evaluating government resiliency plans and improving existing systems.
55. Developing an issue paper and subsequently petitioning and engaging the government in smoothing out policy details.
56. Making the five essential steps above into a development cycle.

### **Session 9 – The Good City – Liveable Cities, Planned Cities: Cities for People, Made by People**

57. Redefining density not necessarily as a negative force.
58. Recognizing density is not solely population density, but can also refer to cultural density, social density or services density.
59. Exploring innovative methods to measure density. For example, measuring density in terms of virtual space instead of real space, where virtual space could be social interaction spaces.
60. Introducing new policies to maintain a balance between the density and the resources so that they can be used efficiently and equally by the population.
61. Finding a balance between top-down and bottom-up approaches.
62. Capacity building of government institutions and urban leaders.
63. Educating citizens to understand they have the rights to the city and rights to facilitate participatory and community planning.
64. Better design and planning of public transportation.
65. Restricting the level of permits as a function of government.

66. Encouraging the construction of green and sustainable districts while providing affordable and decorous houses for everybody.
67. Finding new economic drivers and ways of measuring economic success and trust by internalizing environmental costs and long-term society-oriented indicators.
68. Use taxation and subsidy systems to promote a rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and the creation of a regenerative economy.

#### **Session 10 – Cities of Tomorrow: Engaging Youth in Foresight**

69. Innovation districts should be designed in way that is inclusive of all sections of society. Asian economies have large informal sectors. The advantages of informality should be tapped into when planning the creation of innovation districts.
70. Emphasis on inclusivity – where people with disabilities and workers of the informal sector are included into the processes, as well as associations and groups.
71. Research and data base development can help to apply pressure on governments to change and towards sustainable urbanization. In this sense, statistics and data development must be prioritized.
72. Affordable housing forms the base of the innovation district, and embodies the aspiration of the youth for the city of tomorrow
73. Utilizing ICT towards innovativeness and interactive technology as a means to “report” and exert pressure upon governments. Additionally, the need for ensuring the privacy of users also was a critical issue.
74. The need to constantly update skills and knowledge of the population to ensure that cities continually develop sustainably.
75. Urban transport needs to have a social dimension in order to address and potentially put forth solutions for social issues.

#### **Session 11 – Advocacy Workshop: Strategy & Training**

76. The goal of advocacy is not only to influence stakeholders, decision makers or governments, but also to actively engage communities while enabling capacity building for local action.
77. In addition, the process and practise of the advocacy should inherently focus on empowering marginalized groups.
78. Effective advocacy also requires deliberate preparation to identify priorities, articulate them in the context of the platform, understand the standing of the different key decision makers, mapping the supporting stakeholders and building a coalition.
79. This should then be followed by an understanding of the position of the different key stakeholders.
80. It must be borne in mind that they have to speak on behalf of themselves.
81. The agenda of the organizations must conform with the SDGs and outcomes of Habitat III.

#### **Session 12 – Youth Leadership in Disasters & Beyond**

82. INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT
  - a. Providing a legal basis for youth engagement
  - b. Seeking financing opportunities for youth to get involved with DRR and resilience building.
  - c. Yearly budget for disaster preparedness that is integrated across all government sectors.
  - d. Encouraging a unified vision between youth organizations and local governments.

- e. Opportunities should be given to young people to help create more sustainable planning, in order to achieve applicable and impactful outcomes.
- f. Youth should collaborate in each community to organize meetings with leaders and experts to brainstorm and make evacuation plans for each disaster prone area.

#### 83. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. Encouraging a unified vision amongst youth organizations
- b. Maintaining periodic meetings between youth and the wider community, where all are respected as equal contributors to change
- c. Encouraging the engagement of local youth affected by the disaster (versus only outside youth), who will develop the necessary capacity and contribute their own talents and capabilities, in order to achieve sustainable outcomes
- d. Youth from host communities should take collective leadership and engage with displaced and affected persons
- e. Youth should be given the opportunity to participate actively in the monitoring of technological and structural measures
- f. Youth should be given the opportunity to create and disseminate technological solutions for risk management, including apps, using social media, providing news and information for disaster mitigation.
- g. The utilization of natural mitigation methods for disaster risk reduction, such as the use of plants to reduce the possibility of soil erosion in disaster prone areas, should be implemented collaboratively between the youth and wider community.

#### 84. EDUCATION

- h. Youth should be targeted to deliver disaster awareness and preparedness through education
- i. Education could occur through formal and informal education, which leverages the dynamic characteristics of youth, such as their aptitude for technology, thinking creatively, and creating energy.
- j. Platforms for youth about disaster education must be engaging and interesting, to grasp the attention of youth. The use of arts in this regard is important.
- k. Such trainings could be organized regularly in central youth centres in each community
- l. We realize that every region has specific characteristics, therefore we'd want to integrate local knowledge into disaster education. Adding further, we also need training for the local youth to be the pioneers to increase capability of the community.
- m. Curriculum should be developed to be used in schools for DRR and DRM programs. At the same time, this disaster education curriculum should reflect the community's local knowledge and experience with disaster.

#### 85. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

- n. Youth entrepreneurship should think about innovative solutions and fundraising methods for disaster preparedness, relief and response.