



中国-东盟环境保护合作中心
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center

生态环境部对外合作与交流中心
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center

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Expert Views at ASEAN-China Youth Leadership: Model Environmental Ministers' Dialogue

On 24-25 October, 2021, ASEAN-China Youth Leadership: Model Environmental Ministers' Dialogue, a sub-form of ASEAN-China High-level Forum on Green and Sustainable Development & ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum 2021, was held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the form of online & offline meetings. The sub-forum was supervised by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and Mission of the People's Republic of China to ASEAN; organized by the Department of Ecology and Environment of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; and jointly held by UNICEF China Office and WWF Beijing Office. Over 200 youth representatives from ASEAN Member States, Peking University, China Foreign Affairs University, Jinan University, and Guangxi University attended the meeting. Here is a summary of remarks.

Cynthia McCaffrey UNICEF Representative to China



East Asia and the Pacific are among the most vulnerable areas to climate related disasters. Children in the region are suffering from the destructive social and economic crisis including climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, which could undermine the progress we have made in improving children's health, education and wellbeing. First, climate change and impacts concern the right of children. Second, children and young people are advocates and contributors to addressing climate change. Third, the realization of ambitious climate goals needs the coordinated efforts of governments, the private sector and other stakeholders. We should listen to the voice of the youth and develop innovative solutions to addressing climate change and biodiversity conservation.

UNICEF hopes to cooperate with governments, businesses, communities and other stakeholders to manage climate change related risks and ensure that environmental strategy and disaster response plans safeguard the rights of youth and children. UNICEF calls for all sides to take concerted efforts to create a clean and sound environment.



Haji Tamit Martinah
Director
Department of Environment Parks and
Recreation, Ministry of Development
Brunei Darussalam

The COVID-19 pandemic and the lackluster economy have made green and sustainable development a regional and global consensus. Meanwhile, considering the important role of biodiversity resources and related ecological services to resist climate disasters and promote economic sustainability, Brunei Darussalam has been committed to supporting biodiversity protection and promoting mangrove conservation and restoration.

The youth represent an important force in striking and maintaining the balance between environment and socio-economic development, and playing an increasingly important role in addressing global environmental challenges. Today's event provides an opportunity for youth from ASEAN and China to communicate with and learn from each other. It is hoped that youth representatives could actively discuss climate change related issues and actions to be taken in the region and make contribution to the building of a sustainable and resilient future.

Yang Meiyang
Executive Director of ASEAN Foundation



Climate change leads to frequent extreme weather events, threatening people's health and livelihood. Therefore, public-private partnership (PPP) is needed to help people adapt to the impact of climate change and build a safe, sustainable and prosperous future for ASEAN Member States.

In recent years, ASEAN and China have been enhancing their strategic partnership with a series of initiatives being developed and implemented to realize sustainable development, peace and common prosperity in the region. This forum is not only a symbol of the mutually-beneficial friendship between the two sides that has lasted for 3 decades, but also a platform for youth from around the world to communicate with each other. The event helps to improve the environmental awareness of young people and encourage them to engage in global environmental governance through organizing discussions issues concerning climate change and sustainable development.



LI Nan
Program Director
World Wide Fund for Nature Beijing Office

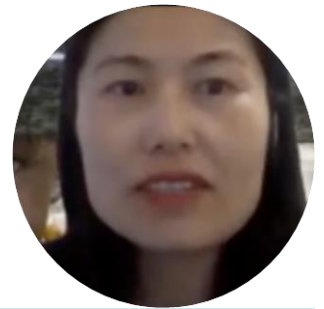
Through supporting eco-system services, biodiversity makes great contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Currently, we are faced with the dual challenge of biodiversity loss and climate change. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) could effectively protect biodiversity and human wellbeing through integrating conservation, sustainable management and eco-system restoration.

It is hoped that the event could help young people to better understand the challenges facing biodiversity and encourage them to take concrete actions to promote and engage in biodiversity conservation. It is expected that young people around the world could take joint actions to create a future with the harmonious coexistence of human and nature.



LV Zhi
Professor from School of Life Sciences
Peking University

The engagement of communities is of vital importance to addressing climate change. We could combine traditional practices with scientific research to improve climate change adaptation and promote eco-system restoration. For example, some traditional grazing practices of local herdsmen could be utilized to help to reverse the desertification of grassland. Such methods have been proved to be very effective. Compared with enclosure and grazing prohibition, reasonable grazing on a scientific basis helps vegetation to grow, enriches biodiversity and facilitates the quick restoration of grassland, providing insights to other places with similar problems.



Seon Mi Choi
Regional Advisor Climate Change and Environment
UNICEF EAPRO

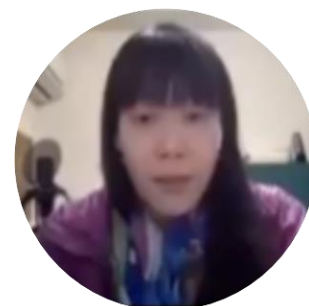
In climate crises, the most severely affected groups often face multiple shocks. Children, as one of the most sensitive groups to climate change, are simultaneously faced with various challenges such as disease and poverty. It is hoped that more attention could be given to children in key areas, and more efforts could be made to improve the climate education and environmental-friendly skill training for children. It is also hoped that more young people could engage in regional, national and global climate negotiations and decision-making and make their voice heard.



LIN Fanyuan
Director of the Department of Enterprise
Overseas Investment, AECOM China

The direct and indirect impacts of climate change includes the destruction of the ocean system, extinct of species, natural disasters, public health crisis and decrease of economic productivity. In the future, we need to decarbonize the economy, establish green supply chains, and build low-carbon and climate resilient cities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Mika Mei Jia Tan ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Program Coordinator



Our planet is faced with the threat of eco-system degradation and extinction of species. The future of the world is in the hands of youth, as they continue to promote global environmental dialogue and multilateral cooperation. Youth and middle-aged people constitute the majority of the population in ASEAN Member States. Therefore, improving the awareness of biodiversity conservation among young people and encouraging them to engage in biodiversity conservation efforts is of vital importance to improve regional environmental governance.



ZHANG Yuanshinan Youth Representative

Today, we can no longer ignore the impact of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The crisis they cause could be even more destructive in the future. These challenges can not be addressed without determination and cooperation. The global community has recognized youth as a key player in peace and security, sustainable development and climate change. In the future, the engagement of youth needs to be improved to make their contribution to safeguarding a sustainable future for later generations.

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China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center is committed to implementing China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Strategy and promoting China-ASEAN exchange and cooperation in the field of environment. It is an important platform of foreign environmental cooperation.