

Da Nang Youth Declaration: Charting the Future We Want

Background

Sixty young leaders from nine countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam) in the East Asian Seas (EAS) region participated in, and contributed to the Da Nang Youth Declaration: Charting the Future We Want. Based on our experiences in the 4th EAS Youth Forum and participation in the EAS Congress international conference, we provide this Declaration and roadmap for action.

Vision

We, the young champions for the ocean, envision a sustainable economy in the EAS region that appreciates the value of our oceans and coasts by implementing environmental-friendly practices that are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommendations

We firmly believe that integrated and collaborative efforts from the countries of East Asia are effective measures to sustainable coastal and marine development.

We, the next generation, recommend to the Leaders and Governments in East Asian Seas region to:

1. Respect and protect the local societies culture;
2. Govern the natural resources legally, integrally and considerate of the people's concerns;
3. Develop blue economy, promote green entrepreneurship as well as regional maritime trade and transportation without being detrimental to the environment and the society; and
4. Conserve the ocean and land ecosystems through community awareness approach.

We, the Young Champions for sustainable coastal and ocean management, envision everyone in the region to work together through:

Outstanding
Collaboration,
Eco-friendly

**Actions, and
Negotiations**

The countries in the EAS region must be outstanding in sustainable ocean development efforts through collaboration and eco-friendly development, implementation of on-the-ground impact actions and win-win negotiations to end poverty, protect the environment, and work towards achievement of global targets and imparting local benefits.

We, the Youth of the East Asian Seas region, have agreed and committed to work in partnership and peace for empowering our community to be able to manage and use the marine and coastal resources sustainably.

We, the Young Leaders of East Asian Seas region, have agreed and committed to apply science and technology for effective, efficient and environmentally friendly activities in our communities.

We, the young champions for the ocean, refuse to sit back and do nothing for the protection of coastal and marine resources. We will fight against exploitation of these resources, and commit to protect our seas not only for our benefits but also for the future generation to enjoy our home planet.

We, the young champions for the ocean, are taking steps in **charting the future we want**.

