



2023 International Conference on Human Rights: Youth in Asia (ICHR)

Co-conveners: [Young Professionals in Foreign Policy \(YFPF\) Tokyo](#) & [Graduate Program on Human Security \(HSP\), The University of Tokyo \(UoT\)](#)

Tokyo, Japan (Hybrid)
March 2023

Background

Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, Human Rights have been widely regarded as fundamental to human beings' ability to survive and thrive. It soon became an obligation for state parties to offer sufficient human rights protections for their people. Despite the existing obligation, it has proven difficult to protect human rights of all peoples across the world. 70 years have passed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and challenges to human rights continue to this day. From discrimination to state repression, the sources of disputes and obstacles hindering human rights development range from individuals to authorities. Even worse, the [rising tension](#)¹ in the international stage in recent years has brought an unprecedented threat to human rights and their protections across borders. At [YFPF Tokyo](#) and [HSP](#), we believe that Human Rights must be understood and protected as the foundation for global governance and support the education and involvement of youth in sustaining and constructing human rights agenda for the future.

Additionally, there is a [stereotype](#)² that the concept of human rights originated in the West and, thus, only adoptable in Western societies. Historically, when human rights discussions have taken place, many of them have been held outside of the Asian region and without a focus on Asian societies and issues. Therefore, the conference that we are seeking to hold is to be a frontier in providing a place for youth to discuss human rights issues in Asia, and to be a nexus for Japanese, Asian and global young scholars, and students to communicate about the issue. It is also to bring human rights issues closer to the Asian public, and hence to encourage participants to ponder the future of human rights promotion.

Purpose

This conference proposes to offer an international, intergeneration, and inclusive opportunity for young scholars to engage with human rights issues in the contemporary world. Aside from submission and academic qualities, we are equally emphasizing and encouraging young people to express and discuss human rights issues with others, and hence to cultivate a sense of involvement in the collective process of human rights development.

¹ UN-OHCHR, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/speeches/2022/03/global-update-bachelet-urges-inclusion-combat-sharply-escalating-misery-and-fear>

² IPI Global Observatory, <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2018/10/are-human-rights-a-western-concept/>

Moreover, having Tokyo as our location for the conference, young students and scholars who are living or interested in human rights issues in Asia now have a close venue and opportunity to share their thoughts. They are more encouraged than ever to discuss the human rights issues that surround them, especially in the Asian context.

Event Details:

- The event is planned to be held in Mid-March 2023 in Tokyo in a hybrid format.
- Paper Submission and Presentation will be opened to applicants around the world, particularly the students and young scholars who are interested in the human rights agenda. Accepted submissions will be offered an opportunity to deliver a presentation during the conference either in-person or online.

Thematic Areas:

- Censorship and the Right to Express
- Democracy in Danger: Fake news, echo chamber and polarization
- Exertion of Political Rights in Facing State Repression
- Women and Reproductive Rights
- Labour Rights and Overworking
- LGBTQ+ rights in Japan and Asia
- Inclusive Education in Japan and Asia
- Health Rights with COVID19 across Japan and Asia
- Inclusion of Youth in Human Rights