

Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policy-makers in Dialogue with Children & Youth: Young Researcher - Terms of Reference (ToR)



Asia Pacific Coalition
for School Safety



Post title	Young Researcher
Number of post	3
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](#).

The UNMGCY wishes to recruit 3 Young Researcher from countries across the Asia Pacific region to provide services to the project "*Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policymakers in Dialogue with Children & Youth*" project funded by Stockholm Environment Institute.

2. 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.

3. 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, 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.

4. Scope of work

The three Young Researchers will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Attend three Participatory Action Research (PAR) training sessions for the Young Fellows and provide support to the Lead Researcher as required.
- Under the guidance of the Lead researcher and donor agency, coordinate and support the planning and implementation of project activities of five Young Fellows. Project activities of the Young Fellows will include:
 - Collecting and analysing the national DRR policies and schemes in their home country and assessing the extent to which those policies and schemes are being implemented in their local community.
 - Analysing the extent to which climate action, nature-based solutions and traditional indigenous knowledge are being integrated into the implementation of DRR policies and schemes in their local community.
 - Contributing the key findings of their analyses to the zero draft of a research report to be completed by the lead researcher.
 - Preparing a short presentation summarising key findings and recommendations for policymakers and other major stakeholders at the online one day workshop.
 - Acting as the community-level focal-point for engaging children and youth in the collection of material for the Vox Pop Videos, Pandemic Diaries and Disasters Deconstructed Podcast.
 - Planning and implementing a peer-to-peer awareness campaign informing local children and youth of the key findings and outcomes of the project.
- Support the development of work plans for the five Young Fellows under their supervision.
- Undertake a desk review of relevant literature of national DRR policies and schemes.
- Provide support to young fellows in identification relevant stakeholders for data collection, interview guide, and guidance throughout the process of data collection.
- Support the young fellows to produce a zero draft of the research report.
- Support the young fellows in summarising key findings and recommendations, to be presented for policymakers and other major stakeholders during the online one day workshop.
- Provide input on the agenda and activities for the online one day workshop, and facilitate the participation of Young Fellows in the workshop as required.
- Provide support to the young fellows in planning and implementation of peer-to-peer awareness campaigns.
- Performing other relevant duties as required.

5. Degree of expertise

- Knowledge on development policy within the Asia Pacific.
- Previous experience in conducting research in the fields of DRR and/or climate action.
- Previous experience with Participatory Action Research (preferred, but not essential).
- Sound knowledge on current researches and policies in the areas of DRR and climate action, and familiarity with contemporary issues in disasters and development.
- Civil protection and disaster management research experience
- Strong background in peer to peer capacity building.

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 prior two years of experience in DRR research and analysis.

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 work under pressure, while maintaining quality and meeting deadlines.

8. Reporting

- Young Researchers will report to the Lead Researcher and UN MGCY project team.
- Young Researchers will be expected to work closely with Young fellows, Lead Researcher, and the UN MGCY project team.
- Performance will be evaluated by the UN MGCY project team in consultation with lead researcher and donor agency.

9. Outputs and timeframe

	Outputs	Due date
1.	Coordinate and support the planning and implementation of project activities for five Young Fellows	Dec - Mar
2.	Provide support to young fellows in identification of relevant stakeholders for data collection, interview guide, and guidance throughout the process of data collection	Dec - Feb
3	Undertake a desk review of relevant literature of national DRR policies and schemes	Dec
4	Support the young fellows to develop a zero draft of the research report.	Dec - Feb
5	Support young fellows in summarising key findings and recommendations for policymakers and other major stakeholders at the online one day workshop.	Dec - Feb

10. Budget

The UN MGCY will remunerate the Youth Researchers in USD 2354.44/- only. The amount is inclusive of all Government tax and VAT as applicable.

11. Application process

Please submit your application to an online web-form: . The original application deadline is 11th December.

The application should include the following:

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