

**ASEAN Youth Forum on Innovation and Creativity
“Youth and Innovation as Agents of Change”**

18-20 April 2011

Labuan F.T., Malaysia

AYFIC Labuan Declaration

1. PREAMBLE

We, the participants of ASEAN Youth Forum on Innovation and Creativity (AYFIC) with the selected theme “Youth and Innovation as AGENTS of CHANGE” from ASEAN + 3 countries, convened in Labuan F.T., Malaysia from 18-20 April 2011 to discuss on issues of Leadership and Innovation; Social Innovation and Green Innovation and our role as agents of change.

After thorough deliberations through plenary sessions, workshops and other events, we the participants have put together this document with the following recommendations that we strongly feel ought to be implemented to empower youth effectively in the areas of leadership, social and green innovation.

2. AYFIC OBJECTIVES

- To provide a platform for youth leaders in ASEAN + 3 countries to share their insights on innovation and creativity;
- To motivate youth to inculcate the culture of innovation; and
- To seed across borders on innovative and creative collaborations.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

3.1 GOVERNMENT

- 3.1.1 Provide a sustainable platform for youth to equally express themselves, participate in the decision making, create opportunities to compete and showcase their creativity and innovation skills;
- 3.1.2 Establish a policy which commits all stakeholders to promote and sustain a creative culture among youth in urban and rural areas;
- 3.1.3 Facilitate human resource development to enhance critical thinking skills among youth to promote creativity and innovation;
- 3.1.4 Establish a centre of excellence that provides and promotes education and training programmes (i.e. National Innovation Academy) to develop and support leaders in social and green innovation;
- 3.1.5 Enhance the current primary and secondary educational curriculum to bring awareness to social and green issues which ultimately can lead to a creative and innovative community;
- 3.1.6 Facilitate funding resources which can empower youth towards result-driven creative and innovative endeavours;
- 3.1.7 Provide recognisable incentives to promote the development of environmental friendly products through green technologies;
- 3.1.8 Allocate funds and increase support for green research and development;
- 3.1.9 Implement a long-term and sustainable urban and rural development plan;
- 3.1.10 Endorse and support innovative products created by youth;
- 3.1.11 Establish youth representative bodies at the federal level to promote leadership and social development;

3.2 PRIVATE SECTOR

- 3.2.1 Provide training opportunities to further develop leadership, social and green innovation for the benefit of the community;

- 3.2.2 Promote social enterprise as a strategy for supporting youth-led initiatives for social change;
- 3.2.3 Contribute through social outreach programmes in order to create a mutual beneficial relationship with youth to ensure growth through creativity and innovation;
- 3.2.4 Participate and support youth programmes through sponsorship for the development of leadership, social and green innovation;
- 3.2.5 Act as role models in spearheading positive social and environmental change;
- 3.2.6 Encourage youth involvement in programmes for personal and professional development;
- 3.2.7 Collaborate with academic institutions for internship, mentorship and apprenticeship programs;
- 3.2.8 Redefine the concept of profit not only in monetary values but also towards long-term social benefits;

3.3 MEDIA

- 3.3.1 Develop and expand the forms of media and create a stronger network among communities at large;
- 3.3.2. Employ effective methods of communication to convey unbiased informative programmes which can challenge the youth to think critically and be innovative;
- 3.3.3 Portray and highlight the positive impact of young people as agents of change;
- 3.3.4 Create and present educational programmes for youth development in the areas of leadership, social and green innovation;
- 3.3.5 Provide free publicity for youth related programmes and ensure a continuous channel of communication between youth and other stakeholders;

3.4 NGOs

- 3.4.1 Conduct on-going programmes to create awareness among youth on leadership, social and environmental issues;
- 3.4.2 Create a platform for youth to acquire and share knowledge and skills through non-formal and informal learning;
- 3.4.3 Promote the culture and values gained through social innovation for youth development;
- 3.4.4 Facilitate community development through social and green enterprises;
- 3.4.5 Inspire and motivate youth to pursue leadership development through their journey in NGOs and other organisations;
- 3.4.6 Provide opportunities for the young people to be involved in the decision making process starting from grass-root all the way to the international level;

3.5 EDUCATION

- 3.5.1 Involve all the stakeholders in the appreciation of youth role as agents of change in leadership, social and green innovation;
- 3.5.2 Utilize innovative educational approaches to facilitate the development of creativity and innovation among the young people;
- 3.5.3 Recognise the importance of liberal arts (e.g. Arts, Humanities, and Leisure) and their role in developing creative minds within the young people;

3.6 COMMUNITY

- 3.6.1 Address the issue of the generation gap to maximize the resources within the communities in order to achieve leadership, social and green innovation;
- 3.6.2 Provide pathways for youth to be creative and innovative as agents of change;

3.6.3 Inspire and challenge the members to further develop the community to ensure continuous improvement towards a creative and innovative society;

4. CONCLUSION

We the participants of AYFIC have realized and recognized the major impacts of leadership, social and green innovation in the lives of young people, hence the need to create youth forums for establishing and advocating of legislation, policies and programmes at all levels of society thereby creating positive and healthy lifestyles for young people worldwide .