

Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Japan 2022 Concept Note



Green Japan: Co-Designing a Shared Future with Youth

October 2022



Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF) Tokyo

Partner Organizations



United Nations International Federation of Youth for Climate and Water (UNIFY)

YOUNGO (Children and Youth Constituency to UNFCCC)

[Young Professionals in Foreign Policy \(YFPF\) Tokyo](#) is pleased to announce our official United Nations endorsement to organize and host a [Local Conference of Youth \(LCOY\)](#) for Japan, leading up to COP27. Our LCOY aims to provide a platform for youth and communities of all ages to engage with experts, young changemakers, and stakeholders. Participants and partners can showcase best practices, new initiatives, and establish guiding principles for sustained, inclusive, and localized action for climate and SDGs. After LCOY, we hope to provide transformative partnerships, knowledge-sharing, and opportunities for collective action in Japan.

The UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY) is an event under the banner of YOUNGO – The Official Youth Constituency of the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#). This conference precedes and contributes to the annual UN Climate Change Conference, also known as Conference of the Parties (COP), which will be held between [6-18 November in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt](#). COY serves as a space for capacity building and policy training, in order to prepare young people for their participation at COP.¹

YFPF Tokyo's LCOY PROGRAMMING

YFPF Tokyo will convene Japan's LCOY programming during the week of 22-30 October 2022. Participants are invited to join our digital and hybrid events to learn more about climate change and sustainability issues in Japan. YFPF Tokyo programming includes:

- Keynote Speakers embodying the virtues and strengths of our theme of *Green Japan*;
- Panel discussions that provide an overview of key challenges, gaps, and areas of opportunity for youth action related to climate and the SDGs;
- A platform for youth voices on critical action areas and deliverables in policy-making;
- A youth workshop for pre-registered delegates to engage in knowledge-sharing, networking, and scenario-based challenges, which will inform COY17 and COP27 and provide future avenues of opportunity for youth stakeholders;

Call for Partnerships and Side-Event Proposals

YFPF Tokyo calls for Partnership and Side-Event session proposals from individuals and organizations from public, private, and civil society spaces to present key insights, initiatives, and expertise and engage with a wider audience of youth and community stakeholders. Please submit your Side-event proposal and contact details by 2 October 2022.

For more information on hosting a Side-Event at the LCOY, please contact: Tristan Norman, YFPF Tokyo Programs Officer and focal point for the LCOY Steering Committee (tristan.norman@ypfp.org).

For more information about Partnership, please contact Lauren Power, YFPF Tokyo Managing Director (lauren.power@ypfp.org).

¹ <https://www.lcoy.earth/about-coy>

About “Green Japan: Co-Designing a Shared Future with Youth”

The climate crisis is the greatest challenge facing current and future generations. It is transforming every aspect of our social, political, health, and economic systems, requiring renewed focus on resilience, adaptation, and youth decision-making. The initial shock of the COVID-19 pandemic served as a litmus test to gauge the strength and resilience of multilateral institutions, multi-stakeholder models, and long-term perspective-taking, in Japan and beyond. Recent indicators suggest that the Asia-Pacific region may take until 2065 to achieve the 2030 SDGs targets, with significant regression in coordinated climate action, SDG 13, across the region.² In the midst of these challenges, there are significant opportunities for youth input and agency to design a future we all want and need.

As we continue on the road to COP27 and COY17 in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, in November 2022, the case for integrating sustainable, coordinated, and ambitious actions is needed now more than ever to reach the targets of both the 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. COP26, in Glasgow, saw significant progress in net zero carbon commitments and ambitious climate pledges; however, more concerted action is needed to bridge these gaps. More integrative, inclusive, and revitalized approaches are needed to build back better and leave no one behind. Regarding this, Japan has become a compelling model for sustainability and net-zero carbon ambitions, with initiatives ranging from revitalized eco-communities and sustainability startups to municipal de-carbonization plans and the growth of ESG markets for the private sector. Momentum is gaining for whole-of-society approaches that deliver a greater quality of life in Japan for all stakeholders, especially young people.

The recent conclusion of the *UN Third Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, held on July 20-21st in Tokyo, highlighted the need for an integrated approach to greater capacity-building, transformative cross-sectoral partnerships, and inclusive policy-making in Japan and beyond.³ However, the role of youth in achieving this outcome remains unclear. Revitalized actions must be inclusive, resilient, systemic, localized, and youth-focused. Additionally, they must be dynamic and comprehensive, binding together progress in climate action, the SDGs, and youth dreams for the future. Japanese youth and changemakers are essential in channeling these ambitions into localized and inclusive actions in towns, cities, and prefectures across Japan. The time for youth agency and action is now.

[YPFP Tokyo's](#) 2022 Japan LCOY aims to provide a nexus for sustained ideation, dialogue, and action on climate change and the SDGs, with the following goals and deliverables:

1. Create and provide inputs for a knowledge-sharing toolkit for Japanese youth interested in and engaging in climate action with materials provided by our key stakeholders and partners.
2. Provide a foundation for peer-to-peer networking and exchange amongst Japanese youth organizations to coordinate shared dialogue, goals and visions.

² <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2022>

³ <https://www.un.org/en/climate-sdgs-conference-2022>

3. Establish a centralized hub for youth decision-making and action regarding climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals in Japan.
4. Facilitate a nexus for cross-sectoral dialogues, transformative partnerships, and collaboration.
5. Collection of youth and community public opinion on key issues related to the climate crisis and sustainable development in Japan.
6. Showcase best practices, guidelines, and principles in the public, private, and civil sectors to better inform youth changemakers and communities on the SDGs and climate.
7. Provide a mechanism and platform for greater Japanese youth involvement in climate and international processes, including G7, G20, ECOSOC Youth forum, COP, and COY.
8. A formal policy document and recommendations to be sent as an input document to the COY, YOUNGO, and other affiliated institutions.

We hope you will join us in this endeavor for a more empowered youth and more sustainable future for Japan and our global community!

Sincerely,

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To find out more about YPFP Tokyo or to learn how you can become a member, please visit our [website](#) or contact our Membership Director, Xin Qing, at xin.qing@ypfp.org.