



Call for Applications.

Organization to support indigenous youth empowerment grant program in Asia UNDP and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

Background

Indigenous youth are just like all the other young people in Asia: facing a time of key life transitions, uncertainty about the future and increasing personal freedom. In addition to navigating these new aspects of life, young people from indigenous communities face a range of unique social and cultural challenges. The global Covid-19 pandemic also creates additional challenges for indigenous youths in Asia. Along with the disruption to school and work, the added vulnerability of indigenous populations could leave young indigenous people in limbo. Supporting them to be agents of change by taking action to support their communities will foster civic engagement and empowerment.

Indigenous communities often live in remote locations with less access to health services, reliance on informal sector employment and poor connections, including limited internet access, which is being used globally to deal with many of the challenges associated with COVID-19 and human right violation.

Interviews with young indigenous people in eleven countries in South and Southeast Asia have identified impacts on health, education, and employment, but also increasing feelings of anxiety, violations of indigenous peoples' rights and discrimination. Through the Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP), a partnership of young people from 12 countries in Asia, these young people no longer want to be passive recipients, but to initiate actions that will help their communities and fellow youth to deal with the pandemic and human right violation in their communities.

Youth, Global Goals and UNDP in Asia and the Pacific

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the important role of youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs or Global Goals) and calls for action against the challenges faced by young people that limits their economic, social, and political inclusion. Today, young people are more connected, more creative, more informed, and more persuasive than any previous generation. Young people are responding to the challenges of the day with innovative approaches, contributing fresh ideas, creating the world they want, and driving human development for themselves, their communities, and their societies. But at the same time, approximately 300 million young people are either unemployed or underemployed^[1]. In other words, nearly half of the 700 million young people in the region face economic insecurity. In addition, many young people are left out of the decision-making process, which further contributes to their marginalization and exclusion.

Regional Youth Project on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Youth Co:Lab)

The Regional Youth Project on Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Youth Co:Lab) is UNDP's multidimensional and multi-level response to tackle the challenges of young people, including the most marginalized, face today in the Asia-Pacific region. Its main objective is to “establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Global Goals through social innovation and entrepreneurship”. Specifically, the project focuses on establishing a network to foster youth-led social entrepreneurship, supporting youth leadership initiatives, and providing grants for incubation financial mechanisms to fund youth-led programmes aimed at achieving the SDGs.

Business and Human Rights

Indigenous communities across Asia-Pacific are often adversely impacted by business activities. Indigenous youth are particularly vulnerable to human rights violations, because of their age and the intersectional nature of discrimination experienced by indigenous peoples. Because of land grabbing by development projects, and frequent migration to urban areas to seek out employment and educational opportunities, indigenous youth find themselves between their traditional values and those of wider community. B+HR Unit of UNDP wants to build capacity on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights among young indigenous entrepreneurs to enable them to better promote and protect the rights of their communities. They will be able to better understand their rights as well as their unique role in UNGPs implementation.

The UNGPs represent the main reference framework on BHR and consist of three pillars, outlining (1) the State duty to protect individuals and communities against adverse human rights impacts by business enterprises; (2) the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights; and (3) how States must, and non-State actors should provide access to effective remedies.

Indigenous Youth Platform in Asia – Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Youth Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The Regional Dialogue, organized by UNESCO, UNDP, and AIPP, will serve as one of the key activities for the Asia Indigenous Youth Platform to understand social entrepreneurship. It will bring together stakeholders from the social entrepreneurship ecosystem and indigenous communities, to identifying the best indigenous youth-led innovative and entrepreneurial solutions for preserving traditional knowledge in their communities, strengthen the regional coalition between partners in the space of indigenous community development and youth social entrepreneurship and build capacity about UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights among indigenous communities in the region. Participants were provided with a general overview of the business and human rights frameworks and the international standards that relate to the rights of IPs.

Partnership of AIPP and UNDP:

UNDP and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) have partnered to establish a small grants program that will enable young indigenous people to access small financial grants to facilitate their work. Depending on the scale of their projects, the grant recipients will receive fund from 2500 to 3500 USD to implement the project” Organization to support indigenous youth empowerment grant program in Asia” of three months(July-September 2021).

Specific Objectives

The objectives of the program are:

1. Recognize indigenous young people as active agents for social change, economic development, and technological innovation.
2. Engage indigenous young people as experts and innovators on matters affecting their lives to curate novel ideas and prototypes addressing them; and
3. Create a platform for supporting young indigenous innovators to receive resources to improve their impact on human rights, especially in the context of business operations.

Scope of the work:

The proposed activities will focus on strengthening bottom-up solutions on issues and barriers regarding indigenous community development, especially for young indigenous people in Asia, as well as building engagement to address such issues with a focus on exploring the use of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Specific focus will be given to how indigenous entrepreneurs can actively contribute to the protection and promotion of the human rights of IPs in the context of business operations. Partners to be engaged will include in particular the public sector, academics, private sector, youth organizations and other stakeholders relevant to the identified indigenous communities.

Basic Criteria for Projects

At the very minimum, the projects proposed should meet the following criteria:

- Provide practical and effective solutions to addressing the needs and challenges and indigenous youth and/or communities as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic and human right violation, in the areas of education, land grabbing, health, access to information and technology, entrepreneurship/employment, and livelihoods(documentation such as report and video on human right violation or on other issues)
- Be led and/or managed by member organizations of Asia Indigenous Youth Platform or associated with a work of Asia Indigenous Youth Platform or associated with the work of **UNDP Youth Co:Lab** . The youth organizations must be based in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India(Northeast India and Mainland India including Kerala) , Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, or Vietnam.
- Minimum 2 capacity development activities such as webinar, mentoring, technical course on different thematic issues(Entrepreneurship and human rights)should be included in the grantees' proposal.
- Need to mention timeline in the proposal that grantees will be able to complete within three months(**July-September 2021**)

Criteria for Applicants

The individuals' organizations are encouraged to apply for the grants. At the very minimum, the organizations should meet the following criteria:

- Must be a member organization of Asia indigenous youth platform or associated with a work of Asia Indigenous Youth Platform or associated with the work of UNDP Youth Co:lab.
- Must be working in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Experience working with communities and community development/engagement.
- Must have at least 1 year experience successfully managing project and initiatives that address issues facing indigenous youth.
- Must be able to effectively communicate in the national language of the country they are working in, but also the language of the communities they wish to support.
- Must have proven experience managing funds.
- Experience with volunteer management/coordination and fundraising desired, but not required.
- Experience working with international NGOs and/or UN desired, but not required.

Selection Process for Grant Applications

The applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. The selection committee is comprised of representatives from AIPP, UNDP and AIYP.

Submission of the proposal:

Applicants will prepare the proposal in the attached template and submit to AIPP via these emails: 1. charu@aippnet.org, 2. adrian@aippnet.org by no later than 14 June 2021.