

Empowering Youth and Young Professionals for Sustainable Resilience By Annisa A-PAD

The 3rd International Workshop and Training for Youth and Young Professionals in Science, Engineering, Technology, and Innovation for Disaster and Climate Resilience took place in Jakarta through a collaborative effort involving UNESCO, BRIN, U-Inspire Alliance, and in partnership with UNDRR and BNPB.



The 3rd International Workshop and Training for Youth and Young Professionals, Plenary Remarks, Jakarta 4th Dec 2023. Source:A-PAD Indonesia

The seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR), a diverse forum held in Bali from May 23 to 28, 2022, concluded successfully, resulting in the formulation of the 7-point Bali Agenda for Sustainable Resilience. The fourth point emphasized the need to enhance investments in youth and young professionals to foster innovation and creative solutions. However, youth and young professionals (YYPs) still face numerous challenges in advancing their cause, with one of the major hurdles being the imperative to capture decision-makers' attention at various levels.

Addressing the challenges faced by Youth and Young Professionals (YYPs), decision-makers are urged to heed their voices. A-PAD, as an organizational partner, is committed to supporting this cause and will host a session on "Crafting and Selling Your Idea with Public and Private Actors."

The opening session featured prominent speakers, started with **Dr. Wahyu Widodo Pandoe, Chair of Indonesia National Committee for IOC-UNESCO Programme BRIN**, who reported that the event attracted 111 participants from 14 countries. The five-day program encompassed Keynote and Panel Presentations, U-INSPIRE National Chapters and YYPs

Presentation Sharing, Futures Literacy Lab on Disaster and Climate Resilience, World Café Discussions, an Exhibition, and a Field Trip.

Dr. Rahma Hanifa, Secretary-General of U-INSPIRE Alliance, highlighted the dynamic and innovative role of the Asia Pacific region. Bridging gaps, addressing inequalities, and empowering youth in disaster and climate resilience are essential for achieving sustainable targets.

Dr. Itje Chodijah, Executive Chair of the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, underscored the global challenges posed by climate change and disasters, stressing the importance of a collaborative, cross-spectrum response.

Moreover, Dr. Itje shared the joyous news of Indonesia's selection as a member of the council of International for development and the declaration of Bahasa Indonesia as the official language of the UNESCO General Conference, and last but not least is the inauguration of the 'Jalan Nusantara' for showcasing Indonesia's cultural at the UNESCO Headquarter in Paris, France.

Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief of the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction Asia Pacific Regional Office, outlined major challenges and emphasized the importance of unlocking the potential within diverse communities. He urged collaboration, especially with women, persons with disabilities, and indigenous people, to bring about positive change.



Mrs. Sinta Kaniawati from A-PAD (left) with Mrs. Itje Chodijah, Mrs. Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, and Mr. Ardito Kodijat from UNESCO. Source: A-PAD Indonesia

The Director of UNESCO Office Jakarta, Mrs. Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, recognized the significance of Asia and the Pacific, home to over 60% of the world's youth population, living in climate-vulnerable regions. She highlighted the vast potential of this youth demographic as powerful change agents capable of transforming the world.

The opening session concluded with a spirited statement from **UN Resident Coordinator for Indonesia, Mrs. Valerie Juliant**, emphasizing the critical role of youth in building resilience “..... *We need your ideas, voice, and concerns. Come forward, be active, and pro-active. You are the first line of global– We need to have you to push, push, to the solution.*” Mrs. **Rr Nur Tri Aries Suestiningtyas**, **Executive Secretary of the National Research and Innovation Agency**, closed the session with a call for productive collaboration, inclusive engagement, and collective progress, echoing the theme of working together and leaving no one behind.



Delegates, Committees, and Panelist from The 3rd International Workshop and Training for Youth and Young Professionals, Plenary Remarks, Jakarta 4th Dec 2023. Source:A-PAD Indonesia



Opening Ceremony The 3rd International Workshop and Training for Youth and Young Professionals. Source:A-PAD Indonesia