

East Asia Youth Consultation

Concept note

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Introduction:

Since the adoption of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021) the Social and Human Sciences Sector in the UNESCO Beijing Office has implemented several initiatives in line with the three axes of the Strategy which seek to:

1. Promote policy formulation and review with the participation of youth;
2. Enhance youth capacity development for their transition to adulthood; and
3. Support youth civic engagement, democratic participation and social innovation.

These initiatives have been with and for the benefit of youth in the Cluster Countries covered by the Beijing Office – China, DPRK, Japan, Mongolia, and the ROK – as well as for youth in Asia and the Pacific region and countries along the Silk Road. Some of these initiatives include engaging with youth to have their voices and opinions reflected in the elaboration of the Mongolia national youth policy; supporting for Model UNESCO Debates; implementing youth capacity enhancement programs in leadership and management skills; and organizing dialogue and networking spaces to mobilize youth participation and actions on issues such as intercultural dialogue, gender-based violence, combatting extremism, climate change and environmental sustainability, and preservation and protection of cultural heritage.

Currently at its midpoint, a review of the implementation of the UNESCO Strategy on Youth was undertaken and recommendations made to further increase the effectiveness of the Strategy include:

- Adopting a whole-of-government approach to our work with and for youth to better connect and align related policy areas as well as to ensure sustainability, consistently including the youth ministry/secretariat
- Developing methodologies for the participation of youth as partners in the development, review, implementation and monitoring of youth-relevant policies
- Reinforcing the capacities of youth and government stakeholders to meaningfully participate in policy processes
- Establishing programmes which offer a degree of complementarity, enhancing the skills of both youth and intermediaries, both at individual and organizational level, to ensure a broader reach and create multiplier effects
- Championing and engaging with youth who provide solutions to societal issues, to encourage continued investment into youth education and training

It is in light of these recommendations and as UNESCO embarks on the preparation of its work program for the next four year cycle 2018-2021, that SHS/Beijing Office and our Perfect World partners will organize this consultation with youth to determine with young people themselves

- a. How can youth become more engaged in the implementation of UNESCO's work, and
- b. How can UNESCO, within its human and financial limitations, better support youth engagement/ actions in their communities and countries?

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Objectives:

The objectives of the East Asia Youth Consultation are to:

1. Review actions undertaken by youth since their participation in UNESCO and Perfect World co-organized events such as the Asia Pacific Youth Dialogue (APYD)
2. Identify practical ways in which youth can become more involved in UNESCO programs
3. Develop meaningful relationships between exceptional youth and explore ways in which UNESCO can support youth actions, notably those linked to implementation of the SDGs in UNESCO's areas of work
4. Support and enable youth to address their primary issues of concern at regional/ sub-regional levels

Participants:

Approximately 75 youth primarily from East Asian countries are expected to participate in the Consultation. Invitations will be extended to 15 young persons from each country (China, Japan, Mongolia, and the ROK) who previously participated in UNESCO youth events organized in Bali, Changsha, Chengdu, Quanzhou, Ulaanbaatar, and the UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris to attend the consultation. An additional 15 youth representatives from outside the Beijing Cluster Countries and who are leading youth initiatives in their region will also be invited.

Main interventions:

1. Pre-consultation activities

Prior to attending the East Asia Youth Consultation and in preparation for the Consultation participants will be expected to discuss with youth in their communities and national youth organizations to identify in what ways and how their youth organization would like to collaborate with UNESCO, and how UNESCO can support their youth activities. (See questions on p1 at the end of the Introduction Section). To help facilitate this process, summary information about UNESCO's work in the Social and Human Sciences Sector will be sent to each participant, including examples of past initiatives organized.

Participants will also be required to submit answers to the above-mentioned questions prior to the Consultation. This will help shape and sharpen the Agenda and discussions at the Consultation.

2. Youth Consultation

The Consultation will be held over a period of three days at the Perfect World Digital Arts School (Pixseed) in Beijing. The program will combine a mixture of plenary and small group discussions in the mornings and late evening, with project and leisure activities during the afternoons. A draft Agenda of the Youth Consultation is included in Annex. This will be developed further to responses received from participants on how they would like to engage in UNESCO's work in the Social and Human Sciences

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3. Projects video recording

During the Consultation, participants will be given the opportunity to record a video highlighting achievements recorded on youth-led activities in which they have engaged since their attendance at a UNESCO/Perfect World event. Outstanding achievements will be submitted to UNESCO Headquarters for exhibiting during the UNESCO Youth Forum (October 2017).

Expected results:

As a result of lead-up activities and the consultation with young people from East Asia, the organizers are expecting the following outcomes:

- a. Spaces/ mechanisms/ themes for engaging youth in the upcoming planning cycle of UNESCO/SHS identified. This will facilitate the “mainstreaming” of youth into programs related to promoting bioethics, social inclusion, social transformation, intercultural dialogue, peace, sports and anti-doping for 2018-2019.
- b. Areas for UNESCO to support youth-led activities at the national and sub-regional level identified. This will enhance coherence of youth work across the Cluster, facilitate the creation of linkages between countries, and lead to greater impact.
- c. Opportunities for enhancing youth capacities in the private sector identified. Leveraging the partnership with Perfect World for example through mentorship, internship programs, access to entrepreneurial incubators, establishment of online communities
- d. Participation of at least two young persons from the East Asia Youth Consultation in the UNESCO Youth Forum (October 2017). The representatives of the EAYC will share with the UNESCO Youth Forum information on the methodology applied to determine youth involvement in the work of the Social and Human Sciences Program in the Beijing Cluster, report on the outcomes of the Consultation as well as on major initiatives of youth since their participation in UNESCO organized events in the East Asia Region.

Dates:

The East Asia Youth Consultation to contribute to the elaboration of the UNESCO/ SHS 39C/5 Workplans is planned for week of 21-25 August 2017. This time is selected so as to ensure maximum participation of youth, towards the end of the summer school vacation and prior to commencement of the new school year. It is also being organized two months prior to the UNESCO Youth Forum so that outcomes of the Consultation may feed into the global Forum, and two weeks prior to the Social and Human Sciences sector retreat which will discuss the Workplans for 2018-2019.

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Draft Agenda:

	Agenda Item	
Opening Ceremony	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marielza OLIVEIRA, Director and Representative, UNESCO Beijing • Mr. SHEN Yubiao, Director of Division of Sciences, Culture and CI, Chinese National Commission for UNESCO • Representative of the All China Youth Federation • Representative of Perfect World 	Plenary
Session one	Objectives and expected outcomes of Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the participants • Overview of EAYC • Spaces/ mechanisms for youth involvement in UNESCO work identified <p>Discussion</p>	
Session two	Follow-up to youth conferences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on survey questionnaire • Actions undertaken by youth since: Bali/APYD/UNESCO Youth Forum/IYF 	Plenary
	Field Visit/ Study Tour	
Session three	Social and Human Sciences work for 2018-2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics of Science and Technology • Social inclusion/Social transformation • Intercultural Dialogue • Youth • Sports and Anti-doping 	Plenary
Session four	Youth involvement and collaboration in UNESCO's SHS work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify practical ways in which youth can become more involved in UNESCO activities 	Group work -national -thematic
	Field Visit/ Study Tour	
Session five	UNESCO supporting youth initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify practical ways in which UNESCO/SHS can support youth led initiatives • Presentation of cross-border youth led initiatives for UNESCO/SHS support 	Group work -national Plenary

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Session six	Private sector support for youth <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentorship programs• Internship opportunities	Group work -national Plenary
	Field Visit/ Study Tour - Pixseed	
Closing Ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback and open discussion• Vote of thanks	Plenary