

Seoul Youth Declaration

The 22nd International Youth Forum

Technological Advancement and Future Society

August, 17-24, 2011 Seoul, Korea

Preamble

100 youth participants from 32 countries gathered in Seoul, Korea from August 17th to 24th, 2011 to seek ways to encourage youth involvement in implementing the proper utilization of Technology for Future Society. The participants discussed the following specific entities:

- Government
- Private Sectors
- International Organizations. NGOs, Academia and Civil society

We, the participants, of the 22nd International Youth Forum determined

- To emphasize the role of governments for creating equality of Human Rights, and
- To enable an active role of youth in securing active participation of corporations and developing technological advancement of communities, and
- To promote cooperation between international and local entities for Humanity and World Peace,

And for these ends recommend the following plans of action:

GOVERNMENT

A. Access of information and transfer of knowledge

We recognize that the access of information and transfer of knowledge for people in developing countries is essential to create development throughout the world in the 21st century and therefore:

1. We believe that all the governments should demolish barriers to access of information and furthermore support the build-up of an IT infrastructure. Efficient and effective access to technology must be implemented across all social classes, gender and generations.
2. We consider it to be upon the youth to provide and share as much information as possible through digital means while respecting property rights.
3. Also, all governments must ensure that the youth and ICT sector are included in the decision making processes.
4. All the governments should support the youth involved in Non-Governmental Organizations in programs aimed towards establishing the right to access information digitally. This should comprise of continuous programs organized by experts working towards establishing education systems which enable people of all generations in the usage of basic digital technology, the provision of computers and basic access to the internet.
5. We urge all governments to promote the transfer of knowledge in the areas of healthcare, agriculture and public administration through printed materials, digital media and on-site training.
6. We encourage all the governments to eradicate any kinds of suppression regarding the access to education, communication and information.

B. Education

We proposed that all governments should allocate sufficient financial resources for IT infrastructure in schools to provide more access to students and teachers.

1. We propose that ICT lessons should be included into the school curriculum and that students be given grants to conduct research and development in the field of ICT education.
2. Teaching material should be provided to both schools and families in order to teach about safe internet usage.
3. We propose that trainings and seminars on ICT knowledge be organized by the respective ministries for working adults so that in return, they can share their knowledge with their co-workers.
4. We propose to reach out to out-of-school youths through mobile ICT educational system to enhance technical skills.

C. Social Interaction

We acknowledge that the advancement of technology has changed social interaction, so we encourage all the governments to take the lead in increasing social participation through extra-curricular activities as it should promote face-to-face communication and a healthy lifestyle.

1. We ask all governments to introduce policies that encourage youth participation in extra-curricular activities. In the case of education, we propose the introduction of extra-curricular activities modules for all levels in schools.
2. To complement education policies, all the governments can also build supporting extra-curricular activity infrastructure for youths which is both attractive and highly accessible for youths.

3. We encourage all governments to work with different youth organizations to organize and facilitate funds for cultural sports and other civil society activities.

D. ICT Security and Privacy Rights

We, the youth, emphasize the significance of the government's role in upholding human rights on privacy and security. All governments must ensure that there are policies on cyber-piracy and security. It is essential that every citizen have privacy rights.

1. We urge for international treaties on internet criminality.
2. All the governments should invest in the police cyber-department.
3. Train ICT-professionals to improve the security of governmental and other important websites.
4. Finally, we urge that security should not have any effect on internet access and internet-monitoring should always be justified by court.

E. Weapons

1. We request all nations to respect the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, the Geneva Convention, and other agreements aimed at limiting casualties caused by arms.
2. We call on all governments to include the youth in international decision making processes by, amongst others: a) actively integrating them into the national delegations to international negotiations in the United Nations and other International Organizations; b) support the consultative status applications of youth NGOs to International Organizations dealing with disarmament and arms trade.

3. We strongly urge countries to sign, ratify, and implement existing treaties on arms such as, but not limited to: Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) etc.
4. We further request nation-states to include limitations on arms trade with means such as, but not limited to: marking of weapons contracts regarding the further selling of weapons, acceptance into the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which should be a binding treaty.
5. We reaffirm the need to limit the access to weapons to a minimum within a country.

PRIVATE SECTOR

A. Fair Trade

1. Resources

We, the youth, strongly advise companies to engage in fair trade with economically-challenged communities.

We urge that companies provide resources infrastructure development and training that is fair value in exchange of resources.

We request corporations to engage more actively with organizations which are moderators of inclusive business for the development of the skill and capabilities of local communities for sustainability.

2. Health

We, the youth, are aware of the lack of technology in parts of the health field, thus we urge medical corporations to transfer technology to local communities and provide pharmaceutical products used for life-saving purposes and addressing pressing health issues while the UN, governments, and private donors cover all expenses that the companies will incur in the production and

exporting of the products. Furthermore, they should educate local communities to use and maintain this technology properly.

B. Education

1. On the issue of promoting health care:

We believe that companies play a crucial role in introducing technology for the well being of people to reduce the risk of sickness.

We acknowledge that education is an effective way of providing information in improving basic knowledge of diseases.

We aim for economically-challenged communities to acquire that skill sets needed to utilize their medical capabilities.

2. On the issue of environmental protection:

We recognize that corporations adversely affect our environment in their businesses.

We request corporations with emission waste to implement the 'Emission Trade System (ETS)' for the purpose of not only the sake of financial value but also for the advancement of eco-technology and the reduction of pollution.

We also believe that education should be provided to locals for the purpose of preserving indigenous resources from environmental exploitation.

3. On the issue of lack of education:

We strongly advise corporations to collaborate with local authorities in rural areas to create educational centers that offer Internet Access points for E-learning, workshops, seminars, etc.

We recommend corporations to donate out-of-date technology, such as computers, supercomputers and software to educational institutions or any other place with educational purposes.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMIA and CIVIL SOCIETY

A. International Organizations and NGOs

1. Education

We would suggest International Organizations to further promote academic activities between developed and developing countries. The knowledge gained then should be used for the betterment of their home countries through implementation by recognizing the local resources and needs.

We, the youth, strongly believe that International Organizations should support academic exchange.

2. Transferable Technology

In order to decrease the socio-economical gap between countries, technological innovation and advancements need to be reinforced through transferrable technology.

The adaption of new technologies should involve the use of the country's own resources and creativity with respect to ethical and cultural differences.

3. Health

We recognize the need to give more supports including medical technology devices, funding and information to local NGOs. In this way, NGOs can provide opportunities, frameworks and informative guidance to share experience, to ambitious youth to launch sustainable projects to solve Health Problem, in a collaboration and cooperation with other sectors as well, such

as medical institutes. Promotion and advertisements through Mass Media would be also needed here.

4. Environmental Conservation

We, the youth, with the support of the NGOs, demand all governments and private sectors to reduce the use of resources and invent more eco-friendly products while NGOs promote efficient consumption through means of daily life-related projects under small initiatives. Here, the utilization of ICT to promote projects and exchange information would be needed.

B. Academia

1. Computer Mediated Education

We, the youth, believe in fact that the use of Computer Mediated Education (CME) by academic institutions can hasten the access to information. Furthermore, we believe that the CME can improve the learning process towards better academic methods.

We recognize that the special academic classes should be organized in every academic institution to give useful information about platform sources.

We all are aware of the fact that CME/Cyber Studying may also lead to the misuse of resources. We reaffirm that to control the misuse of resources, checks and balances should always be implemented.

2. Corporatized Universities

At times when universities are becoming more commercial corporations rather than academic institutions by increase use of technologies to deliver higher education to public, we, the youth, demand the support of government bodies in coordination with NGOs in improving student-teacher ratios to improve the quality of education.

3. Non-Formal Scholar Interaction

We, the youth, recognize that there is the necessity of multidisciplinary interaction throughout the world.

We acknowledge that it is imperative for Academia to foster the establishment of a network for outstanding scholars from different fields of studies. This will further the mindset of young scholars, allowing them to have a broadened spectrum of the world.

C. Community Centers

We suggest the creation of sustainable Community Centers in collaboration with governments, International Organizations, Academia and other entities in Civil Society as the solutions to several problems related to social exclusion as stated below:

1. Unequal Access to ICT

We suggest Community Centers to have Seminars and Workshops to promote equal access to ICT. Youth should play as the most important entity to raise awareness and promote this mission.

2. Addiction to Technology

We recognize the importance of Community Centers to give opportunities for face-to-face social interaction, for hard and soft skills trainings to the people addicted to ICT, access to counselors and mental support should be provided as well.

3. Communication and Language

We demand Community Center to create bridging and networking programs, especially between governments and new immigrants to solve the problems caused by misunderstandings because of the lack of interpreters and local translators. In addition, the expansion and promotion the current existing services, such as professionals online translators and online language teaching programs should be implemented.

CONCLUSION

As youth leaders, we hereby declare our commitment towards implementing technology and achieving a balanced development of technology. It is upon the youth, in cooperation with all sectors, to significantly contribute to the solution of the issues at hand through the recommended resolutions stated above. Finally there is precious need for worldwide exchanges of opinion for the pursuit of humane application of technology and creative development for world peace.