



Northeast Asian Youth Climate Declaration

As representatives of youth in Northeast Asia, we convene in recognition of the climate crisis and its interlinkages with socio-environmental issues. Despite global commitments, including the Paris Agreement, we acknowledge the sobering reality: we have already overshoot the goal to limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Government strategies, including those in Northeast Asia, should demonstrate greater ambition and be more effectively implemented in order to meet the growing needs for mitigation and adaptation in the face of escalating climate challenges.

In Northeast Asia, we face the following urgent issues, which have been identified through our youth consultations :

Fossil Fuel Dependency: Our region's systematic reliance on fossil fuels perpetuates carbon emissions and hinders progress towards sustainability.

Air Pollution: Air pollution blanketing our cities threatens public health and the climate. Northeast Asian cities are among the most polluted in the world and the transboundary nature of the challenge requires strong cooperation.

Desertification and Land Degradation: Rapid desertification in Mongolia and China as well as land degradation in Japan threatens ecosystems and livelihoods, exacerbating the climate crisis.

Water and Food Security: Northeast Asian countries face growing climate threats—droughts, floods, desertification, and shifting crop zones—putting regional water and food security at risk, highlighting the need for joint adaptation and sustainable resource management.

Biodiversity Loss: Urbanization, habitat fragmentation, and environmental pollution are accelerating biodiversity loss across Northeast Asia, weakening climate resilience and ecosystems' capacity to adapt to climate change. Joint conservation efforts and integration of biodiversity into climate policies are needed.

Considering the mounting evidence and the urgency of the issues, governments and stakeholders must take decisive action to address these challenges. In particular, we propose focusing on the following:

- **Raise awareness through proactive advocacy:** Engaging with present and future leaders to foster climate-conscious decision-making and policy implementation.
- **Promote climate education:** Empowering children and youth with the knowledge and skills to lead climate initiatives and drive sustainable change. Bridging the generation gap through educational initiatives that promote understanding and cooperation in tackling climate change.
- **Strengthen stakeholder engagement:** Facilitating dialogue among diverse stakeholders, including youth, to foster intergenerational collaboration and generate impactful, holistic solutions through formal national, regional, and global decision-making.
- **Support the Northeast Asian Youth Climate Council:** Support the activities of the Council to strengthen cross-border collaboration, amplify youth voices in climate policy, and contribute to coordinated efforts that address shared climate challenges.

We, the youth of Northeast Asia, stand united in our determination to address the climate crisis and its interconnections with other socio-environmental issues. Our collective voices are driven by our unwavering commitment and growing momentum around meaningful youth engagement. The establishment of the Northeast Asian Youth Climate Council represents collaboration and innovation, fostering a new era of intergenerational dialogue and action.

We call on governments, institutions, civil society, the private sector, and citizens to join us in this critical endeavor. Together, let us build a sustainable future for all, guided by science, solidarity, and a shared vision. Our planet and future generations depend on it.

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