Opportunities for Social Integration of Youth in Asia-Pacific

“Green Growth and Green Jobs for Youth”
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Outline

I. Situation of youth in Asia-Pacific
II. Youth as agents of change
III. Ways forward
I. Situation of youth in Asia-Pacific

Over 60% of the world’s youth live in Asia-Pacific = 750+ million

Distribution of youth by subregion, Asia-Pacific, 2010
(UNDESA, World Population Prospects: the 2010 Revision)

- South-East Asia: 109,700,000
- East & North-East Asia: 253,200,000
- South & South-West Asia: 347,200,000
- North & Central Pacific: 5,700,000
Completing secondary & tertiary education remains a challenge

Gross Enrolment Ratios (GER, in %), 2010
(UNESCO Institute for Statistics, UIS Data Centre)

Youth unemployment in Asia-Pacific is relatively low compared to other regions

Youth unemployment rates by Asia-Pacific subregion
(ESCAP, 2011 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific)
The informal economy remains a barrier to youth integration

Tapping the demographic dividend

- Parts of East Asia & SE Asia have tapped the demographic dividend
- South and South-West Asia are ripe to tap the dividend
- This requires a mix of social & economic policies to:
  - Promote more investment in human capital
  - Foster a climate for research and development
Tapping the demographic dividend

II. Youth as agents of change
Asia-Pacific youth have Innovative life-styles

- Highly “e-connected”
  - China: 84% youth use mobile phones to access Internet
  - Japan: 60% youth access social networks through mobile phones
- Green activism is on the rise among youth
  - RAECPI: a climate education training group from Hanoi
  - Malaysian Youth Climate Justice Network

Young people are promoting good governance

- Youth are calling for greater accountability & participatory politics
- **Philippines**: well-developed youth civil society, with youth participation in local governance
- **Pakistan**: Young Parliamentarian Forum & on-the-job training for young people in Parliament
III. Ways forward

Achieving the Double Dividend

• Greening the economy
• Employing youth
Sustainable Production

• Bangladesh: Grameen Shakti has trained youth to become solar technicians
• Indonesia: Ministry of Agriculture launched the Climate Field Schools

Sustainable Consumption

• Republic of Korea: “Clean Plate Movement”
• India: Project targeting problems of waste in Delhi and beyond
Let us invest in youth for a greener future!