

Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policy-makers in Dialogue with Children & Youth: Lead Researcher and Supply of Training Services - Terms of Reference (ToR)



Asia Pacific Coalition
for School Safety



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| Post title | Lead Researcher |
| Number of post | 1 |
| Project name | Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policymakers in Dialogue with Children & Youth |
| Project funding support | Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), under 2020 Regional Environmental Event Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2 (SCF2) |
| Duty Station | Home |
| Duration of Appointment | December 2020 – March 2021 |
| Language requirement | English |
| Expected Start date | December 2020 |

1. Purpose and background

The “*Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policy-makers in Dialogue with Children & Youth*” is a capacity building project which aims to provide a mechanism for children and youth in the Asia-Pacific region to engage in meaningful exchange with researchers, practitioners and policy-makers on topics relating to COVID-19, climate crisis and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

The project is led by the *Children and Youth International* (CYI), which is the charitable arm of the *United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth* (UNMGCY). CYI is a youth-led, volunteer-based organization supporting education, training, and fundraising activities to empower young people from all backgrounds to meaningfully engage in the United Nations (UN). The project is funded by the *Stockholm Environment Institute - 2020 Regional Environmental Event Strategic Collaborative Fund* and is supported by the *Asia Pacific Coalition for School Safety* (APCSS) and the *CONVERGE Working Group on COVID-19, Children and Youth and Schools*.

The outcomes of the project will be presented to researchers, practitioners and policy-makers through a range of activities and events, including the *Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction* (APMCDRR), which was originally scheduled to take place in June 2020, but has been postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project includes two main activities:

1. The Young Fellowship Programme
2. The Pandemic Time Capsule Project

The aim of the *Young Fellowship Programme* is to build the capacities of Asia Pacific youth to conduct participatory action research and engage in youth-led advocacy for DRR and climate action. Under the guidance of an experienced Lead Researcher and suitably qualified Young Researchers, 15 Young Fellows, selected from countries across the Asia Pacific region, will analyse their National DRR and climate policies and schemes, and assess the degree to which those policies have been implemented at the local level. The Young Fellows will contribute their key findings and recommendations to a research report and a set of policy briefs which will be drafted by the Lead Researcher. At the end of the programme, the Young Fellows will participate in a one-day online workshop where they present their research to researchers, practitioners and policy-makers from across the Asia Pacific. The Programme will provide youth with valuable opportunities to develop their leadership capacity, as well as their abilities to communicate with their own constituency and effectively represent the interests of children and youth at the local, national and regional level.

During the programme, the Young Fellows will also have the opportunity to collect material for the *Pandemic Time Capsule Project*, which aims to provide children and young people from across the Asia Pacific region with an opportunity to voice their perspectives and experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic within the broader context of the climate crisis and escalating disaster risks. The Time Capsule Project involves three activities, which will be supervised by technical leads with specialist expertise in media production and participatory approaches to engaging with children and youth:

1. The 'Our World, Our Say Vox Pop Video Series', will provide an opportunity for children and young people to contribute video responses to questions pertaining to COVID-19, climate action and disaster risk reduction.
2. The 'Disasters: Deconstructed Podcast' will provide children and youth with the opportunity to contribute audio recordings for special child and youth-focussed episode of the well known podcast hosted by Dr Ksenia Chmutina and Dr Jason Von Meding <https://disastersdecon.podbean.com/>
3. The 'Pandemic Diaries' will provide an avenue for children and adolescents to write about their perspectives, experiences and feelings during this global pandemic. The

diaries published on a dedicated page on the [UN Major Group for Children and Youth website](#).

2. Project objectives

The project will examine and document the diverse factors of Asia-Pacific DRR and Climate action policies and its implementation including innovative youth-led approaches to prevent disasters. The study consists of a youth-led action research with coverage of countries across the Asia-Pacific region. The primary target group are youth as well as decision-makers, community leaders and media. A comparative study led by the Lead Researcher and supported by the Young Researchers and Young Fellows. The study seeks to contribute to an enhanced evidence-based approach to policies development and programming related to DRR, by deepening the existing knowledge base on the positive roles of youth-led initiatives in resilience building for the society/community.

The UNMGCY wishes to recruit a Lead Researcher from an Asia-Pacific country, to provide services to the project '*Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policymakers in Dialogue with Children & Youth*' project funded by Stockholm Environment Institute.

3. Framework and approach

The project is underpinned by a child- and youth-rights based approach to DRR and public health, in which children and young people are viewed as genuine stakeholders in the development of public policy and service delivery, and are included as active participants in wider public discourse on matters that concern them. This approach is enshrined in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, aligns with the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and is supported by a rapidly growing literature on child and youth participation in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery.

4. Inclusion

The project will seek to capture the perspectives and experiences of children and youth from countries across the Asia Pacific region, which may include:

- South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Brunei, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam
- East Asia: China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea
- Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

- Pacific: Kiribati, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu,
- Oceania: Australia, New Zealand

The goal is to capture the perspectives and experiences of children and young people from a wide range of cultural and economic backgrounds. Ideally, there will be representation of all genders (including non-binary) and concerted effort will be made to include children and youth of different ethnicities, geographies and socioeconomic status, as well as children and youth living with a disability.

5. Scope of work

The Lead Researcher will have the overall responsibility for training and mentoring the young researchers and supervision of the research process, findings and research outputs.

The Lead Researchers will have the following specific duties and responsibilities:

- Prepare and facilitate 3 workshops for the 15 young fellows on the following topics:
 - Develop a training outline and manual
 - Prepare, and conduct online workshop on research methodology and skills, and prepare for in-country research and data-collection
 - Planning, preparation, organisation and delivery of specific training events.
 - Mobilisation and provision of speakers and trainers for each event.
 - Preparation and delivery of all training materials.
 - Organisation of coordination sessions between itself, the trainer(s) and UNMGCY
- Oversee in-country data collection carried out by the 3 Young Researchers and 15 Young Fellows.
- Coordinate the research project, by supporting the Young Researchers.
- Develop a detailed research plan including questionnaires for data collection.
- Analyse gathered data and lead the production of 2 policy briefs (1 per country, 1 regional) highlighting specific key findings (approx. 5-8 pages each)
- Lead the development of one analytical research report highlighting overall findings, based on input from the Young Researchers and Young Fellows.
- Develop 2 Action Guides for peer-to-peer awareness campaign (Analysing research and Advocacy on DRR and climate action) in collaboration with the Young Researchers and Young Fellows.
- Draft and implement the one-day online workshop.
- In addition to the written outputs, the enhanced capacity and knowledge among the 15 young fellows is a key outcome of the project.
- The lead researcher will be responsible for the final output of the documents and publication and printing.

6. Qualifications

- Minimum of a Master's degree or equivalent in the fields of social science, environment science, natural resources management, rural development, or disaster management, or equivalent competencies acquired through other means.
- Proven experience in DRR research and analysis.
- Extensive experience in working with DRR and climate action

7. Personal / Interpersonal skills

- Excellent communication and negotiation skills.
- Outcome and process oriented.
- Excellent project management skills.
- Understanding of complex social-political environments in Asia-Pacific countries.
- Sensitivity toward other cultures and dedication to the promotion of inter-ethnic co-operation and tolerance.
- Ability to work effectively and harmoniously with colleagues from varied cultures and professional backgrounds.
- Ability to lead a team effectively in order to achieve the desired goals.
- Ability to maintain quality and deadlines.

8. Outputs and timeframe

| | Outputs | Due date |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Three Training on Participatory Action Research to young fellows | Dec |
| 2. | One Analytical research report | Jan |
| 3 | Two policy briefs | Jan |

9. Budget

The UN MGCY will remunerate the lead researcher in **USD 8,240.53** only. The amount is inclusive of all Government tax and VAT as applicable.

10. Application process

Please submit your application to jekulin.lipi@unmgcy.org CC to drgrfp@unmgcy.org. The original application deadline is 11th December 2020.

The application should include the following:

- 1-page cover letter
- Max. 3-page CV
- 1 work sample of previous research
- 1 professional references letter
- Draft training plan