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“Youth, a stage of life marked by uncertainty, change, and challenge, is also a time of enormous potential, enthusiasm, and energy.” *Kartikeya Sarabhai's Keynote Lecture*



Pictorial Report of the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum

KNCU



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Pictorial Report of the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum

사라

Reshaping Our Future:
In Search of
Asian Alternatives



Co-organized by
UNESCO
and the
Korean National Commission
for UNESCO

Date
2-7 July 2009
Venue
Chosun University
Gwangju, Republic of Korea
Organizers
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UNESCO
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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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BACKGROUND

UNESCO Youth Forum

UNESCO is leading global efforts to create policies and make a healthy environment for youth that fully protects their **rights**, while is conducive to their development, and adequately prepares them for **responsible citizenship**, enabling their meaningful and effective **participation in decision-making**.

3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum

The importance of fostering regional youth forums was emphasized to encourage the immense potential of youth-driven initiatives for concrete action at the regional level.

Chronicle

1st UNESCO Asian Youth Forum(2007, Jeju Island):

Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue to Ensure Peace

2nd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum(2008, Gwangju):

Sustainable Community in Asia

3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum(2009, Gwangju):

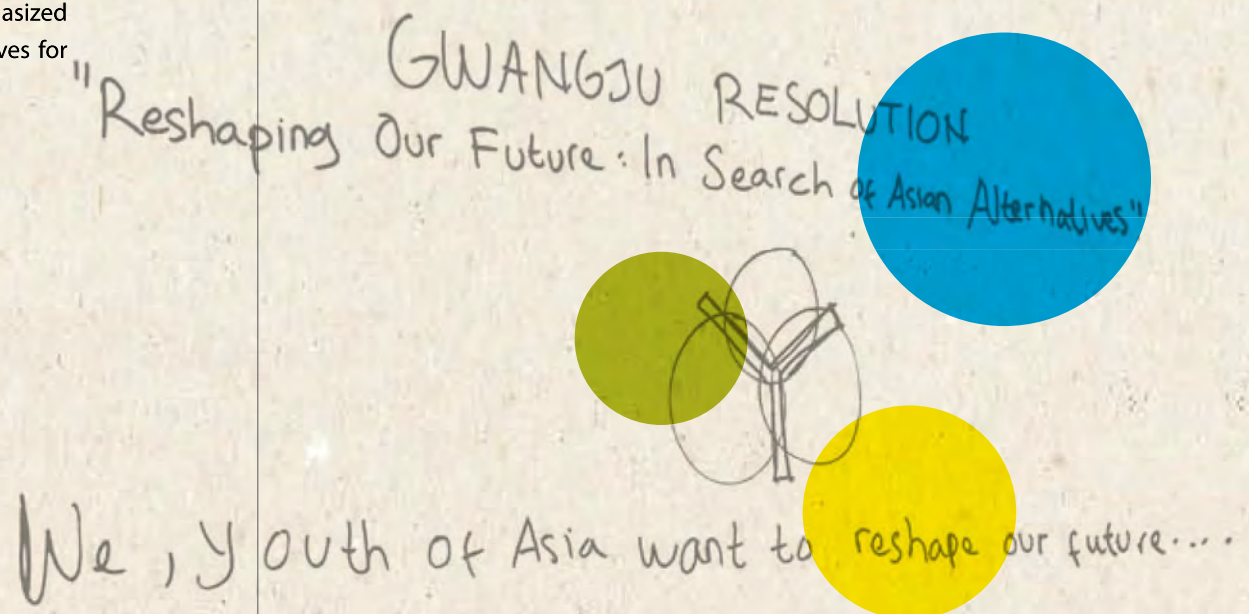
Reshaping Our Future: In Search of Asian Alternatives

GWANGJU RESOLUTION AT A GLANCE

Preamble

We, the participants of the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum, will not be passive recipients of so-called global solutions that have often failed to reach the most marginalized and vulnerable people around us. Instead, we will find alternatives from the qualities that the people in Asia have cherished and nurtured.

We want to present **three sub-themes** that capture our key issues and action plans: **EQUIP, ENHANCE and EMPOWER**.



Sub-Theme 1

EQUIP

“EQUIP ASIAN YOUTH TO BE FUTURE POSITIVE CHANGE MAKERS”

Pilot Project

ASIAN TREE on Leadership and Social Responsibility Programme

Stage Explanation

1. Preparation

Leaders-to-Leaders Lecture to produce responsible social entrepreneurs that use sustainable materials and local labour

Think Tank Gathering to have discussion with their local government by meeting high officials and the institutions

2. Implementation

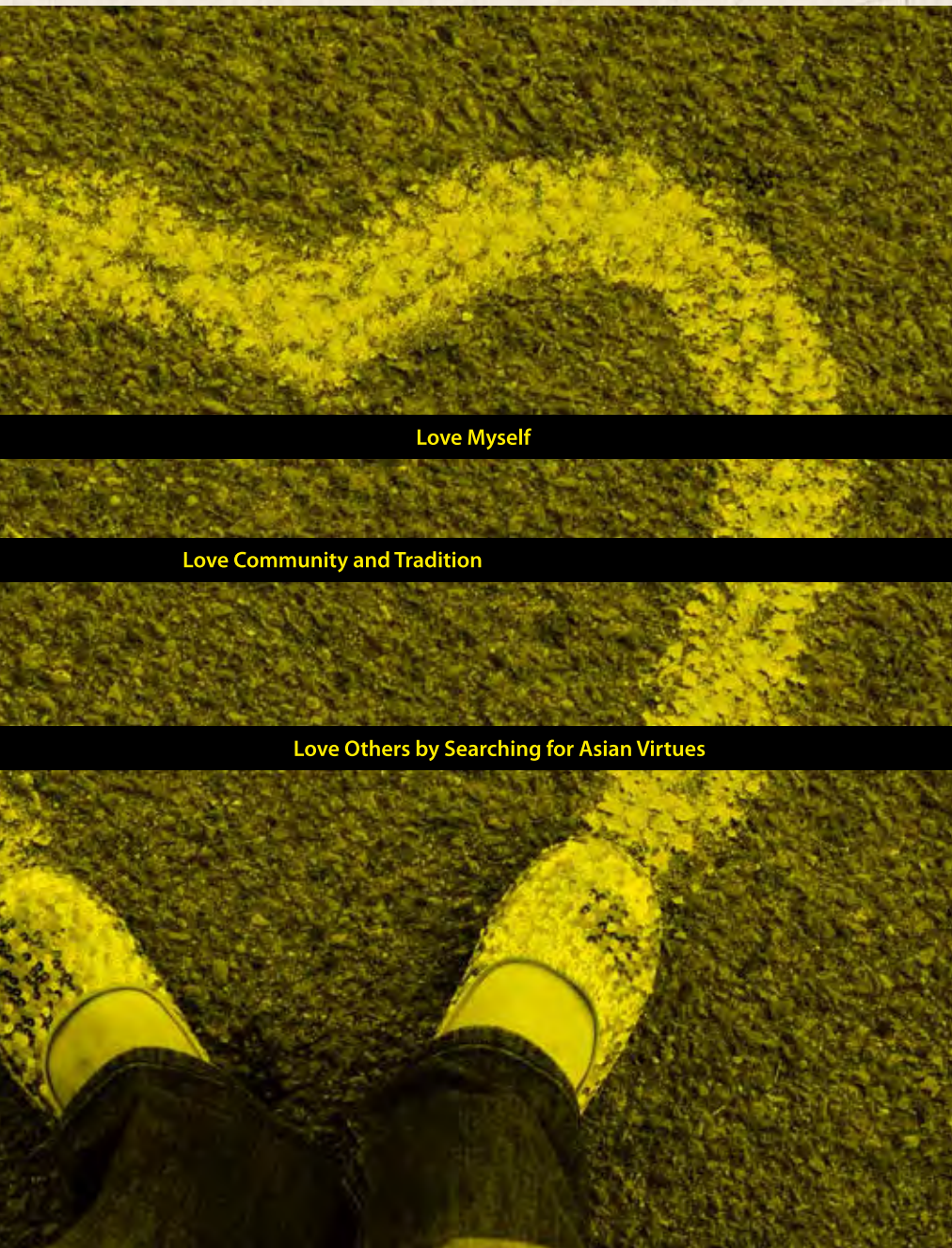
Asian Youth Cultural Festival to produce creative leaders that are proud of their heritage, and at the same time create new things

Youth Give Back Trip, Understanding Community, Village Visits to produce young leaders that are aware of their community, environment, culture, and tradition

3. Follow Up

Social Service Programme with collaboration of local partners for the participants to come up with their own social service programmes





Sub-Theme 2

ENHANCE

“ENHANCE YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR ENRICHING ASIAN VALUES”

Pilot Project

LOVE ASIA CAMPAIGN: Searching for the pride of Asia

Stage Explanation

1. Preparation

Poster Making to advertise three main activities that follow the preparation, and to promote awareness and attention to the event among local youth

2. Implementation

Love Myself(Pictorial story on Asian youth) to share Asian youths’ daily lives and experience in local communities and have chances to rediscover the Asian values

Love Community and Tradition(Youth’s Traditional Market) to create traditional craft among youth as well as invisible values through the process of creation, and to integrate present values and traditional values

Love Others by Searching for Asian Virtues(Random Kindness Action) to strengthen their identity through identifying, defining, and promoting Asian virtues

3. Follow Up

Traditional Costume Rally to exhibit pictures taken during main activities for general promotion

Sub-Theme 3

EMPOWER

EMPOWER YOUTH TO GET THEIR VOICE HEARD

Pilot Project

Y.E.S.S! 'Youth Empowerment and Space to Speak up!'

Stage Explanation

Awareness Raising Campaigns to identify youth leaders and orientate them on the purpose of Y.E.S.S

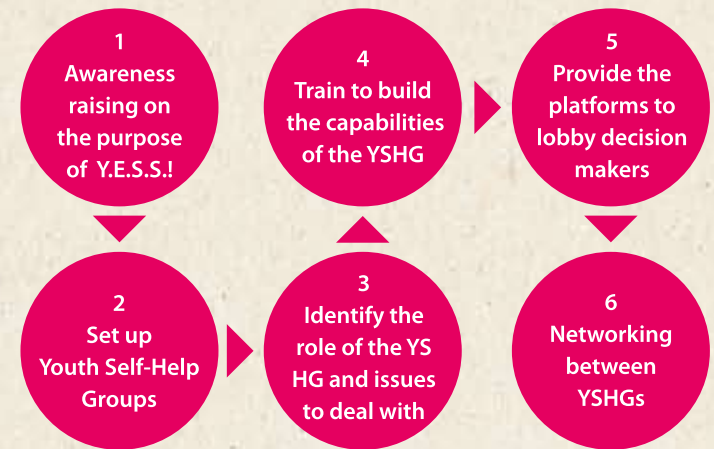
Youth Self-Help Groups (YSHGs) to recruit willing youth to start 'Youth Self-Help Groups' (YSHGs)

Group discussions and brainstorming sessions to find what the most pressing issues in their community are and how they would like to operate and lobby

Capability building and training to provide training sessions with resource people

Dialogue with relevant decision makers to provide a platform for the YSHG and help the youth voice speak to higher level government policies and programs

Networking events to share experiences and best practices to liaise with NGOs and CBOs to arrange field visits and informal gatherings



Conclusion

During the forum, we shared our experiences and values related to the contexts of our individual countries, but **spoke with one voice** in preparing resolution on reshaping the Asian future. We believe our **collective voice** in this resolution has a potential **to impact** and **stimulate positive changes**, even at the global level.

We recognize the responses suggested in this resolution are closely related with **local and community-level actions**. However, we, through our youth organizations, will seek to cooperate with peers and youth partners **at the national, regional, and global levels** to address the key issues highlighted in this resolution.

Expectation

Participants answered the question, “What are your expectations for the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum?” on their registration forms.

BAE Jin-sun *Republic of Korea*

Given this excellent opportunity for networking and inspiration, I hope participants will continue their dialogues on both personal and organizational levels, and will organize a post-forum initiative to identify and tackle issues of common concern.



Loba Silsabil *Bangladesh*

As a representative of an under-developed country and a social activist, I have the responsibility to take steps to build the equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world. I want this event to be a platform where I can raise my voice, along with other social and civil society leaders, towards eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and build a sustainable development strategy.



Indri Sari *Indonesia*

My expectation is to share ideas and experience with other participants about how their communities embrace their own Asian uniqueness, since Asian countries are rich and full of uniqueness in their own way. Furthermore, by sharing common interests, we are able to build relationship and formulate resolutions when facing our future challenges.



Pouthyoth Mao *Cambodia*

Through the discussion at the forum, I hope that concrete strategies and initiatives to enhance youth's capacity in the region will be set together to provide a chance for youth to develop youth-led project initiatives. Importantly, youth voices, with their concerns as well as recommendation on the challenges of the global economic crisis will be heard and taken into serious consideration at the forum.



Anushka Wijesinha *Sri Lanka*

I am particularly keen on using this 6 day forum to build a wide regional youth network. I have a unique opportunity to leverage these contacts to involved Asian youth in inter-cultural dialogue, as well as get their involvement in Sri Lanka's peace-building efforts through sharing their experiences of similar issues in their home countries.



Searching: Youth Project & Activity Case Report

All participants and observers submitted case reports describing one or two youth-initiated or youth-oriented project/activity cases aimed at ensuring sustainable development in communities, regions, or nations. They shared many practical cases operated by local institutions by presenting the case reports.



Sharing: E-dialogue

E-dialogue is a space where subscribers could exchange ideas and contribute to identifying the forum's agenda. It played a significant role in not only establishing common ground for the content of the forum, but also building networks and fostering exchange among the participants prior to the forum.



Lok Raj Awasthi *Nepal*

Globalization has directly affected our lives; new life styles, cultural transformations, multinational companies... There are lots of demerits, such as environment pollution, but things such as IT technology have made the world better. As a result, we can touch each other and be near to each other in a smaller world.



KAN Cheung Heng *China*

We have responsibility to the world community at large, our own health care, economic well-being, and intellectual and moral growth. A person has a basic duty to fully realize his or her talents and capabilities. An individual can understand the importance of social justice as an element in both sustainable development and the improved welfare of all people.



Carmelo John Vidal *Philippines*

The term 'bayanihan' is a unique Filipino word meaning 'teamwork'. But the word actually speaks of more than that. It is derived from the word 'bayan' which means nation, town, or community. The word bayanihan means a spirit of communal unity or effort to achieve a particular goal. Indeed, this value typifies Filipino as having sense of community spirit.

Manasi Shivakumar *India*

Despite so much diversity, people in India are united and feel proud of their culture and tradition. On the world stage, either through international film festivals or through beauty pageants, India regularly displays its talent and culture. "Unity in diversity" is something that best describes a country like India that is incredibly rich in culture and heritage.



Mingling: Registration & Pre-gathering

July 1st, 2009, one day prior to the opening of the forum, participants of the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum arrived in Gwangju with mixed feelings: nervousness, expectations, and excitement. Once they stepped into the forum venue, Chosun University, they were heartily welcomed by the organizers.



The evening before the forum started, participants had a chance to get to know each other through the Pre-gathering programmes.

The Web Game



The Human Knot



Future Detectives



**Whenever Korea will call me to attend
any event, I will be there.**
Loba Silsabil from Bangladesh



Listening : Lectures

Keynote Lectures

“The world today is unsustainable. We consume more than our planet can produce. The estimates at the moment put this at 1.3 times the global output. With current trends, by 2050, when most of you will be my age, we will need 4 globes to meet our demand! This of course won't happen. We have only one planet to live on.”



Mr. Kartikeya Sarabhai
Founder Director, Center for
Environment Education (CEE), India



Ms. Marie Lisa Dacanay

*President, Institute for Social Entrepreneurship
in Asia (ISEA), Philippines*

“As part of the enlightened youth of today, it is my hope that your inquisitive minds, your daringness to try new things as well as your idealism will serve as springboards for you to get involved in building a critical mass of youth from your generation who can take on various roles in this movement for social entrepreneurship.”



Special Lectures



Dr. Darryl Macer
Regional Adviser on Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Bangkok Office

Reshaping our Future by Informed Choices and Dialogue

Fostering an enabling policy environment for youth development: UNESCO's response



Ms. Maria Kyriotou
Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education, UNESCO

Observer's Presentation



Ms. YOO Ye-seon
Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism Republic of Korea



Ms. Pujiarti
Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA)



Ms. Johanna Encabo
Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU)

Speaking

Plenary and Working Group Discussions

During the plenary sessions and working group discussions, all participants showed their ability and enthusiasm to overcome cultural and individual differences in order to work together toward common goals.



Each of the Plenary Sessions and Working Group Discussions were organized and led by the elected chairpersons, who were responsible to make sure that the discussions ran smoothly and that everyone's voice was heard.



Participants were divided into three Working Groups by regions. Through a series of discussions, the Working Groups came up with three sub themes with numerous action plans and pilot projects, which were collected for the Plenary Sessions.





Enjoying

Cultural and Social Programs

Alongside discussions, participants also had many opportunities to learn and experience various Asian cultures during the forum.



Welcoming Dinner

During the Welcoming Dinner, participants enjoyed Korean traditional performances and food with lots of laughter and warm atmosphere.



Intercultural Evening in Asia

After a long day of intense discussions, participants showed off their cultures and talents. All participants gave a remarkable performance of skits, song, or dance.



Social Event

With various socializing activities, participants became closer each other.



Farewell Night



“It’s hard for me to say goodbye. I give my thanks to my friends for creating this great opportunity for all of us to meet together. Oh my God! I don’t want to say good bye...”

- Anonymous from evaluation



Acting

2nd UNESCO Asian Youth Cultural Festival

As a part of the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum, the 2nd UNESCO Asian Youth Cultural Festival, organized by the Gwangju International Center and supported by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, was held in Dae-in Marketplace on July 4th, 2009.

In line with the previous year, the Asian Youth Cultural Festival allowed participants from all over Asia to work together in various activities and events with local youth and residents while also getting a feel for Korean culture, and being reminded of the values that can be found in traditional culture.





**Tremendous effort created a coherent atmosphere,
Thank you! I really hope all Asian countries will send
their participants to this forum in the future. ”**

- Loba Silsabil from Bangladesh



I feel that youths of today have greater role in helping to solve the current global economic phenomenon with their creativity and passion, and find alternative solutions in the Asian community.

- Tashi Dorji, Bhutan



Asia Youth Fund

The Asia Youth Fund aims to invigorate youth efforts towards shared prosperity and sustainable community building in Asia by enhancing youth-led pilot projects in 2009. The Asia Youth Fund is sponsored by The One Body One Spirit Movement (OBOS) and KIA Motors.

Pilot project proposals for the Asia Youth Fund were presented during the forum so that participants shared their opinions and suggestions on the proposals.



Lao Youth Union



Indian Committee of Youth Organizations



Association of Youth Organizations Nepal



Bangladesh Neighborhood Training Center



Sri Lanka Federation of Youth Clubs

Selected pilot projects for 2009 Asia Youth Fund were conducted after the forum finished. Youth would be able to explore their creativity and passion by running the pilot projects.

Promise for Reshaping our Future

Leaving Gwangju, participants promised to implement action plans and pilot projects in their home countries and keep their friendships and networks alive.

“There are significant synergies to be gained through a strong interaction between Asian countries. Towards this end, I believe that the Asian youth have a strong role to play in understanding the cross-cutting issues facing our countries.”

-Anushka Wijeshinha, Sri Lanka



Appendix

List of Participants

37 participants represented 21 countries from the Asian region. The majority of the participants are young activists of youth-related organizations.

Country	Participant's Name
1. Bangladesh	Ms. ROKSANA Parvin Dipu Ms. SILSABIL Loba
2. Bhutan	Mr. DORJI Tashi
3. Brunei Darussalam	Mr. ABDULLAH Saifullah Ms. HAJI RAPAIE Roziah Maisarah
4. Cambodia	Ms. TEP Sinath Ms. MAO Pouthyroth
5. China	Ms. LIAO Shenghui Ms. XIE Weiwei
6. India	Ms. SHIVAKUMAR Manasi
7. Indonesia	Ms. SARI Indri Mr. MUHAMMAD Assad
8. Iran	Ms. AGHAJANI Yasaman
9. Japan	Ms. YOSHIMOTO Michiko Ms. MATSUURA Akiko
10. Laos	Mr. SOULINTHONE Phisitxay
11. Malaysia	Ms. YUSNITA Yusof Mr. HASHIM Nazri
12. Mongolia	Mr. BANDII Garid Mr. BATMUNKH Bat-Amgalan
13. Nepal	Ms. LAMA Nabina Mr. AWASTHI Lokraj
14. Pakistan	Mr. KHAN Asim
15. Philippines	Ms. USON Maria Kristina Mr. ENVERGA Hansen Manuel
16. Republic of Korea	Ms. BAE Jin-sun Ms. HAN Ae-jin
17. Russia	Ms. POPOVA Lidia Ms. LI Valentina
18. Singapore	Ms. MOK Ying Ling Mr. LIM Zi Yao
19. Sri Lanka	Mr. WIJESINHA Anushka Mr. RANAWEERA ARACHCHIGE Saman Kumara
20. Thailand	Mr. CHINAWONG Nattaphol Ms. SINSAMERSUK Penjai
21. Vietnam	Mr. VUONG Viet Anh Ms. NGUYEN Hoai Thuong

A total of 13 observers represented 13 organizations and networks.

Ms. ENCABO Johanna *Asia-Pacific Center of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU)*

Mr. KAN Cheung Heng *YMCA of Hong Kong*

Mr. PARIYAR Pradip *Nepal Youth Forum*

Ms. KANG Ji-hee *Chosun University*

Ms. AN Mi-jeong *Gwang-ju Youth Cultural Center*

Ms. SON Jung-won *Korea Youth Services Center*

Ms. AHN Jung-ae *Korean Foundation for Intl' Healthcare*

Ms. YOO Ye-seon *Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism*

Ms. JEON Shin-young *Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva*

Mr. KIM Tae-hyung *Gwangju International Center*

Ms. Pujiarti *Network for Voluntary Development in Asia*

Mr. VIDAL Carmelo *Philippines National Commission for UNESCO*

Mr. PARK Jae-chul *The One Body One Spirit Movement*

Secretariat

Korean National Commission for UNESCO

Mr. CHUNG Utak (*Director, Division of Partnership Projects*)

Mr. LEE Sun-jae (*Head of Youth Team*)

Mr. JUNG Yong-shi (*Assistant Programme Specialist, Youth Team*)

Ms. KIM Ji-in (*Programme Assistant, Youth Team*)

Ms. Hannah Rainey (*Programme Intern, Youth Team*)

UNESCO

Dr. Darryl Macer

Regional Adviser on Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Bangkok

Ms. Maria Kypriotou *Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education, UNESCO*

Drafting Committee

Plenary Session	Chairperson	Mr. MUHAMMAD Assad
	Rapporteur	Ms. BAE Jin-sun
Working Group 1	Chairperson	Mr. CHINAWONG Nattaphol
	Rapporteur	Ms. SINSAMERSUK Penjai
Working Group 2	Chairperson	Mr. SOULINTHONE Phisitxay
	Rapporteur	Ms. NGUYEN Hoai Thuong
Working Group 3	Chairperson	Mr. WIJESINHA Anushka
	Rapporteur	Ms. SHIVAKUMAR Manasi

Gwangju Resolution

The 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum “Reshaping Our Future: In Search of Asian Alternatives”

Gwangju, Republic of Korea, 2-7 July 2009

Preamble

The 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum has gathered 50 young people from 21 countries in Gwangju, the hub city of Asian Culture, in the Republic of Korea. This forum was the only regional youth forum held this year, will be presenting a resolution and plan of action at the 6th UNESCO Youth Forum to be held in Paris, France in October, 2009.

We, the participants of the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum, want to reshape our future. The need for reshaping comes from our realisation that the potential of local communities, in which our hope lies, has faded away due to the forces of globalisation in the last couple of decades. In the face of cyclical economic crises and the continuing decrease in human values, Asian youth are losing their identities and dreams that inspire them to build the future in which we want to live.

We, the participants of the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum, want to search for Asian alternatives based on positive local traditions and wisdom that have enriched the people of this region for thousands of years. We will not be passive recipients of so-called global solutions that have often failed to reach the most marginalised and vulnerable people around us. Instead, we will find alternatives from the qualities that the people in Asia have cherished and nurtured. Those values include the trust between people, family and community, harmony

between uniqueness and universality, and respect for others and Mother Nature.

Therefore, we, the participants of the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum, suggest the following resolution based on our discussions, shared learning and mutual understanding. We want to present three sub-themes that capture our key issues and action plans: EQUIP, ENHANCE and EMPOWER.



Sub-Theme 1 **EQUIP**

“EQUIP ASIAN YOUTH TO BE FUTURE POSITIVE CHANGE MAKERS”

Action Plan

1. Conduct lectures on “Youth and Social Responsibility”
2. Cooperate with Parent-Teacher Associations to provide training to teach the community to be self-sufficient
3. Provide traditional knowledge training
4. Organise local cultural trips to promote youth realisation of the importance of their traditions
5. Establish talking forums as platforms for young people to discuss issues
6. Build partnerships with the media section to encourage young people to have social responsibility
7. Introduce social entrepreneurship at the community level
8. Conduct study visits for youth to meet with local government to identify problems and solutions together

Sub-Theme 2

ENHANCE

“ENHANCE YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR ENRICHING ASIAN VALUES”

Action Plan

1. Organize youth-led activities in favour of positive local traditions
2. Provide opportunities and open events to share local youth's learning, experience and activities to join in the local community
3. Create and elaborate ideas to enhance the awareness of Asian local traditions and virtues in the perspective of youth

Sub-Theme 3

EMPOWER

“EMPOWER YOUTH TO GET THEIR VOICE HEARD”

Action Plan

1. Organise youth in the community with a bottom-up approach
Provide an equal platform for marginalised communities and ensure inclusiveness
2. Create a platform for local youth groups and local decision makers to engage in a dialogue
3. Utilise different forms of media to provide alternative platforms for the youth in the community to raise local youth issues
4. Seek government assistance and support for the youth voice to be heard at different levels of governance and enable youth voice to feed into larger policy and program formulation

Conclusion

The world is at a unique turning point in its history, with multiple crises in personal attitudes, economies, cultures, and the environment. These are all posing serious challenges to the future of youth, especially in Asia, and positive Asian values. It is in this perspective that we, the participants of the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum, have prepared this Gwangju resolution. It will aim to provide feasible youth-led alternatives to reshape the future of Asia.

During the forum, we shared our experiences and values relating to the contexts of our individual countries, but spoke with one voice in preparing a resolution on reshaping the Asian future. This outcome echoes some objectives of the UNESCO Global Strategy on Youth (2009 – 2013) developed by the UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector, such as “foster frameworks to address youth issues with the full participation of youth,” “promote youth civic engagement,” and “promote social inclusion.” In this respect, we believe our collective voice in this resolution has a potential to generate impacts and stimulate positive changes even at the global level.

We recognize that responses suggested in this resolution are closely related with local- and community-level actions. However, we, through our youth organizations, will seek to cooperate with other peers and youth partners at national, regional, and global levels to address the key issues highlighted in this resolution. These include social entrepreneurship and responsibility, local knowledge, networking, developing youth participation mechanisms, leadership skills, the inclusion of marginalized groups, and youth participation through ICTs and the media. Furthermore, to strengthen our potential as alternative makers, we will utilize existing tools and spaces such as the Asian Culture Complex, a clearinghouse of cultural information and exchanges, which will open in Gwangju, Republic of Korea in 2012.

In closing, the 3rd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum would like to recommend that similar regional youth forums be held in other parts of the world, to collect the youth voices in those communities to be voiced at the next world youth forum.

