

Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Japan 2023 Concept Note



LCOY 2023: Finding Your Voice for a Greener Future

September to October, 2023



Co-conveners: Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF) Tokyo

Climate Youth Japan (CYJ)

Partner Organization



YOUNGO (Children and Youth Constituency to UNFCCC)

[Young Professionals in Foreign Policy \(YFPF\) Tokyo](#) and [Climate Youth Japan \(CYJ\)](#) are pleased to announce our official United Nations endorsement to organize and host a [Local Conference of Youth \(LCOY\)](#) for Japan, leading up to COP28. Our LCOY aims to provide a platform for youth and communities of all ages to engage with NPOs, policy makers, businesses and academic researchers. 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 [30 November and 12 December in Dubai, United Arab Emirates \(U.A.E\)](#) in 2023. COY serves as a space for capacity building and policy training, in order to prepare young people for their participation at COP.

YFPF Tokyo and CYJ’s LCOY Programming

YFPF Tokyo and CYJ will co-convene Japan’s LCOY programming on two weekends; 23-24 September and 30 September-1 October 2023. Participants are invited to join our in-person and hybrid events to learn more about climate change and think about their potential future career in Japan. YFPF Tokyo and CYJ programming includes:

- Unique activities to learn about global social issues including hunger and inequalities, by personalizing them;
- Speakers from NPO, national and local governments, business, academia to deepen understandings of what each sectors do on tackling climate change;
- Panel discussions that provide better understanding of actions taken on climate change by national governments and member states. Particularly, how local actions are spread globally;
- 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 COY18 and COP28 and provide future avenues of opportunity for youth stakeholders.

About “LCOY 2023: Finding Your Voice for a Greener Future”

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. In a world beset by polycrisis and disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia-Ukraine war, and climate

disruption, cooperative action is needed now more than ever to rescue sustainable development and align priorities towards a just, sustainable future. In the midst of these challenges, there are significant opportunities for youth input and agency to design a future we all want and need. However, while there is significant awareness of the need for climate action amongst youth globally, there remains a lack of critical engagement on climate change among Japanese youth¹ as well as clear pathways towards capacity-building, green skills, and access to sustainability professions. The OECD has stated that a significant green skills shortage across OECD countries is holding back growth in sustainable development jobs and could jeopardize the race to reach net zero by 2050.² For a more sustainable and resilient future, young people need to be given the capacity to bridge the Green Divide.

As we continue on the road to COP28 and COY18 in Dubai, U.A.E, in November and December 2023, 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. COP27, showed the world the critical need for climate finance, loss and damages, and climate adaptation. However, for youth to be fully integrated as agents of change, they need proper investment in their skills, capacities, and perspective-building. Regarding this, Japan has much to offer Japanese youth as 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. These exist as many pathways for youth to strengthen their climate and sustainability skill set and toolkit as well as engage in quality employment. 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 Fourth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, was held on July 16 in NYC, highlighted the need for strengthening multi-stakeholder cooperation, integration of just transitions, and renewed leadership and political commitment.³ However, such actions would require revitalizing local contexts and capacity-building towards inclusive sustainable action. In Japan, revitalized actions must be inclusive, resilient, systemic, localized, and youth-focused, so as to be truly sustainable in the long-term. Japanese youth are essential in channeling these ambitions into localized and inclusive actions in towns, cities, and prefectures across Japan. The time for youth agency, green skilling, and action is now.

YPFP Tokyo and Climate Youth Japan's 2023 LCOY Japan aims to provide a nexus for sustained ideation, dialogue, and action on climate change and bridging the green divide, with the following goals and deliverables:

¹ Nakagawa, S. (2023, May 25). *Global Survey on Climate Anxiety among youth* | Dentsu Institute. 電通総研. Retrieved July 24, 2023, from <https://institute.dentsu.com/en/articles/339/>

² OECD. (2023, March 14). *Action on jobs, skills and regional disparities vital for the green transition, says OECD*. OECD. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/action-on-jobs-skills-and-regional-disparities-vital-for-the-green-transition.htm>

³ UNDESA. (2022, August 30). *Harnessing Climate and SDGs Synergies*. <https://www.un.org/en/climate-sdgs-conference-2023/page/global-conference-drives-integrated-action-climate-and-sustainable>

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.
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, Helix Lo, at helix.lo@ypfp.org.