



## **2018 EAST ASIAN YOUTH DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE SEAS AND CLIMATE ACTION**

**WE**, the youth of the East Asian Seas region, coming from a range of ethnicities, cultures, and countries, hereby acknowledge and advocate for the role of our generation to sustain and protect our remaining natural resources for the succeeding generations to come;

*Alarmed by* the rapid deterioration of the oceans and its resulting consequences on human and environmental health, social justice and marine biodiversity;

*Deeply concerned* about the impacts of climate change, marine litter, and other anthropogenic threats to marine biodiversity on coastal and marine ecosystems, which are already stressed by human activities, and the consequences to the lives and livelihoods of the present and future generations;

*Reaffirming* the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14 and 17, and the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as the main frameworks under which our initiatives for the region will be delivered;

*Also recognising* the imperative to align our initiatives to the strategies and action plans of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

*Emphasizing* the vital role of and wealth of knowledge held by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) for the conservation and sustainable use of our coastal and marine resources;

*Calling upon* all country partners and stakeholders to fully integrate indigenous peoples knowledge systems and practices in the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) approach;

*Recognising* the potential of innovative solutions to energy needs on reducing carbon emissions, such as harnessing the ocean's energy, including wave, tidal and offshore wind energy, and other renewable energy solutions;

*Recalling* the need for cooperation between the public and private sectors in promoting and implementing strong and sound environmental policies to combat environmental degradation while maintaining sustainable economic development;

*Urging* the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) country partners to actively support the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement by committing to their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for climate mitigation and adaptation through an ecosystems-based approach;

*Recalling* commitments made in resolutions from past EAS Youth Forums,

1. *Commit* to creating awareness on the negative impacts of plastic waste and reduce single-use plastic in the East Asian Region, starting with ourselves and our circles of influence, such as family, friends, and peers;
2. *Urging* partner countries to include the value of conserving and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in formal and informal education and *request* government commitment in promoting marine conservation education to the youth;
3. *Further recommend* all partner countries to ensure the full integration of youth in all relevant processes, emphasizing the importance of transparent and inclusive consultation processes at all levels;
4. *Encourage* sharing of best practices in coastal and marine conservation and restoration, usage and sharing of green technology, and combining innovations and ecotourism projects that will provide livelihoods for the local communities;
5. *Call upon* country partners to use a scientific and evidence-based approach in policy research and decision-making;
6. *Ensure* thorough implementation and execution of maritime rules at local, regional and international levels to curtail illegal and overfishing, and further promote youth engagement in implementing and enforcing effective Local Fisheries Policies;

7. *Further remind* PEMSEA partner countries of the critical challenge of warming oceans as a result of climate change, and call for immediate action among countries in the region;
8. *Call upon* the leaders of country partners to support and execute stronger policies that promote sustainability and prevent further damage of our environment, especially our shared seas.

*Signed and concurred by the 70 youth delegates of the Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam on the 28th day of November 2018 at Iloilo City, Philippines.*

## **PNYL COUNCIL**

John Carl Alonsagay  
*PNYL Captain*

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