



**“Learning Cities: Drivers for Youth Participation
in Climate Change Governance”**

Concept Paper

**Study Visit to ASEAN Megapolis
Bangkok, Thailand and Manila, the Philippines
6 - 16 November 2022**

Background

Over 4 billion people - half of the world's population – live in cities today. This figure will continue to grow over the next decades: based on UN estimates, Southeast Asia currently has a population of over 680 million people, Europe has a population of nearly 750 million people. Southeast Asia has one of the fastest growing urbanisation rates in the world. According to the 2018 UNEP Report [Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Transitions in the ASEAN Region: A Resource Perspective](#), *“between 2015 and 2050, ASEAN cities are projected to add 205 million new urban residents to the 300 million current urbanites in the region [...]. The region's urbanized population proportion will increase from 47 per cent in 2014 to 65 per cent in 2050, with five of the ten ASEAN nations transitioning from minority urban to majority urban. This represents a significant demographic shift that will change the way people live and the way human settlements are designed and function.”* With a population of over 33 million people, the capital of Indonesia, Jakarta, is the largest metropolis in ASEAN, followed by Manila in the Philippines and Bangkok in Thailand.

Cities serve as networking nodes for governments, civil society organisations and business. They are centres for culture & education and hotspots for innovation & economic growth. The crucial role of cities in driving sustainability and inclusion is recognised by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal 11: *“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”*. It is in this context that UNESCO set up the [Global Network of Learning Cities \(GNLC\)](#), to promote know-how, best practice and policy dialogue among cities and to establish a culture of lifelong learning and citizen participation towards sustainable development.¹

To enhance commitment, participation and social responsibility among communities and to build environmentally sustainable cities are key objectives listed in the [ASEAN Social Cultural Community \(ASCC\) Blueprint 2020-2025](#), which outlines the region's *“commitment to lift the quality of life of its peoples through cooperative activities that are people-oriented, people-centred, environmentally friendly, and geared towards the promotion of sustainable development”*. The Blueprint calls for measures that *“[...] enhance participatory and integrated approaches in urban planning and management for sustainable urbanisation towards a clean and green ASEAN”*.

While urbanisation has long been associated with human development and economic progress, the rural-to-urban migration has also led to increased social inequality and adversely affected the environment. Cities are major contributors to climate change and environmental degradation, directly and indirectly through telecoupled effects. UN Habitat reported that *“[...] cities consume 78 per cent of the world's energy and produce more than 60 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, they account for less than 2 per cent of the Earth's surface.”* At the same time, cities form an integral part of the solution in fighting climate change. Through effective stakeholder engagement and participation, relevant policies and effective resource allocations, cities are at the core of global climate change mitigation. They spearhead debate and instigate action, not only on a local, but also on a national and global level.

The project “Learning Cities: Drivers for Youth Participation in Climate Change Governance” focuses on the role of two ASEAN cities in tackling the climate crisis, in particular through the engagement and collaboration with young people: Bangkok, Thailand; and Manila, the Philippines. The Study Visit is scheduled to be held 6-16 November 2022 with stopovers in the two capitals. Participants will learn about existing structures and processes of policy making & implementation in the field of Climate Change & Environment (CC & E), analyse multilevel governance approaches from the municipal to the

¹ Demographia. World Urban Areas. 18th Annual Edition. July 2022, Retrieved on 14 July 2022

global level, and discuss how youth participation can be enhanced in these fields for greater impact. The programme includes workshops & trainings, on site visits and engagement with local communities, meetings with experts from urban institutes & higher education institutions, as well as representatives from the municipal government & national ministries. Together with researchers from the [ASEM LLL Hub Research Network 6 on 'Learning Cities, Learning Regions'](#) and members of UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities, participants will work towards an ASEAN Youth Report on "Learning Cities: Drivers for Youth Participation in Climate Change Governance" to be presented to relevant stakeholders and working groups at the ASEAN level.

The project is organised by the [Hanns Seidel Foundation \(HSF\)](#) in partnership with the [ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub](#), the [ASEAN Youth Organisation \(AYO\)](#), the [Global Youth Biodiversity Network \(GYBN\)](#) and the [ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity \(ACB\)](#), and supported by the [Asia-Europe Foundation \(ASEF\)](#).

Objectives & Outcomes

With case studies from Bangkok and Manila as well as selected countries in Asia & Europe to broaden the perspective, the project aims to address three leading questions that will help develop recommendations and strategies for greater youth participation in climate change & environmental policy making and implementation.

1) How can we define meaningful youth participation in Climate Change & Environmental Governance?

Sub-questions:

- *What kind of knowledge & skills do young people need to possess to contribute to CC & E governance in a meaningful way? What kind of Lifelong Learning opportunities and platforms can young people rely on in different regions, countries, and communities?*
- *What are the existing youth initiatives in the area of CC & E in ASEAN and Europe that engage young people in policy making and implementation on a municipal, regional, and global level?*
- *What do decision & policy makers expect from young people?*
- *How do democratic processes in a country contribute to the level of youth participation?*

2) What role do Learning Cities play to tackle the climate crisis, in particular through the engagement and collaboration with young people?

Sub-questions:

- *What are key characteristics of a Learning City, and the fundamental conditions required to build a learning city?*
- *How can Learning Cities provide a fertile ground for multistakeholder participation, in this case youth, and allow for multilevel governance approaches?*
- *What role do higher education institutions play in the development of Learning Cities and youth participation?*

3) In which areas can youth engagement be strengthened to achieve a greater participation in policy making and implementation towards multilevel Climate Change & Environmental Governance – on a local, regional, and national/international level?

Sub-questions:

- *What are structural barriers and/or opportunities for successful youth participation in CC & E governance? What kind of support mechanisms do young people need to better engage in this field (e.g., skill sets, knowledge & learning opportunities; access to policy making levels and recognition; financial or technical resources)?*
- *How can we measure achievements and success of youth participation in CC & E policy making and implementation?*
- *What are good practices of youth participation in CC & E governance in ASEAN and Europe that could be replicated in- or adjusted to other local, cultural, and political contexts?*

The expected project outputs and outcomes are:



Awareness & Knowledge Creation

... benefitting participants and relevant stakeholders

- Online/onsite lectures and study materials on LLL, Learning Cities and Youth Participation in CC & E governance for knowledge sharing and increase; available for download after the project
- Perception survey and brief study on youth participation in CC & E governance and implementation
- Mapping of existing structures, processes & level of youth participation in 10 ASEAN countries to better understand and analyse the status quo in the various countries, developed by participants during the project; production of an ASEAN Youth Report on Learning Cities and Youth Participation in CC governance
- Recommendations of good practices and strategies for greater youth participation in CC & E governance, co-developed by participants, academics & trainers



Capacity Building

... benefitting participants

- Workshops and Trainings by youth experts on good practices and strategies for youth participation in CC & E policy making and implementation on a municipal, regional, and global level
- Peer-to-peer collaboration sessions on the topic for joint reflection and co-creation of knowledge products



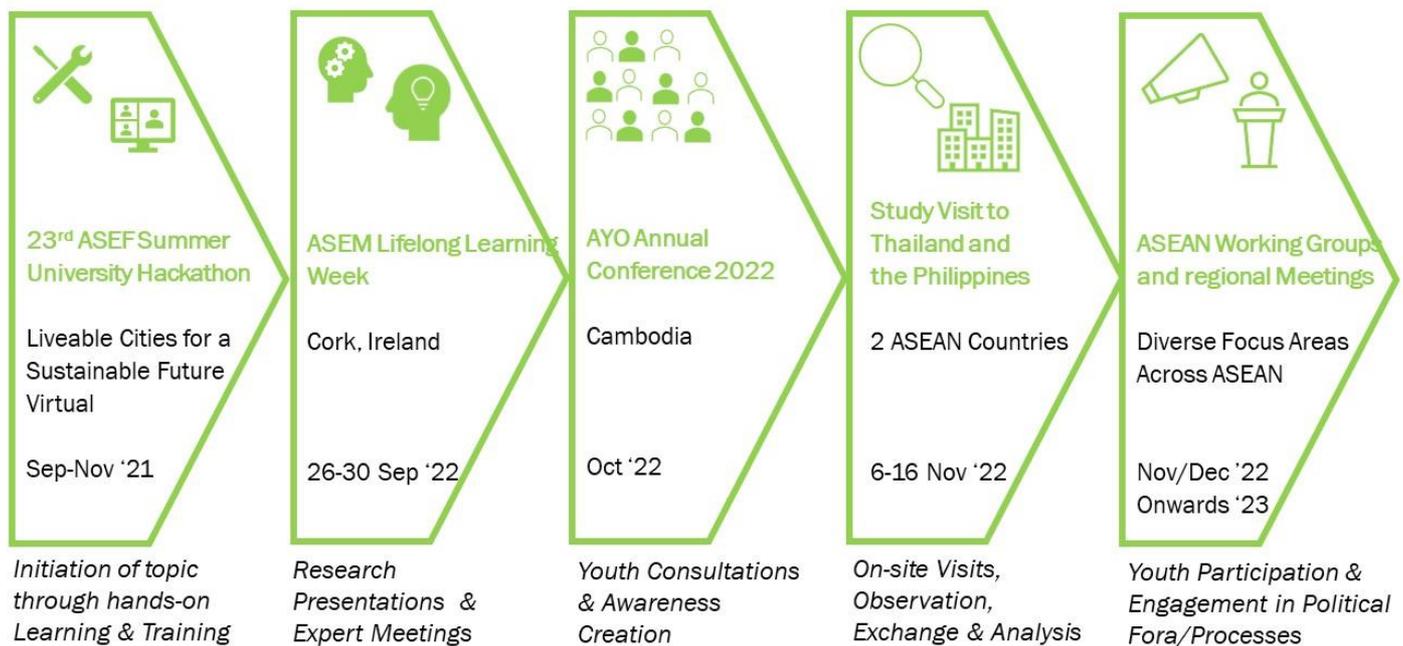
Network Creation

... benefitting participants and key stakeholders in the field

- Opportunities of engagement between participants, academics and experts in the field of lifelong learning, continued adult education and sustainable urbanisation, and policy makers in ASEAN and the EU
- Opportunities of engagement with local community representatives and subject experts
- Creation of network of youth leaders active in the field

Methodology & Programme

The project “Learning Cities: Drivers for Youth Participation in Climate Change Governance” is connected to a series of education & youth activities on lifelong learning and sustainable development as well as government meetings, conducted over a period of two years by the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub (ASEM LLL Hub), the ASEAN Youth Organisation (AYO), the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and national governments & regional organisations. The methodology aims to drive synergies between the activities and to ensure outputs from activities reinforce each other.



The project is a 10-day long Study Visit that will include lectures, trainings & workshops, and opportunities of engagement with academics and experts in the field of lifelong learning, continued adult education and sustainable urbanisation, policy makers from ASEAN and the EU as well as key local community groups in Bangkok, Thailand and Manila, the Philippines. Prior to the onsite Study Visit, a short virtual learning phase is envisaged to prepare the participants in advance on the key questions & expected project outcomes and build a joint knowledge foundation. During the Study Visit, the youth participants will have mapping/co-creation sessions to reflect on the lessons learnt and to discuss and exchange experiences from their own countries. These participant-driven sessions allow the youth representatives more time to share in detail their perceptions, expertise and develop recommendations on how to enhance youth participation in CC & E governance. Key points of the mapping sessions & discussions will be compiled and included as in the ASEAN Youth Report on “Learning Cities: Drivers for Youth Participation in Climate Change Governance”, the final output publication for the project. The Report will serve as a resource for youth organisations and will be presented to decision and policy makers for consideration at diverse ASEAN Working Groups and regional meetings throughout 2023.

Programme Elements

Online Learning Phase

BLOCK PROGRAMME ONLINE TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 18, 20, 25 AND 27 OCT 2022		
	HANOI & BANGKOK: 7:30-9:00PM	MANILA 8:30-10:00PM
TUESDAY 18 OCT 2022	 Welcome, Warm-up & Introductions	 Briefing on Study Visit
THURSDAY 20 OCT 2022	 Welcome & Warm-up	 Lecture & Discussion with Participants – Lifelong Learning
TUESDAY 25 OCT 2022	 Welcome & Warm-up	 Lecture & Discussion with Participants – Learning Cities
THURSDAY 27 OCT 2022	 Welcome & Warm-up	 Lecture & Discussion with Participants – Climate Change & Environmental Governance

Onsite Study Visit – Bangkok, Thailand (6-11 November 2022)

BLOCK PROGRAMME ONSITE BANGKOK SUNDAY, 6 NOV– FRIDAY, 11 NOV 2022			
	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
SUNDAY 6 NOV 2022	 Arrival of Participants		 Informal Welcome Dinner
MONDAY 7 NOV 2022	 Welcome & Group Introduction	 Goal Setting & Expectations	 Free Evening
TUESDAY 8 NOV 2022	 Lecture-on-the-Move & Local Community in Bangkok	 Visit to SEI	 Debrief
WEDNESDAY 9 NOV 2022	 Lecture-on-the-Move & Field Trip with Debrief in Bangkok		 Free Evening
THURSDAY 10 NOV 2022	 Visit to Ministry	 Debrief	 Dinner with Local Partners
FRIDAY 11 NOV 2022	 Case Study & Workshop #2	 ASEAN Youth Report – Team Tasks	 Farewell Dinner Bangkok

Onsite Study Visit – Manila, the Philippines (12 - 16 November 2022)

BLOCK PROGRAMME ONSITE MANILA SATURDAY, 12 NOV – WEDNESDAY, 16 NOV			
	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
SATURDAY 12 NOV 2022	 Arrival of Participants	 Self-reflection	 Free Evening
SUNDAY 13 NOV 2022	 Case Study & Workshop #3	 ASEAN Youth Report – Team Tasks	 Dinner & ASEAN Night
MONDAY 14 NOV 2022	 Lecture-on-the-Move & Field Trip with Debrief		 Free Evening
TUESDAY 15 NOV 2022	 Visit to Ministry	 Debrief	 Lecture-on-the-Move & Local Community in Manila
			 Farewell Dinner Manila
WEDNESDAY 16 NOV 2022	 Participants' Presentations	 Reflections & Conclusions	 Next Steps
			 Departure of Participants

Participants

The Study Visit welcomes 20 youth leaders from ASEAN (age range 18-30 years), who are active in the field of Climate Change & Environment and have a proven record of engagement. Expertise in the areas of policy making and implementation is preferred. Participants will be selected through an Open Call.

Organisers and Supporters

The project is organised by the [Hanns Seidel Foundation \(HSF\)](#) in partnership with the [ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub](#), the [ASEAN Youth Organisation \(AYO\)](#), the [Global Youth Biodiversity Network \(GYBN\)](#) and the [ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity \(ACB\)](#), and supported by the [Asia-Europe Foundation \(AEF\)](#).

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