



13th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
Side Event

**Empowering Youth and Gender-Inclusive Leadership in Clean Energy
and Climate Innovations for a Resilient Asia Pacific**

26 February 2026
12:45 to 13:45 (GMT+7)
Venue: Theater 109
United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand

Summary

This side event brings together leaders in energy innovation, climate tech startups/MSMEs, and young policymakers to accelerate gender-inclusive and youth-powered initiatives in climate action and clean energy transition across the Asia Pacific region. This session will highlight how climate technology innovation, youth leadership, and inclusive governance work in harmony to drive impactful and equitable transformation. The event showcases efforts that strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems, support MSMEs and startups developing renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions, and promote climate-focused technologies that contribute to cleaner, more sustainable communities.

At the same time, it elevates the role of young leaders who are shaping climate and energy governance across the region through informed advocacy, technical expertise, and meaningful participation in decision-making. The launch of the report *Navigating Climate Governance: Insights from Young Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region* further demonstrates how youth contributions enhance policy coherence, improve access to sustainable energy, and strengthen institutional responses to climate challenges. By combining innovation, youth empowerment, and gender inclusion, this event provides a unified platform that advances sustainable development and delivers direct contributions to SDGs 7, 9, 11, and 17, and supports SDG 5, 13, and 16.

Focal Person

- Irma Ramadan (irma.ramadan@aseanenergy.org), Senior Officer of Energy Efficiency and Conservation at ASEAN Centre for Energy,
- Tuan Anh Khong (akhong@unicef.org), Adolescent and Youth Environmental Coordinator at UNICEF

Organisers

ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), YECAP, and UNICEF

Co-Organisers

UNIDO, UNDP, Climate Parliament, UN Women, United Nations ESCAP (TBC).

The related SDG target(s) or VNR component(s)

SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 11, and SDG 17

- 7.1 Universal access to modern energy
- 7.2 Increase renewable energy share
- 7.3 Improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.4 Promote clean energy research and investment
- 9.4 Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable
- 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade technological capabilities of industrial sectors, and encourage innovation.
- 11.b Promote integrated climate and resilience planning in cities
- 17.16 Strengthen global and multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development.
- 17.17 Promote effective public, private, and civil society partnerships.

Additional SDGs or VNR components:

Our initiatives contribute to multiple SDGs beyond energy access, notably SDG 5 on gender equality through its gender-inclusive approach, and SDG 8 by fostering MSME growth and entrepreneurship. This event also aims to highlight SDG 13 through youth-led engagement in climate policy and promotes SDG 16 by advancing inclusive governance and strengthening institutional frameworks with active youth participation.



Guiding Questions:

1. How can startups, MSMEs, youth, and women accelerate the access and affordability of clean energy and climate-resilient services across urban and rural communities?
2. What policy and institutional frameworks most effectively empower young leaders and women innovators to shape meaningful gender-inclusive climate and energy policies and scale climate tech innovation?
3. How can digitalisation and emerging technologies enhance the co-creation of climate-resilient solutions by young women-led MSMEs, while contributing to inclusive economic growth?
4. How can governments, financial institutions, and international organisations foster an environment that enables young people to influence policy and scale climate-tech innovation?

Objectives

- Highlight scalable youth and startup-led climate and energy solutions that can be replicated across ASEAN.
- Generate policy and financing strategies to strengthen inclusive, gender responsive, and youth-engaged climate and energy governance.
- Promote knowledge exchange between youth networks and MSMEs to co-create innovative solutions for climate resilience and inclusive green growth.
- Develop actionable recommendations for integrating meaningful youth engagement and MSME-driven climate innovations into national and regional development strategies.

Format of the Session

The session is expected to take approximately 60 minutes and will feature key remarks from partners, presentations on the findings, followed by a panel discussion and an Interactive discussion with participants, with panel members as group moderators

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Location: Theater 109 UNCC, Bangkok

Meeting Registration:

https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_24uFSqOGSszCDanfi0ligcA

No	Agenda	Speakers	Duration
1	Opening Remarks	1. Shreyasi Jha, Senior Advisor - Gender Equality and Climate Resilience, UNICEF 2. Naing Naing Linn, Head of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Department, ACE (Tentative) 3. Jay Malette, Regional Climate Change Specialist, UNDP	10 mins
2	Scene Setting: Empowering the Future: The Crucial Role of Youth and Women in Climate Governance and Climate Technology Innovation	Dr. Noboru Zama, Industrial Development Expert, Climate Technology Innovation Unit, UNIDO	3 mins
3	Presentation: Navigating Climate Governance: Insights from Young Leaders in the Asia-Pacific Region report	Nuzulia Fajriningrum, Energy Analyst, RYPCA Member	5 mins
4	Presentation: Scaling Climate Technology through Innovation and Collaboration in the Energy Sector	Irma Ramadan, Senior Officer of Energy Efficiency and Conservation, ACE	5 mins
5	Panel discussion with young policy makers and climate tech innovators	Moderator: Amira Aisya, Member of the Legislative Council, Johor, Malaysia - RYPCA Member Speakers: 1. Nuzulia Fajriningrum, Energy Analyst - RYPCA Member 2. Worapoj Chosen - CEO and Co-founder Chosen Digital, ASEAN SPARKS startup 3. Dr Kwanruetai Boonyasana - Finance Lecturer, Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon	20 mins
6	Open discussion with the audience		12 mins
7	Group photos		5 mins