



Local Conference of Youth
LCOY
BANGLADESH 2023

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 REPORT



Hosted By



Co-Conveners



Strategic Partner



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In recognition of their outstanding support, LCOY Bangladesh extends its profound appreciation to the Host, Strategic Partner, Co-convenors, and Youth Partners for their integral role in making the conference a triumphant event. We also want to express our gratitude to the moderators, session speakers, panelists, youth delegates, and all the participants who generously shared their expertise and insights. Your dedication and active engagement enriched our discussions and contributed significantly to our collective mission of addressing climate change and building a sustainable future.



The journey towards the true inclusion can only be achieved by the addition of youth in the decision making processes. You can't expect to ensure sustainability without including the voice and thoughts of the youth who are most vulnerable to climate crisis as their future are at stake. LCOY Bangladesh's effort is to amplify the voices of youth and establish their presence as a decision maker.

ABDUL MUHIMIN BIN FARUK
Contact Point, LCOY Bangladesh 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04** INTRODUCTION
- 06** EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- 07** PROGRAM OVERVIEW
- 08** YOUTH-DRIVEN CLIMATE ACTION
A LOOK INTO LCOY
- 09** LCOY BANGLADESH 2023
ACTION TEAM
- 10** BANGLADESH YOUTH
STATEMENT
- 15** LOCAL CONFERENCE OF
YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023
- 47** PRE-EVENTS
- 52** CONCLUSION
- 53** PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT

INTRODUCTION

In a historic record, 2023 was declared as Earth's hottest summer since global temperature records commenced in 1880. The months of June, July, and August brought temperatures 0.41 degrees Fahrenheit (0.23 degrees Celsius) above any previous summer, a staggering 2.1 degrees Fahrenheit (1.2 degrees Celsius) warmer than the average summer between 1951 and 1980. August alone was marked by a blistering 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.2 degrees Celsius) above the norm. This scorching period coincided with exceptional heat waves that swept across the globe, exacerbating devastating wildfires in Canada and Hawaii and unleashing oppressive heat waves in South America, Japan, Europe, and the United States.

The disturbing warmth of this summer was largely attributed to exceptionally high sea surface temperatures, partly driven by the return of the El Niño phenomenon. It is a stark reminder that climate change remains the most significant threat facing the world's children and young people. This crisis jeopardizes their health, nutrition, education, and future prospects. Children are especially vulnerable to extreme weather events, toxic chemicals, temperature fluctuations, and the spread of diseases, rendering their plight even more critical.

The United Nations has issued a dire warning, predicting that the next five years are poised to become the warmest ever recorded, as greenhouse gas emissions and the El Niño phenomenon conspire to send temperatures soaring. For the first time in history, global temperatures are now more likely than not to surpass a 1.5-degree Celsius (2.7-degree Fahrenheit) increase by 2027, a pivotal threshold in climate science.

Yet, amidst this global backdrop, Bangladesh stands out, its vulnerability underscored by Germanwatch's 2021 Global Climate Risk Index (CRI). Despite contributing a mere 0.56% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, Bangladesh ranks seventh among the countries most vulnerable to climate devastation. The data tells a harrowing tale of economic losses totaling \$3.72 billion and a staggering 185 extreme weather events in Bangladesh from 2000 to 2019, all attributed to climate change. The sobering estimation that by 2050, one in seven Bangladeshis will be displaced by the ravages of climate change is a stark reminder of the perilous road ahead. Sea-level rise alone, projected at 19.6 inches (50 cm), threatens to swallow 11% of Bangladesh's land and force up to 18 million people to migrate.

Challenges faced by young people in the fight against climate change are deeply intertwined with broader issues of human rights, democracy, and governance. The concept of climate justice has surged in importance, as it confronts both human rights violations and social and economic inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic. Existing inequalities mean that climate change affects individuals differently, often more intensely, and leaves them grappling with its long-term impacts and reduced recovery prospects.

INTRODUCTION

The climate crisis unfolds unequally, disproportionately impacting marginalized individuals and communities, who are socially, structurally, and systemically vulnerable. As climate change intensifies its challenges, children and young people, particularly those on the frontlines, bear the brunt of its unforgiving consequences.

Nevertheless, young people across the world and in Bangladesh are not idly standing by. They are spearheading their movements, amplifying their voices, articulating their needs, and reiterating their unwavering commitment to a brighter, more sustainable future. Yet, critical questions persist about the extent to which their needs and demands are acknowledged in global and national policies and negotiations, especially when it comes to policy implementation.

Amidst this backdrop of urgency and hope, the Action Team of LCOY Bangladesh 2023 has issued a clarion call for collective actions, urging us all to uphold climate justice for future generations and to kindle the spirit of unity among the youth in their formidable fight against climate change.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Bangladesh 2023, organized under the guidance of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), kicked off on October 8, 2023, at the historic Bangla Academy, marking a transformative moment when the youth of Bangladesh converged to lead the global crusade against climate change. Building on the successes of the previous year, LCOY 2023 maintained its core focus on capacity building, enhancing climate awareness, and facilitating active youth participation in climate advocacy and policy reform. The ultimate goal was to amplify the voices of the youth on the global stage, envisioning a sustainable environment that enhances the quality of life for billions of people. With over 300 delegates, including youth participants, UN representatives, government officials, international organizations, civil society actors, academics, and distinguished guests, and an impressive online reach of over 15,000 young minds from across Bangladesh, this conference made a significant impact.

With over 300 participants, including youth delegates, UN representatives, government officials, international organizations, civil society actors, academics, and esteemed guests, and an impressive online reach that extended to more than 15,000 impassioned young minds from every corner of Bangladesh, the impact of the conference was substantial. It was characterized by compelling themes, including climate adaptation, justice, education, collaboration, transition, and nature-based solutions. The collective efforts of key organizations, including ActionAid Bangladesh, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, WaterAid Bangladesh, UNDP Bangladesh, ICCCAD, and Malala Fund, alongside the support of the Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka and UAE Embassy in Dhaka, along with 13 active youth-led organizations in the realm of climate action, played a pivotal role in bringing this event to life.

The conference unfolded in two major segments, consisting of pre-events and the main conference, which included activities like capacity building, climate strikes, petition signing, climate cafes, and an extensive campaign aimed at raising climate awareness among the nation's youth. These initiatives effectively mobilized millions of young individuals across the country.

The development of the Youth Statement was the result of extensive consultations, focus group discussions, and participatory dialogues with youth and other stakeholders all across Bangladesh. Over the past three months, LCOY Bangladesh 2023 organized nine youth consultations on both offline and online platforms, gathering insights from over 1,000 young participants at the local level.

Furthermore, LCOY Bangladesh introduced the 11 Youth Declaration Demands, which encompassed crucial subjects such as Climate Justice and Human Rights, Adaptation and Resilience, Loss and Damage, Climate Action and Empowerment (ACE), Energy, Health, Food systems, Water, Nature and Biodiversity, Technology, and Innovation. These demands, shaped by collective voices, will be presented in a comprehensive Bangladesh youth statement at the Conference of Youth (COY) and the Conference of Parties (COP) in the UAE this November.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

08

DIVISIONS
REACHED



MALE
51.3%



FEMALE
48.5%



OTHERS
0.2%



PEOPLE REACHED ONLINE **137061**

PEOPLE REACHED IN PERSON **14658**

04

PRE EVENTS

01

CONFERENCE

YOUTH-DRIVEN CLIMATE ACTION A LOOK INTO LCOY



LCOY, or the Local Conference of Youth, is an integral component of the global climate action landscape, originating from the COY (Global Conference of Youth). These national conferences serve as crucial platforms where young individuals converge to shape the future and cultivate ideas for a more sustainable and eco-friendly world. The outcomes and insights generated at each LCOY are then conveyed to the COY. The COY, or Conference of Youth, complements the official UNFCCC COP (Conference of the Parties) meetings, which have taken place annually since 1995. The COP is the United Nations' official climate conference, created to collectively combat climate change and its consequences. With 197 contracting Parties, including the EU and Germany, ratifying the Convention, this has laid the foundation for global climate protection under international law, advancing us closer to a sustainable global economy.

As an officially recognized youth Constituency to the UNFCCC, YOUNGO has been organizing the COY since 2009, offering a space for young individuals to connect, gain expertise, and develop concrete proposals for the COP. The goals of the LCOY and COY initiatives encompass creating networking opportunities for youth, facilitating dialogues with decision-makers from various sectors, promoting knowledge transfer, and offering actionable opportunities for addressing climate change.

A fundamental principle underlying LCOY is inclusivity, welcoming diverse perspectives from all political spectrums. It recognizes that there is no single right approach to achieving greater climate protection, and thus, it encourages discussions and dialogues that span the political spectrum. The success of climate protection hinges on collective contributions from all members of society. LCOY, therefore, provides a platform for young people to engage with scientists, businesses, politicians, NGOs, and other experts to discuss the effects, possibilities, opportunities, and risks associated with climate change and to seek solutions that benefit all.

In continuation of this global effort, LCOY Bangladesh 2023, held on October 8 and 9, ignited a powerful movement driven by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). This transformative event rallied the youth of Bangladesh, eager to spearhead the global battle against climate change. It marked another step in this shared endeavor by focusing on capacity building, raising climate awareness, and facilitating youth participation in climate advocacy and policy revision.

LCOY BANGLADESH 2023 ACTION TEAM



ABDUL MUHIMIN BIN FARUK
Contact Point



MEHEDI HASAN BAPPY
Co-ordinator, LCOY Bangladesh
Secretariat, GAIN
Head of Partnership and Fundraising



ZAWAD ALAM
Head of
Operations



HASIBUL ISLAM RAFI
Head of
Communications



AUNG SING HLA MARMA
Head of
Content and Documentation



NAFISA TABASSUM ANIKA
Senior
Communications Associate



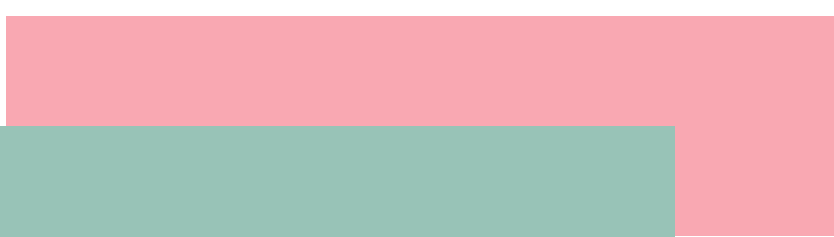
NAIMA JANNAT TAKI
Content and
Documentation Associate



ZAWATA ALAM
Event Executive
Programme Management Team



BANGLADESH YOUTH STATEMENT



BANGLADESH YOUTH STATEMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Youth Statement represents the resounding voices of Bangladeshi youth, spanning from rural landscapes to urban centers, united in their impassioned demand for climate justice. Through the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY), youth from all corners of the nation are raising their collective voice, urging global leaders to take decisive action.

In unison, we call upon world leaders to wholeheartedly commit to the Paris Agreement, providing reparations and justice for countries like Bangladesh that bear the brunt of climate vulnerability. The urgency of the climate crisis necessitates an immediate response rooted in principles of human rights, equity, and justice.

Our Youth Statement is the result of rigorous validation processes, including consultations, focused group discussions, and inclusive dialogue with youth and stakeholders. Following finalization, these demands are shared with youth and allies to garner signatures in a resolute call for Climate Justice. This signature campaign reflects the resolute voice of Bangladesh's youth and implores Parties to the UNFCCC to join us in taking urgent action to combat the climate crisis.

The LCOY 2023 Bangladesh conference, hosted by the Global Alliance For Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in partnership with Action Aid, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, ICCCAD, and embassies, is bolstered by an extensive network of youth organizations. Among these are ACT4FOOD, Brighters, Desperately Seeking - Bandarban (DSB), Eco-Network, Pathchola Foundation, Pcycle, Project WE, Stark Bangladesh, Stories of Change, Youth Conversion Crops, Youth Net For Climate Justice, and Youth Liberty, spanning the entirety of our nation.

Within the Youth Statement are critical policy demands, encompassing climate finance, energy, loss and damage, and climate justice. These demands are founded on our aspiration to integrate collective, unified calls into national and global agendas, actions, and commitments. We recognize the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on our communities and emphasize the need for systemic and radical action.

Our Youth Statement is enriched by the contributions of dedicated individuals who have fervently advocated for change. Their names stand as a testament to their commitment:

Contributors: Abdul Muhimin Bin Faruk, Mehedi Hasan Bappy, Aung Sing Hla Marma, Zawad Alam, Hasibul Islam Rafi, Naima Jannat Taki, Mysha Sadman, Fatema Huda Koli, Jafrin Jannat, Nafisa Tabassum Anika, Md Tanveer Ahamed Emon, and Zawata Alam

BANGLADESH YOUTH STATEMENT

METHODOLOGY:

This Statement was meticulously crafted through a four-stage process:



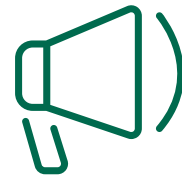
Research



Petitions Design



Validation



Dissemination

In the first stage, the LCOY Bangladesh action team strategically identified core topics by conducting an exhaustive bibliographic review. This review enabled us to pinpoint socio-environmental priorities across Bangladesh's eight divisions, emphasizing environmental governance, education, and the far-reaching consequences of climate-related issues such as biodiversity loss, water crises, climate justice, and human rights.

Subsequently, we addressed a range of priority topics, each aligned with the urgency and needs of our nation, including Climate Justice and Human Rights, Adaptation and Resilience, Loss and Damage, Climate Action and Empowerment (ACE), Energy, Health, Food, Agriculture, Water, Biodiversity, Technology, Arts, Culture, Oceans, Reimagining Economies, Climate Action Plans, Global Stocktake, and Climate Finance and Markets. These topics were defined through theory and diagnosed based on current governmental actions, with an initial draft made public to include observations and validate the analysis.

The second stage involved a participatory process to define proposals and petitions, conducted through online and physical activities such as Capacity-building workshops, Climate Cafe, Climate Consultations, and the Strike Movement. Capacity-building workshops featured speakers from various sectors to introduce topics, while Consultation Sessions gathered petition and proposal ideas from youth participants across all eight divisions of Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi youth have actively collected signatures through online platforms, social media, and nationwide community-based initiatives, galvanized by our youth partners from LCOY Bangladesh 2023. We wholeheartedly implore our political leaders to listen attentively, assume responsibility, and act decisively, recognizing that time is of the essence.

BANGLADESH YOUTH STATEMENT

In conclusion, the youth of Bangladesh stand united, committed to securing a sustainable and just future for our nation and the world. The Youth Statement powerfully encapsulates our collective voice, reverberating from urban landscapes to serene rural settings, as we stand in solidarity, demanding climate justice. Our demands, spanning from climate finance to energy, loss and damage, and climate justice, represent our unwavering commitment to creating a world where climate justice and environmental balance are not just aspirations but realities. These demands are as follows:

1. Empower Youth for Climate Action (ACE):

Promote Climate Empowerment among Bangladeshi youth by addressing political barriers, facilitating access to data, and encouraging the transition to a low-carbon economy.

2. Strengthen Climate Adaptation and Resilience:

Address the effects of global warming with awareness, resources, coordination, and tailored adaptation models. Emphasize ecosystem-specific plans and equitable financing.

3. Youth Involvement in Energy Policies:

Encourage youth participation in clean energy discussions, policy-making, and cultural change. Support green and renewable energy transition.

4. Insurance for Climate-Affected Communities:

Prioritize Loss and Damage funds for vulnerable communities with transparent grant-based resources, insurance, and platforms for marginalized voices.

5. Smart Climate Technologies in Food Production:

Promote agroecology, climate-smart technologies, and eco-friendly startups to address challenges in agriculture.

6. Environmental Awareness in Agriculture:

Support environmental awareness, modern technologies, and affordable, nutritious food. Emphasize indigenous communities and healthy eating.

7. Public Accountability for Climate Targets:

Focus on reducing water consumption, monitoring systems, policy development, and water management, involving young people.

8. Supporting Youth Innovators and Entrepreneurs:

Support young innovators with mentorship, skills development, and engagement in renewable energy.

BANGLADESH YOUTH STATEMENT

9. Climate Justice and Human Rights:

Address technology and education gaps, ensure youth involvement in policy-making, improve intergenerational dialogue, and provide mental health support.

10. Youth Participation in International Climate Conferences:

Provide financial and logistical support, collaboration, and internal cooperation for youth involvement in global climate conferences.

11. Expanding Effective Youth Platforms:

Foster knowledge sharing, innovation, and capacity building in water and climate sectors for youth in underserved and disaster-prone areas.





LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023



In a vibrant two-day affair on October 8th and 9th, Bangla Academy played host to the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Bangladesh 2023, a dynamic and youth-driven event under the banner of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). It brought together the vigor and passion of Bangladeshi youth, uniting them in a common cause – combating the global threat of climate change.

This year's LCOY was marked by compelling themes that captured the spirit of the times: climate adaptation, justice, education, collaboration, transition, and nature-based solutions. These themes were more than just talking points; they were the driving force behind innovative ideas and action plans that aimed to shape a sustainable future for the world.

Leading the charge were organizations such as Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), ActionAid Bangladesh, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, WaterAid Bangladesh, and UNDP Bangladesh, who co-convened the conference. Strategic partnerships were formed with ICCCAD, Malala Fund, the Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka, and the UAE Embassy in Dhaka. Additionally, 13 youth-led organizations were actively engaged in climate action, providing a diverse and robust foundation for the conference's initiatives.

With a total of 329 participants, of which 227 were male and 102 female, the conference exemplified diversity and unity in action. It was not just a platform for discussions but a collective push for change, as the youth of Bangladesh rallied together to confront one of the most pressing global challenges: climate change. LCOY Bangladesh 2023 was a testament to the determination, creativity, and resilience of the country's youth in the fight for a sustainable and climate-resilient world.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023

43
DISTRICTS
PARTICIPATION



329
PARTICIPANTS



53
VOLUNTEERS



47
SPEAKERS



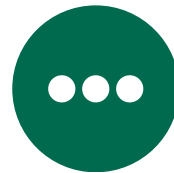
24
ORGANIZERS



MALE
54.6%



FEMALE
45.1%



OTHERS
0.3%

31.57%
PEOPLE FROM CLIMATE
VULNERABLE AREA

PARTICIPANTS DEMOGRAPHY

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 1

Local Conference of Youth
LCOY
BANGLADESH 2023

**LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH
BANGLADESH 2023**
DAY 01 | 08 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA
OPENING CEREMONY

HABIBUN NAHAR MP
DEPUTY MINISTER,
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DR. RUDABA KHONDKER
COUNTRY DIRECTOR, GLOBAL
ALLIANCE FOR IMPROVED
NUTRITION (GAIN)

DR. SUSAN VIZE
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE,
UNESCO

EDWIN KOEKKOEK
TEAM LEADER, GREEN INCLUSIVE
DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
EU DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH

ABDUL MUHIMIN BIN FARUK
CONTACT POINT
LCOY BANGLADESH 2023

ZIHAN XUAN
YOUNGO GLOBAL
FOCAL POINTS 2023

HEMAVATHI S SHEKHAR
YOUNGO GLOBAL
FOCAL POINTS 2023

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gain

Co-Conveners
actionaid **syngenta foundation** **WaterAid** **UN DDP**

Strategic Partner
ICCCAD **MALALA FUND** **Sweden Sverige** **KOSBA**

OPENING PLENARY SESSION:

In a high-energy kick-off, the opening plenary session of LCOY Bangladesh 2023 laid the foundation for a conference committed to tackling the imminent climate crisis. Youth leadership, community engagement, and collaboration emerged as central themes during the session. Abdul Muhimin Bin Faruk, Contact Point for LCOY Bangladesh 2023, set the tone by emphasizing the dire need for the youth to unite and collaborate in the climate battle.

Abdul Muhimin Bin Faruk, the Contact Point for LCOY Bangladesh 2023, warmly welcomed participants and introduced the key themes and goals of the event. He stressed the dire need for youth to come together, unite their voices, and collaborate in the battle against climate change. He also urged youth participation in climate advocacy and policy discussions.

Edwin KoekKoek, Team Leader at the Green Inclusive Development and Social Protection EU Delegation to Bangladesh, provided a comprehensive overview of the EU's priorities and initiatives related to green inclusive development in Bangladesh. Adding a sense of urgency, he mentioned the alarming projection that 2023 was on track to become one of the hottest years in history, with the possibility that 2024 might surpass it. This grim forecast emphasized the need for swift action, particularly in Bangladesh, which ranks as the 7th most vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change. Edwin KoekKoek called upon the youth to voice their concerns and adopt a solution-oriented approach.

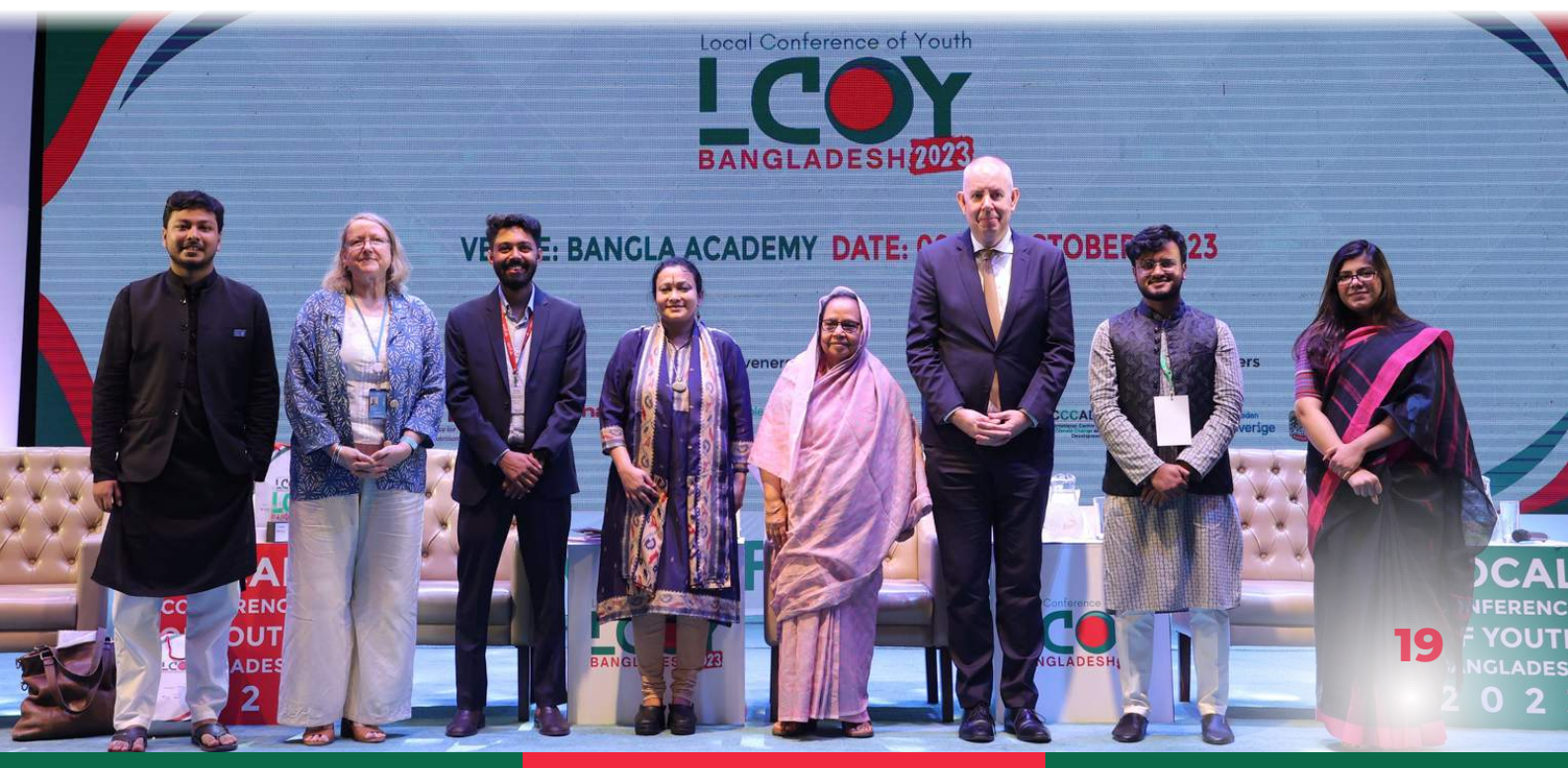
LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 1

Dr. Susan Vize, Officer-in-Charge at UNESCO, put forth a strong case for climate education as an essential component of sustainable development, advocating for an enhanced focus on climate literacy in Bangladesh. She imparted three powerful messages to the attendees: the importance of commitment, inclusivity, and a solution-oriented mindset.

Chief guest of the opening session, Habibun Nahar MP, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, underscored the critical role of youth action in achieving the Mujib Prosperity Plan and in shaping a smarter Bangladesh. She commended the youth for taking the lead and highlighted the government's initiatives and opportunities available to them in the field of climate action.

Dr. Rudaba Khondker, Country Director at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), concluded the session by illuminating how the conference empowers young attendees, fostering their development into leaders in the realm of climate action.

All speakers emphatically emphasized the crucial need for the unification of young voices and collaborative efforts to infuse new ideas and innovative perspectives into the forefront of the fight against climate change. In this opening plenary session, the stage was meticulously set for a conference that not only recognizes but also champions the role of young climate activists and advocates as pivotal in addressing the urgent climate challenges of our time.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 1

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LCOY
BANGLADESH 2023

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023
DAY 01 | 08 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA
JOINING THE MOVEMENT: VOLUNTEERISM AND MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION, NEGOTIATION AND POLICY FORMATION

MODERATOR

FARZANA FARUK JHUMU
LCOY YOUTH ACTION TEAM

SHAMIR SHEHAB
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANGLADESH YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVE (BYEI)

SVED TANZIL AHMED
HEAD OF ADVOCACY,
YOUTH POLICY FORUM

SUVENDU BISWAS
SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER-YOUTH
MOBILISATION & CLIMATE ACTION,
ACTIONAID BANGLADESH

SHAMIM AHMED MRIDHA
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,
ECO-NETWORK GLOBAL

Hosted By: gain
Co-Conveners: act:onaid syngenta Foundation for sustainable agriculture WaterAid UNEP
Strategic Partner: ICCAD MALALA FUND Ministry of the Environment, Government of Bangladesh Sweden Sverige

PANEL DISCUSSION:

In a highly informative and engaging panel discussion, four distinguished speakers shared valuable insights and expertise, shedding light on various avenues for youth involvement in climate action, negotiation, and policy formation. The session was expertly moderated by Farjana Jhumu from LCOY Bangladesh Youth Action Team. The overarching theme of the discussion revolved around the critical role of volunteerism and meaningful engagement in addressing climate challenges and contributing to policy changes.

Syed Tanzil Ahmed, Head of Advocacy at Youth Policy Forum, stressed the need for active collaboration and alliance-building among individuals and organizations within the climate advocacy space. He emphasized the potency of collective action and offered practical strategies for young people to actively participate in policy arenas, emphasizing the significance of unity in the battle against climate change.

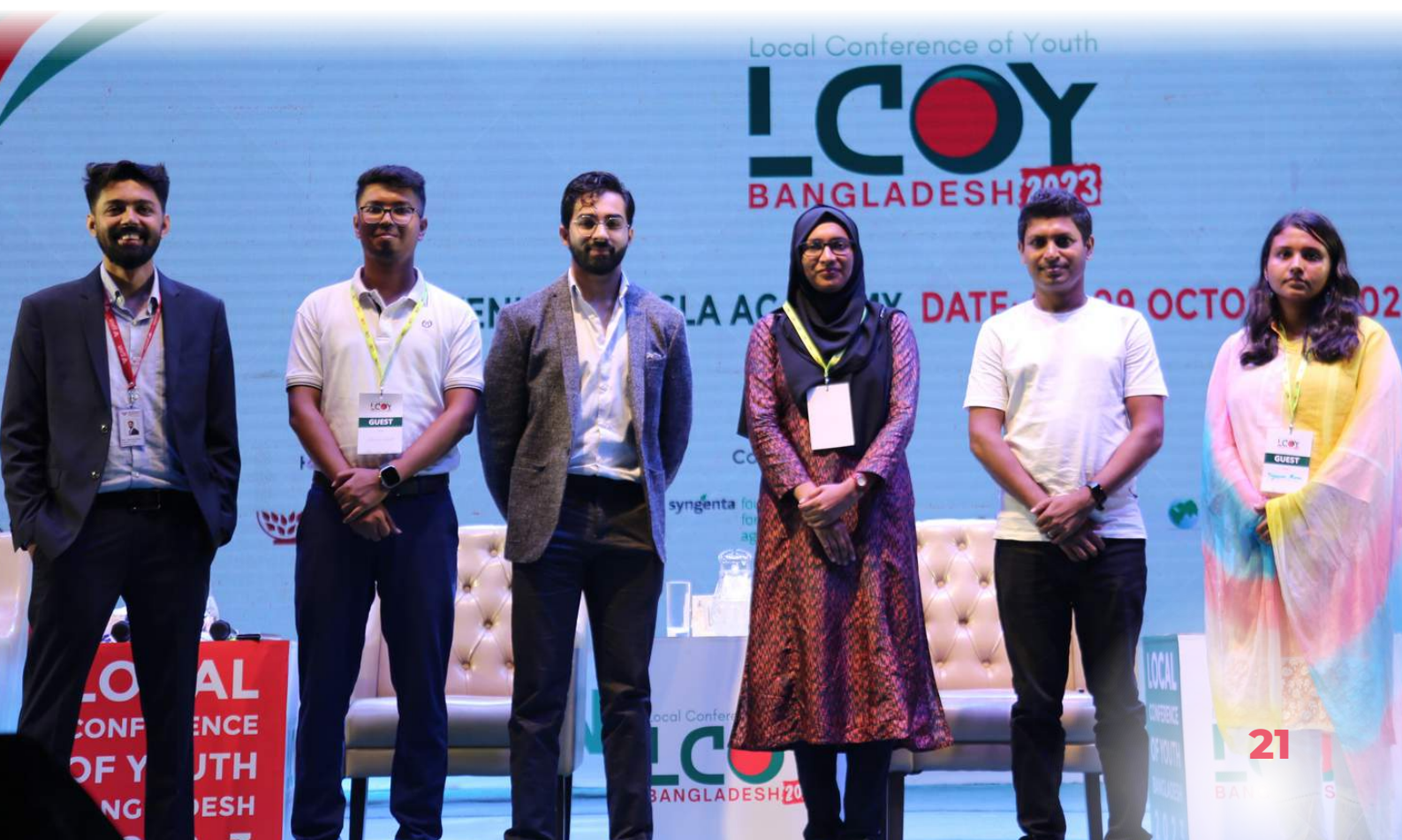
Suwendu Biswas, Senior Programme Officer for Youth Mobilization & Climate Action at ActionAid Bangladesh, shared effective techniques for young activists to mobilize their peers and raise awareness about climate issues within their communities. His contributions emphasized the impact that young people can have at the grassroots level in spreading awareness and encouraging action at the local level.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 1

Shamim Ahmed Mridha, Founder & Director of Eco-Network Global, and Tajrean Alam, ECP Fellow at BYE, provided comprehensive insights into the responsibilities and due diligence that young individuals can undertake to actively mitigate climate change. Their expertise delved into the practical steps that young people can take to make a substantial difference, reinforcing the notion that every individual can be a part of the solution.

The central theme of the session, "Joining the Movement," encouraged participants to explore the myriad ways in which they can engage in climate action, negotiations, and policy formulation. Attendees were introduced to the pivotal role of volunteerism and meaningful engagement in effecting genuine change in climate matters. The session offered practical guidance on effectively expressing their concerns, mobilizing communities, and contributing to policy adjustments.

Participants were also given the opportunity to pose questions, share their ideas, and engage with the speakers, fostering a dynamic and interactive exchange of thoughts and perspectives. This inclusive approach motivated young individuals to actively take part in the ongoing discourse on climate change. The session underscored the essential role of the younger generation in shaping a sustainable and climate-resilient future, while equipping them with practical guidance and inspiring insights to energize their efforts in this field.



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LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023
DAY 01 | 08 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA
CALL TO ACTION - YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

CHAIR

MD RUHUL AMIN TALUKDER, PH.D.
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

PROF. DR. MO'IN US SALAM
BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
& SENIOR AGRICULTURE SECTOR
DEVELOPMENT EXPERT, FAO

MD. FARHAD ZAMIL
COUNTRY DIRECTOR, SYNGENTA FOUNDATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

MODERATOR

SK REZWANA QUADIR RAISA
SHER-E-BANGLA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

MONIRUZZAMAN BIPUL
PORTFOLIO LEAD, DRIVERS OF FOOD SYSTEM
TRANSFORMATION (DFST), GAIN

Hosted By

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Strategic Partner

DIALOGUE SESSION:

In a thought-provoking dialogue session titled "Call to Action - Youth Engagement in Food System Transformation," chaired by Dr. Md Ruhul Amin Talukder, Additional Secretary of the PPC Wing at the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh, a panel of distinguished experts and leaders delved into the complex challenges and untapped potential within the realm of food systems. SK Rezwana Quadir Raisa, a passionate Youth Leader from Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, skillfully moderated the discussion, framing the conversation around two key questions: the global challenges linked to food systems and the indispensable roles of youth in driving positive change within this context.

Moniruzzaman Bipul, Portfolio Lead for Drivers of Food System Transformation (DFST) at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), articulated the vital importance of sustainable agriculture practices and the necessity of embracing technology to instigate an agricultural revolution. Md. Farhad Zamil, Country Director of the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, shared noteworthy successes in Bangladesh's sustainable farming initiatives, which have not only improved livelihoods for farmers but have also championed sustainable farming practices.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 1

Prof. Dr. Moin Us Salam, a senior Agriculture Sector Development Expert at FAO and a representative from Bangladesh Agricultural University, shared his insights on the contribution of sustainable agricultural practices to food security and nutrition. In the context of climate change challenges, he emphasized the critical role that sustainable agriculture plays in ensuring a resilient food system.

Md Ruhul Amin Talukder, Ph.D., Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh, provided a comprehensive perspective on how youth-led movements and initiatives can influence and work alongside traditional stakeholders in the food industry and agriculture. He highlighted the need for preparation in the face of natural catastrophes like the Sylhet floods, emphasizing that youth are crucial for keeping up with evolving technology in agriculture. He urged young people to join the agricultural sector, as it is pivotal for realizing the vision of a smart Bangladesh by 2041.

The dialogue spanned a range of vital topics, encompassing discussions on soil health, sustainable agriculture, and the paramount role of education and awareness in galvanizing young people to take action within the sphere of food system transformation. The session served as a platform for seasoned experts to impart their knowledge and for young leaders to engage in substantive discussions at the intersection of agriculture, food security, and climate resilience.



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DAY 01 | 08 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA

PLANET PROTECTORS: TEAMWORK FOR A GREENER WORLD

FACILITATOR

AMIR HAMZA XIHAD
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, KNOWLEDGE
AND LEARNING, COURSE FACILITATOR,
ART OF LIVING, DAFFODIL
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Hosted By: gain
Co-Conveners: act:onaid, syngenta foundation for sustainable agriculture, WaterAid, UN DDP
Strategic Partner: ICCCAD FUND, MALALA FUND, Sweden Sverige, BANGLA ACADEMY

PLANET PROTECTORS: TEAMWORK FOR A GREENER WORLD

Amir Hamza Zihad, the Assistant Director and Course Facilitator at Daffodil International University, brought a breath of fresh air to the conference with his engaging session titled "Planet Protectors: Teamwork for a Greener World." This session was a delightful blend of education and interaction, aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of environmental challenges and the power of collective action.

He commenced the session with a presentation that shed light on the country's climate vulnerability. By using powerful visuals, he made a compelling case for the urgency of addressing environmental challenges. This data-driven introduction served as a wake-up call, reminding everyone of the very real and immediate threats our planet faces.

That being said, what truly set this session apart was the element of fun. Attendees didn't just sit back and listen; they actively engaged in the session, turning it into an enjoyable and collaborative group activity. The spirit of teamwork and cooperation was infused into every aspect, emphasizing that safeguarding the planet is a collective responsibility.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 1

Local Conference of Youth
LCOY
BANGLADESH 2023

**LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH
BANGLADESH 2023**

DAY 01 | 08 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA

CONSULTATION: YOUTH VOICE AND ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE 2030 AGENDA

FACILITATOR
ABDUS SABUR
PRACTITIONER YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Hosted By: gain
Co-Conveners: act:onaid, syngenta foundation for sustainable agriculture, WaterAid, UN DTP
Strategic Partner: ICCAD, MALALA FUND, Sweden/Sverige, GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

CONSULTATION: YOUTH VOICE AND ACTIONS TO ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA

This enlightening consultation session, "Youth Voice and Actions to Achieving the 2030 Agenda," was meticulously designed to promote youth participation and engagement in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. Facilitated by Abdus Sabur and co-facilitated by Naima Jannat Taki and Nafisa Tabassum Anika, the session aimed to ensure that the voices and perspectives of young people are not only heard but play a pivotal role in realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The session unfolded with an introduction to the 2030 Agenda, thoughtfully presented by Abdus Sabur. The agenda was not just a document but a shared vision for a better and more sustainable world. Abdus Sabur set the tone for the discussion by emphasizing the significance of localization and the importance of including young voices in the conversation. Recognizing that the consequences of climate change often disproportionately affect the youth, he urged them to take charge and actively contribute to finding solutions to the pressing global challenges.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 1

The heart of the session lay in a dynamic consultation and Q&A segment, wherein a series of thought-provoking questions were posed to the young participants. These questions sought to delve into their concerns and thoughts regarding climate-related issues, education about climate change and its solutions, challenges they face in participating in climate action efforts, and how to effectively advocate for climate-friendly policies. Furthermore, the conversation touched on the support and resources needed to empower youth to engage in climate-related policy discussions, the potential for global collaboration among youth-led organizations and movements, and the integration of local traditions and cultural practices into sustainable development efforts led by youth.

The session featured an impressive turnout of young participants from diverse backgrounds, reflecting the global nature of the 2030 Agenda. Their rich and varied perspectives added depth to the discussions, emphasizing that the pursuit of sustainable development is a collective responsibility that transcends borders and cultures.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 1

The exchange of ideas in the Q&A segment was inspiring, revealing the passion and commitment of young people to make a difference. Many participants stressed the need for improved climate education in schools and communities, advocating for a more comprehensive and inclusive curriculum that empowers youth with the knowledge and skills to address climate-related challenges.

The discussion also underscored the significance of mentorship and support systems for young climate activists. Participants expressed the importance of having access to resources, networks, and guidance to amplify their impact and overcome obstacles. They proposed the establishment of mentorship programs and collaborative platforms that connect youth-led organizations worldwide, fostering a global network of change-makers.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Local Conference of Youth
LCOY
BANGLADESH 2023

**LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH
BANGLADESH 2023**

DAY 02 | 09 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA

HIGH LEVEL FORUM: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION

CHAIR:

- SANJAY KUMAR BHOWMIK**
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (CLIMATE CHANGE WING,
ADDITIONAL CHARGE), MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
- M A AKHER**
DIRECTOR (PLANNING),
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT,
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS
- MAHMUDUL HASAN**
PROGRAMME OFFICER AND YOUTH
COORDINATOR, UNDP BANGLADESH

MODERATOR:

- AUNG SING HLA MARMA**
LCOY YOUTH ACTION TEAM
- SOHANUR RAHMAN**
EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR,
YOUTH NET GLOBAL
- SUMAIYA BINTE SELIM**
PROGRAMME COORDINATOR,
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CLIMATE
CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT (ICCCAD)
Strategic Partner

Hosted By

Co-Conveners

gain
actionaid
syngenta foundation
for sustainable
agriculture
WaterAid
UN
DfP
ICCCAD
MALALA
FUND
Sverige

HIGH LEVEL FORUM: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION

The second day of the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Bangladesh 2023 commenced with an enlightening opening session titled "High-Level Forum: Opportunities for Youth Engagement in Climate Action." This session brought together prominent figures and experts to discuss the challenges young people face in their efforts to mitigate climate change and promote climate justice, while also exploring opportunities and strategies for youth engagement in climate-related work.

The session featured a lineup of distinguished speakers, including Sanjay Kumar Bhowmik, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change; Special Guest M A Akher, Director (Planning), Department of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports; and Guest Speakers Mahmudul Hasan, Programme Officer and Youth Coordinator, UNDP Bangladesh; Sumaiye Binte Selim, Programme Coordinator, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD); and Sohanur Rahman, Executive Coordinator, Youth Net Global. The discussion was expertly moderated by Aung Sing Hia Marma, a member of the LCOY Bangladesh Youth Action Team.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Aung Sing Hia Marma, LCOY Bangladesh Youth Action Team opened the session by addressing the participants as 'climate warriors' and outlining the topics to be discussed. He shed light on the challenges and opportunities for youth engaging in climate change mitigation.

Sohanur Rahman, Executive Coordinator, Youth Net Global, emphasized the importance of youth participation in climate-related work. He highlighted the need for adequate resources, financial support, and safe working environments to empower youth in their climate efforts. He also shed light on the importance of the participation of the youth of the country in the decision making process regarding our environment, and climate change.

Sumaiye Binte Selim, Programme Coordinator, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), praised young activists representing Bangladesh globally through their climate activism. She encouraged youth to pursue academic knowledge and engage in environmental research. Sumaiye also highlighted ICCCAD's role in supporting and mentoring youth involved in climate change initiatives.

She said, 'Only activism is not enough, our youth need to be involved in research, and gain enough knowledge of climate change to contribute in mitigating the climate challenges.'



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Mahmudul Hasan, Programme Officer and Youth Coordinator, UNDP Bangladesh, emphasized the historical and ongoing contributions of youth to nation-building. He underscored the potential of youth, urging them to channel their energy and creativity into policy-making and meaningful participation in climate discussions.

He shared his main focus in work that is to develop the capacity of young people. According to him, recently the UN agency is working to include them actively in meaningful works for the betterment of our environment. He sees numerous possibilities in our youth if they are given the right tools, they build their capacity, and engage more - 'The opportunity is paramount.'

He talked about the limitations our youth face. Such as - the lack of financial backup, not enough room for the youth to participate in the decision making process.

He said, 'The voice of our youth needs to be heard. The projects our government, and the NGOs design for the people with less opportunities, people from the remote areas, in those projects the young people should be involved for monitoring. Also, democratization of opportunity is important.'

M A Akher, Director (Planning), Department of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports, discussed government initiatives for youth involvement in climate change projects. He highlighted past projects supporting women affected by natural disasters and outlined future plans, including revising the national youth policy.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Child marriage is a big hindrance for the women to actively participate in any climate change or development projects. He also talked about the government projects for youth. Some of them are the biogas plants in villages where all the workers are under the age of 35. Government set up more than 15 thousand village level training centers for our youth. Right now the government helps more than 21,000 youth organizations who participate in anti-drug activities and environmental activities. Also, soft loans opportunities, skill and capacity building training, working and education opportunities for marginalized women are given all over the country under various government projects. Sadly, because of less media coverage and restrictions from the government itself to give away much information about development projects, this information does not reach to general people easily.

Sanjay Kumar Bhowmik, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change and chair of the session emphasized the goal of leaving no one behind in achieving a smarter Bangladesh by 2041. He recognized the potential of Bangladeshi youth to voice their opinions on public platforms and drive change. Sanjay stressed the importance of providing youth with suitable workplaces, tools, and opportunities to engage in conferences with various government ministries.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

He said, 'We need to include information about our environmental crisis, mitigation, adaptation in the course curriculum.' He also added, 'Women stand in the most vulnerable position in any kind of natural calamities, so we need to think how we can help them.'

Praising the youth of Bangladesh for their contribution in disaster management, he said, 'Bangladesh has a positive reputation globally for successfully tackling natural disasters. Our youth works very hard to help people who suffer in climate disasters. Their voluntary work and active participation help us to fight back.'

He emphasised on the importance of knowing the right way to speak on a global platform, and adequate knowledge is needed for that. Also, It is important to arrange more workshops frequently to train our youth to talk in global forums.' He thinks our new generation, our youth, is ready to fulfill the dream of digital Bangladesh 2041. We just need to create a safe space, a proper working environment for our youth. 'Leaving no one behind' - will help us to be successful, and fulfill the dream of digital Bangladesh.

Answering a question of a participant regarding waste management of the industrial areas of Gazipur, he said, 'We have to be cautious first.' Saying 'Waste is our wealth' he asked a counter question and asked to think deeply that- 'If we can turn our waste into wealth like modern countries do (by avoiding single plastic use, better recycling and upcycling) why would our waste will end up in Buriganga and pollute it?'



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Local Conference of Youth
LCOY
BANGLADESH 2023

**LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH
BANGLADESH 2023**

DAY 02 | 09 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA

INTRODUCTION TO UNFCCC NEGOTIATION MECHANISM

FACILITATOR
M HAFIJUL ISLAM KHAN
Director,
Centre for Climate Justice-Bangladesh

Hosted By: gain
Co-Conveners: act:onaid, syngenta foundation for sustainable agriculture, WaterAid, UN DDP
Strategic Partner: ICCAD FUND, MALALA FUND, Sweden Sverige, Bangladesh

INTRODUCTION TO UNFCCC NEGOTIATION

The individual session, titled "Introduction to UNFCCC Negotiation," was facilitated by M Hafizul Islam Khan, Director, Centre for Climate Justice-Bangladesh. The speaker introduced participants to the UNFCCC negotiation mechanism, discussing key players and processes involved, challenges and opportunities for Bangladesh, the Kyoto Protocol, and the role of young people in negotiations. He emphasized the significance of knowledge in addressing climate issues and encouraged youth to gain expertise in COP, CNP, and decisions for sustainability.

He shared his personal experience of attending COP. He enlightened the participants about the basic understanding of the conference of parties (COP), the representatives and their activities.

He said that to understand climate change, to address the issue scientific understanding is required. Climate change is a human induced issue, and to take any decision regarding climate change, a political process is needed.

Then he shared the history and works of UN conventions on climate change. Here, everyone tries to look for sustainable solutions, better policies based on scientific knowledge.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Praising the youth, he said generally, our youth who are aware of climate change acquire more knowledge than the NGO and government delegates. The youth address the climate change issue better than these people sometimes.

Our youth expects two things to work:

- 1) Inspiration
- 2) Guidance

Giving the youth inspiration and proper guidance will encourage them to work more for the environment. Mentioning the UNFCCC that took place in 1992 he said, a target of reducing co2 emission by 5.2% by the year 2000 was set in the conference. Developed countries have been polluting our world for the past 400 years , it is high time they take responsibility for their actions. Then he briefly talked about the Kyoto protocol, Paris agreement, COP and UNFCCC negotiation process.

He also added the importance of having adequate knowledge of climate change to participate in global forums like COP. He said, 'The more you'll be able to read, understand how to read, the more your writing will improve, eventually it will make you a better thinker and a better orator.' 'Knowledge is sustainability' , was his concluding remark.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Local Conference of Youth
LCOY
BANGLADESH 2023

**LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH
BANGLADESH 2023**

DAY 02 | 09 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA

PANEL DISCUSSION: EMPOWERING YOUTH IN WASH AND CLIMATE ACTION

MODERATOR

PANELISTS

KEYNOTE PRESENTER

CLOSING REMARKS

Hosted By

Co-Conveners

Strategic Partner

PANEL DISCUSSION: EMPOWERING YOUTH IN WASH AND CLIMATE ACTION

Keynote Session:

The keynote presenter, Ms. Jennifer Nahar Khan Khadim, a Strategy Analyst at WaterAid Bangladesh, commenced the session by sharing insights from her career journey. She has nearly a decade of experience dedicated to climate advocacy. During her presentation, Ms. Khadim presented compelling statistics, painting a vivid but concerning picture. She underscored that Bangladesh ranks as the 7th most climate-vulnerable country globally.

She also highlighted the presence of six climate hotspots in our country, such as the Haor and coastal regions, underscoring the dire impact of climate change on these areas. She empathetically emphasized that those bearing the brunt of climate change are the poor and the most vulnerable among us.

Delving into the realm of WASH, an acronym for water, sanitation, and hygiene, she illuminated the challenges faced in rural areas. With a compassionate tone, she revealed that only 59% of the water sources in these regions are safe for use. Furthermore, she lamented that a mere 58% of our country's population has access to basic hygiene services. Additionally, she pointed out that a significant one-third of our population resides in coastal areas, putting them at great risk due to climate change. She empathized with the inhabitants of these regions, highlighting the issue of saline water.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Transitioning to the role of WASH during climate change, she passionately stated, "Climate crisis is water crisis." With empathy, she then elaborated on how youth can actively participate in addressing this crisis. She shared inspiring global examples, such as Greta Thunberg, who raised climate awareness through her iconic "Fridays for Future" campaign. She humbly reminded the youth that they need not undertake extravagant efforts; even simple actions, like Greta holding a poster outside her school, can make a significant impact. She expressed concern about some youths who engage in climate work solely for certificates, urging them to work voluntarily to develop skills and genuinely contribute to society.

Reflecting on youth activism, she acknowledged the fervent activism witnessed at COP 25 in Madrid, where youth voices were finally heard. Encouraging students to actively engage in processes and activities to address these issues, she emphasized that change begins at home. In a supportive tone, she assured youth that they can start their climate journey right from home and encouraged them to find and amplify their voices.

Continuing, she shed light on the role of youths in COP. She described how youth groups from around the world collaborate to create articles outlining their communities' demands. These articles are then presented on behalf of the youth at COP, amplifying their influence on global climate discussions.

Bringing attention to WaterAid Bangladesh, she applauded the efforts of youth volunteers working in the sector. However, with heartfelt concern, she acknowledged the underrepresentation of females in professional fields, especially in STEM. She empathized with the disparity in women's participation and shared the valuable work of WaterWoman, which provides training to females in STEM to develop skills and contribute to climate action and society.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Panel Discussion:

The keynote speech was followed by a panel discussion. Ms. Maisha Ahsan Momo, Executive Director, House of Volunteers ; Ms. Nawar N Khan Raeesa, Co-founder, Green & Beyond; Mr. Siddhartho Goshwami, Operations Team Lead, Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Academy (IDEA), ICT Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology; Mr. Syful Karim, Programme Officer- Engineer, WaterAid Bangladesh joined as speakers of the Panel Discussion and the session was moderated by Ms. Samia Anwar Rafa, Associate Officer-Technical, WaterAid Bangladesh.

The first panelist, Mr. Saiful Karim, delved into the challenges faced by climate-stressed areas, highlighting that 19 coastal districts fall within this category. Drawing from personal experiences dating back to 2013-14 when he encountered a water supply crisis, Mr. Karim underscored the importance of addressing such issues. His work as an engineer with WaterAid provided him with valuable insights into the daily struggles of coastal residents, who often had to travel miles to fetch water. He emphasized the disproportionate impact of climate change on today's youth. Mr. Karim also shared inspiring global youth initiatives, including the Wash club in Uganda and the School brigade in India.

The next panelist, Ms. Nawar N. Khan Raisa, shed light on the lack of survival knowledge among women in coastal areas during climate crises. She stressed the need for skill development and practical training to empower women to respond effectively to climate challenges. Expressing concern over the underrepresentation of women in research and workplaces, she called for equal pay and appreciation. Miss Raisa emphasized the importance of networking for youth, noting that opportunities are not just sought after but also seek out those who are proactive.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Maisha Ahsan Momo, Executive Director of House of Volunteers, took the stage next, sharing the organization's journey since its inception in 2009. The House of Volunteers stood out for introducing skill-based volunteerism, attracting talented university students primarily from BUET, DU, and AUST. Momo highlighted the challenges faced by volunteers engaged in climate and wash-related activities, expressing the need for greater recognition and media coverage of their contributions.

Mr. Siddhartho Goswami, the final panelist, discussed the entrepreneurial opportunities in the field. He observed a shift from voluntary activities to entrepreneurship, citing IDEA's funding of over 350 businesses. However, he noted that very few of these ventures were related to climate or sustainability. Mr. Goswami urged organizations like GAIN and ActionAid to inspire youth to embark on entrepreneurial journeys in the climate sector. He stressed the importance of sustainable business models and the ability to operate without constant funding, providing insights into various programs and accelerator opportunities to secure funding. In his parting words, he encouraged youth to dive into the field, emphasizing that the journey itself would reveal the way forward.

The panel discussion concluded with a call to action by Mr. Nd Tahmidul Islam, Technical Lead at WaterAid Bangladesh, urging youth to strive to become future policymakers and



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Local Conference of Youth
LCOY
BANGLADESH 2023

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023
DAY 02 | 09 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA
STORIES OF YOUTH ACTIONS

MODERATOR:

MASUD PARVEZ OVE
PROGRAM OFFICER, COMMUNICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AT WAVE FOUNDATION

JANNATUL BAKIA SWEETY
CO-FOUNDER AND HEAD OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, PCYCLE

KAZI MUAZZAMA TASNIM
DIRECTOR- PARTNERSHIP AND FUNDING PATHCHOLA FOUNDATION BANGLADESH

SAYED JAFRUL HASAN
FOUNDER & GENERAL SECRETARY STARK BANGLADESH

ISHMAM ALVEE
MANAGER, STORIES OF CHANGE

ROWNAK TABASSUM
SENIOR ASSOCIATE, PROJECT WE

S. M. R. ARFANUL ALAM
YCC TRAINING COORDINATOR YCC, US FOREST SERVICE, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

MD TAWHIDUL ISLAM
FOUNDER, DESPERATELY SEEKING - BANDARBAN (CSA)

Hosted By: **gain**

Co-Conveners: **act:onaid**, **syngenta** Foundation for sustainable agriculture, **WaterAid**, **UNICEF**

Strategic Partner: **ICCAD**, **MALALA FUND**, **Swedish Sverige**

STORIES OF YOUTH ACTIONS

The event continued with a "Stories of Youth Actions" session, featuring six inspiring stories of youth actively engaged in climate action.

Ishmam Alvee, Project Manager of Stories of Change, highlighted their mission of amplifying the voices of the unheard and sharing their stories from Teknaf to Tetulia. They amplify the voices of those who are often unheard and become the narrators of the heartbreaking stories of communities that suffer greatly from the challenges posed by shifting tides and relentless, unchanging weather patterns. In November, at COPE 28 in Dubai, these stories will illuminate the pressing nature of the situation. He mentioned that their atlas will serve as a distinct map, providing detailed insights into the regions most affected by climate change. This will serve as a visual representation of the reality we are currently confronting.

Rownak Tabassum, Senior Associate of Project WE, shared their successful campaigns focusing on gender inequality and climate awareness. "Our journey began with a project in 2019. We initially focused on addressing gender inequality, but in 2021, we shifted our focus to climate action. In this short time span, we've already conducted impactful campaigns. The first campaign we discussed, '50 Days of Climate Awareness,' aimed to eradicate people's indifference toward climate issues. Our secondary objective was to promote climate action and awareness. Throughout the campaign, we published over 50 articles in 50 days, covering topics related to climate action, awareness, and change.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

During this campaign, we also discovered passionate youth climate leaders who were eager to contribute to addressing climate change. Another noteworthy campaign we undertook was the 'Green Mile Project.' Through this initiative, we successfully brought together numerous young individuals interested in climate action, including advocates, leaders, and stakeholders. Additionally, she mentioned 'Did You Know Series,' another campaign in which we shared various content forms such as stories, videos, and comics to increase public awareness about climate action and change. Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to creating a more sustainable and informed future.

Syed Jafrul Hasan, Founder & General Secretary of Stark Bangladesh, shared insights into their initiatives during the Covid-19 pandemic aimed at educating people about climate change online. Stark Bangladesh embarked on its journey in 2017, with a primary goal of contributing to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their mission extended to empowering youth with skills during the challenging times of the pandemic.

To achieve this objective, Stark Bangladesh organized online sessions focusing on soft skills, attracting the participation of 300 individuals. Subsequently, they directed their efforts towards SDG 13, specifically addressing climate action. Under the project 'Aware with Us,' they actively engaged with primary and secondary schools, educating students about climate change and its impacts through interactive and creative mediums such as short movies, videos, and games. This multifaceted approach underscores their commitment to spreading awareness and fostering environmental responsibility.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Md Tawhidul Islam, Founder of Desperately Speaking Bandarban, shed light on the environmental challenges faced by indigenous communities in Bandarban. He unveiled the hidden realities of the renowned tourist destination, Bandarban. He shed light on Nilachal, a beloved spot for tourists, concealing a disturbing secret – a massive garbage dump hidden from the view of visitors. In response, they initiated a campaign to raise awareness about the issue of littering and to combat it. Additionally, he highlighted the dire situation faced by 13 ethnic communities in the region, who lack access to clean water due to the extraction of rocks and stones for road development in more developed areas. To address this, they've identified and empowered 13 youth leaders from these indigenous communities to advocate for their rights and needs.

Jannatul Bakia Sweety, Head of Research and Development at PCYCLE, passionately underscores the importance of empowering women as a means to empower entire households. In close collaboration with the British Council, they have been instrumental in training 350 enthusiastic young climate advocates. Their efforts have been particularly focused on the Mohammadpur area, aiming to transform it into a model community. Through engaging discussions, workshops, and educational sessions, they've raised awareness about climate change and taught valuable skills in waste upcycling. Furthermore, their commitment extends to areas such as climate education, waste management, and upcycling initiatives.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

They are proud to have partnered with esteemed organizations like UNDP, USAID, and the Malala Fund. Specifically, with the Malala Fund, they are currently involved in the EAGLE project, an acronym for Empowering Action for Girls' Leadership and Education. Within this initiative, they are actively running a fellowship program dedicated to empowering young girls and fostering leadership skills.

S. M. R. Arfanul Alam, YCC Training Coordinator at YCC (US Forest Service, International Programs), compassionately shares insights into their vocational and soft skills training programs conducted in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban. The concept of engaging youth in consultations has been a steadfast tradition in the USA for nearly 70 to 80 years. They take youth from underserved communities in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban and provide them with comprehensive training to nurture them into climate stewards. These dedicated individuals undergo five months of intensive vocational and soft skills training, which is followed by a valuable one-month internship opportunity. The approach followed by their team is to engage with these youth, enable them to learn, encourage them to serve their communities, and ultimately empower them to lead. Remarkably, these young participants have taken it upon themselves to develop a self-sustaining youth network, demonstrating their remarkable commitment. It's essential to recognize that these communities are referred to as "underserved" rather than "underprivileged," as this distinction emphasizes the systematic challenges they face.

Tanjinul Islam, General Secretary of the National Youth Council and a native of Cox's Bazar, delivered closing remarks, commending youth for their actions and encouraging them to persist in their efforts for a sustainable future.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

DRAMA: CLIMATE VULNERABILITIES IN BANGLADESH

The closing ceremony of the conference was a memorable affair, highlighting its achievements, empowering youth action, and featuring a poignant drama titled "Haor er Jolkotha" by Jolojo Theatre Group. This dramatic performance served as a powerful reminder of the consequences of our actions on the climate and the adversities and hazards faced by people as a result.

The drama "Haor er Jolkotha" skillfully portrayed the intricate web of cause and effect in the context of climate change. It vividly depicted the repercussions of human actions on the environment and the hardships endured by communities directly impacted. Through compelling storytelling and compelling characters, the drama conveyed a message of urgency and responsibility regarding climate action.

Distinguished guests of honor, including Mehedi Hasan Bappy, Coordinator of LCOY Bangladesh Secretariat, and Programme Associate for Youth and Adolescent Nutrition at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), lauded the drama's impact on raising awareness about climate-related issues.

This artistic portrayal of climate-related challenges added an emotional dimension to the closing ceremony, reinforcing the importance of collective efforts in addressing climate change.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Local Conference of Youth
LCOY
BANGLADESH 2023

**LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH
BANGLADESH 2023**

DAY 02 | 09 OCTOBER 2023 | 09:00AM TO 06:00PM | BANGLA ACADEMY, DHAKA

BANGLADESH YOUTH STATEMENT DECLARATION AND CLOSING CEREMONY

CHAIR

FARAH KABIR
COUNTRY DIRECTOR,
ACTIONAID BANGLADESH

**H.E. ABDULLA ALI ABDULLA
KHASEIF ALHMOUDI**
AMBASSADOR,
UAE EMBASSY, DHAKA

ANOWARUL HAQ
ASSISTANT RESIDENT
REPRESENTATIVE - DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNANCE, UNDP BANGLADESH

PROF. SALEEMUL HUQ
DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND
DEVELOPMENT (ICCCAD)

MUSHARRAF TANSEN
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE,
MALALA FUND

MEHEDI HASAN BAPPY
PROGRAMME ASSOCIATE- YOUTH AND
ADOLESCENT NUTRITION, GAIN & COORDINATOR-
LCOY BANGLADESH SECRETARIAT

Hosted By: **gain**

Co-Conveners: **act:onaid**, **syngenta foundation for sustainable agriculture**, **WaterAid**, **UNICEF**

Strategic Partner: **ICCCAD**, **MALALA FUND**, **Sweden Sverige**, **GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH**

BANGLADESH YOUTH STATEMENT DECLARATION AND CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony of the conference marked a momentous occasion, celebrating the achievements of the event and shining a spotlight on its key outcomes.

Distinguished guests of honor graced the ceremony, including Mehedi Hasan Bappy, Coordinator of LCOY Bangladesh Secretariat and Programme Associate for Youth and Adolescent Nutrition at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). Mr. Bappy expressed gratitude to all attendees and shared the Youth Declaration Summary, which encapsulated the impassioned demands of the youth attendees. He shared the 11 Youth Declaration Demands focusing on subjects like Climate Justice and Human Rights, Adaptation and Resilience, Loss and Damage, Climate Action and Empowerment (ACE), Energy, Health, Food system, Water, Nature and Biodiversity, Technology and Innovation. A detailed Bangladesh youth statement from LCOY Bangladesh will be presented to the Conference of Youth (COY) and Conference of Parties (COP) in the UAE this November.

Following Mr. Bappy's remarks, Musharraf Tansen, Country Representative of the Malala Fund, took the stage. He passionately addressed the critical issues of girls' education and climate action. Mr. Tansen emphasized the significance of climate literacy, the development of green skills, and the importance of providing quality education for effective adaptation to climate challenges.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Anowarul Haq, Assistant Resident Representative for Democratic Governance at UNDP Bangladesh, offered sage advice to the youth, urging them not only to speak ambitiously but also to take significant actions.

Although His Excellency Abdulla Ali Abdulla Khaseif AlHmoudi of the UAE Embassy in Dhaka could not be present in person, he sent a heartfelt video message, commending the conference's success and offering encouragement to the youth attendees.

The chair of the closing ceremony Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh, expressed regret for not being present on the first day of the conference, explaining that prior commitments related to climate change discussions elsewhere required her attendance. She acknowledged the reflection of attendees' thoughts and demands in the youth declaration, emphasizing the broad consensus around these demands, with no objections raised when she sought feedback from the audience.

She drew upon her 15 years of experience collaborating with young people on climate change initiatives. She expressed her concern about the sudden climate changes, heatwaves, floods, and natural disasters. She recalled that when she first started her job, there were continuous floods, and she was frequently affected by these dire natural disasters. She emphasized the disruptive consequences of such calamities on various aspects of life, including education in coastal areas. She urged collective support for young people affected by these challenges.



LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH BANGLADESH 2023 : DAY 2

Highlighting the strengthened foundation and increasing recognition of youth-led initiatives by policymakers, the speaker touched on the often-overlooked repercussions of natural disasters, such as job loss, livestock reduction, and early marriages. She also referred to the recently developed youth manifesto, emphasizing that it was created by young individuals and shared with politicians and policymakers. The audience was encouraged to review the youth manifesto to assess its alignment with the youth declaration and explore some of its specific demands.

The speaker acknowledged the global contributions of youth and cited their participation in COP 27. She encouraged ongoing involvement in global climate efforts. Young individuals were advised to take active roles in addressing issues such as reducing plastic usage, tree planting, and mitigating harmful fossil fuel emissions to combat climate change. The concluding message stressed the collective potential to build a healthy and environmentally-friendly Bangladesh.


These esteemed speakers left a profound impact, inspiring and empowering all participants to continue their dedicated efforts in addressing the pressing issue of climate change long after the conference has concluded.





PRE EVENTS LEADING TO LCOY BANGLADESH 2023

As the excitement built for the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Bangladesh 2023, the journey of pre-events unfolded, paving the way for youth-led climate action and transformative policies. This crucial journey comprised two distinct stages, each fostering active engagement and impactful dialogue among the youth of Bangladesh.



DEFINING PRIORITIES THROUGH GRASSROOTS INSIGHTS

The initial stage commenced with the action team of LCOY Bangladesh delving into grassroots insights and local needs. The objective was to define the core topics that would mold the content of the LCOY Statement. A comprehensive bibliographic review identified socio-environmental priority issues across the eight divisions of Bangladesh. These pressing issues revolved around the areas of environmental governance, education, and the far-reaching consequences of climate change. Key themes included biodiversity loss, water crisis, climate justice, and human rights.

INCORPORATING URGENT PRIORITIES

From these insights emerged a series of priority topics, each tailored to address the pressing issues faced by the country. These themes included Climate Justice and Human Rights, Adaptation and Resilience, Loss and Damage, Climate Action and Empowerment (ACE), Energy, Health, Food and Agriculture, Water, Nature and Biodiversity, Technology and Innovation, Arts, Culture, and Heritage, Oceans, Reimagining and Transforming Economies, Climate Action Plans and Global Stocktake, and Climate Finance and Markets. In-depth theoretical definitions were developed for each of these topics, with a focus on the current state of governmental actions.

ENGAGING THE YOUTH: A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

The second stage heralded a participatory approach, affording the youth the opportunity to actively contribute to the development of proposals and petitions for each of these identified priority topics. A diverse range of online and physical activities played a pivotal role in this process, ensuring that the voices of young Bangladeshis were not just heard but actively incorporated into the climate action landscape.

The lead-up to the main conference of LCOY Bangladesh was marked by introductory events, both virtual and physical, led by LCOY Bangladesh 2023 volunteers. These events, including Climate Cafe, Capacity Building on the UN process, Climate Consultation, Round of Storytelling, and Strike Movements, aimed to create a supportive environment for young voices to be heard, raise awareness, promote understanding, and foster youth engagement and learning.

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

The Youth Statement was enriched through a series of Capacity Building Workshops, a total of 7 in-person and online events organized by the LCOY Bangladesh 2023 action team and youth partners. These workshops aimed to enhance young people's knowledge, provide tools and guidance for climate action in local communities, and connect youth across the nation. Topics related to critical areas were addressed throughout these sessions.

CLIMATE CONSULTATION

Following the format of YOUNGO, LCOY Bangladesh 2023 hosted nine climate consultations, both offline and online, bringing together over thousands young climate leaders from across Bangladesh. These consultations were instrumental in generating innovative, youth-led solutions and provided a platform for young leaders to voice their concerns and work collaboratively toward effective solutions.

These consultations saw active participation from a range of youth partners, including Brighters Society of Bangladesh, where Etekaf Dinar Apple facilitated the dialogue. Eco Network also played a significant role, engaging their participants. Pathchola Foundation, led by facilitator Manisha Meem Nipun. Stories of Change, under the guidance of facilitator Umme Hani Lamiya.

The active involvement of these youth partners, representing a diversity of perspectives and expertise, highlighted the collaborative spirit of the youth in addressing pressing climate issues. Together, they explored innovative solutions and voiced their concerns, contributing to a united front for a sustainable future.



CLIMATE CAFE

A physical Climate Cafe event was organized to address food security concerns in Bangladesh, fostering inclusive discussions among young enthusiasts. This event brought together over 25 youth participants from various youth-led organizations nationwide, creating a forum to explore the intersection between climate change and food security and to collectively identify innovative solutions for a resilient and secure food system.



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CLIMATE CAFE

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YOUTH PARTICIPATION





CLIMATE STRIKE MOVEMENT

The Climate Strike Movement, led by the LCOY Bangladesh 2023 action team and youth partners, witnessed the active participation of over 3,500 young individuals demanding Climate Justice, an end to the use of Fossil Fuels, funds for Climate Action, and immediate action on climate-related issues. This movement resonated with the frustrations of youth across the nation, emphasizing the urgency of addressing climate challenges.

Central to this movement was a striking event held at the press club, serving as the focal point for our collective call to action. This central strike was complemented by similar strikes that took place in various locations across the country. These strikes served as a powerful testament to the determination of Bangladesh's youth in driving the urgency of climate action and advocating for a sustainable future.

17
MOVEMENTS

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YOUTH PARTICIPATION




CONCLUSION

The inaugural Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in Bangladesh has ignited a powerful wave of enthusiasm and awareness among the nation's young population, policymakers, civil society organizations, and various stakeholders. This event transcended mere gatherings; it birthed a movement and fostered invaluable connections among youth, propelling them towards impactful action. The LCOY Bangladesh team takes immense pride in presenting this historic event, the first of its kind in our country, featuring widespread participation. It is a foundation upon which we will build a new dimension of change, both locally and globally, for the betterment of our nation and the world.

Our heartfelt gratitude extends to the spirited participants, distinguished guests, dedicated youth partners, co-convenors, and our host organization, who collectively orchestrated the success of LCOY Bangladesh 2023. Yet, our primary objective remains unchanged—to raise awareness about the profound realities of climate change and inspire resolute action.

The youth's journey of action and advocacy will endure, driven by the aspiration for a brighter, greener tomorrow. This conference marks just the beginning of our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our planet and securing a sustainable future for all. Together, we will continue to strive for a world where climate justice and environmental balance prevail.



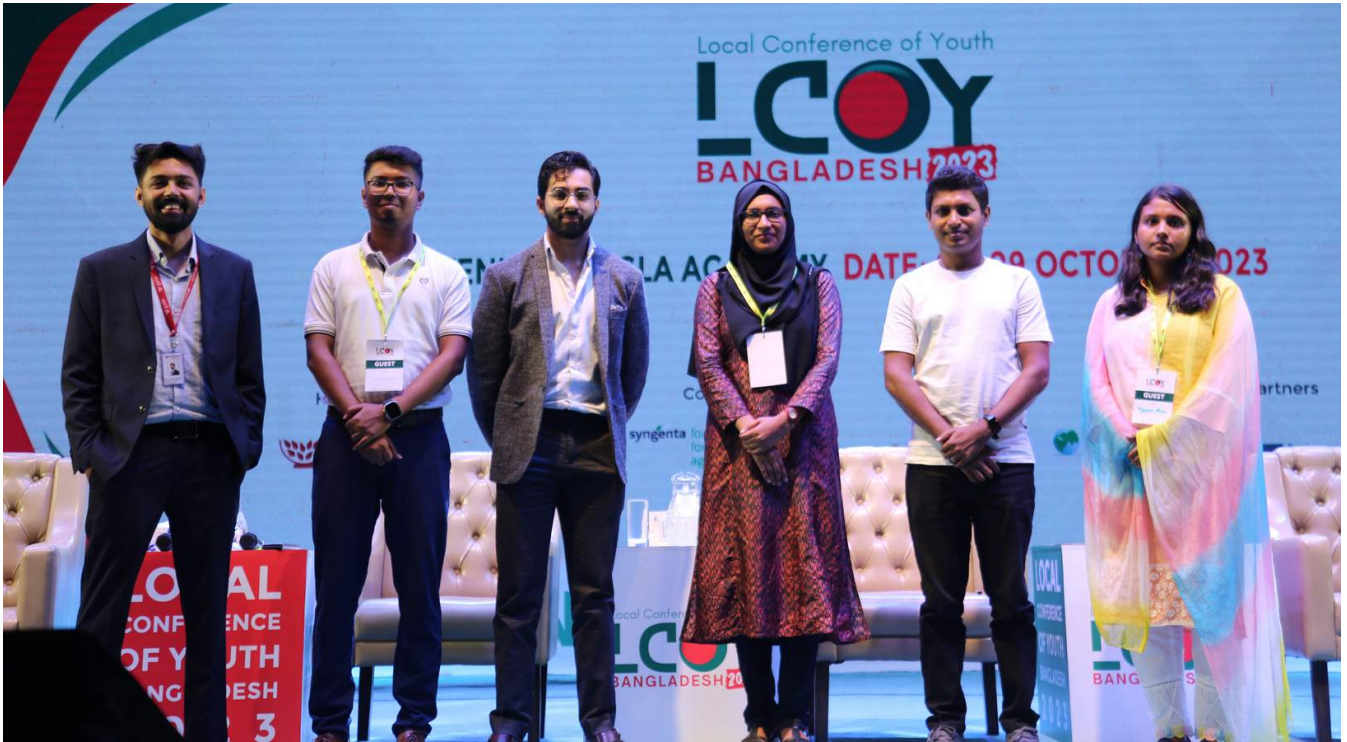
PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT



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Local Conference of Youth

LCOY

BANGLADESH 2023

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