

The Third ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity 2020
Global Youth Biodiversity Network Southeast Asia
4 July 2021

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Good morning, good afternoon and good evening distinguished delegates and guests of the third ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity 2020,

Today, I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network Southeast Asia.

The last year has been a challenge to combat the extinction crisis globally and regionally. However, this challenge also presented an opportunity to create a transformational pathway towards a life in harmony with nature if we are committed to it.

Despite the difficulties caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network continues to bring together and amplify youth voices for biodiversity. Young people all over the world continue to act, contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Targets, and to the development, outreach, and awareness of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Our #StopTheSame campaign articulates clearly that we will no longer settle for business-as-usual actions, and has highlighted the need to involve young people in biodiversity decision-making processes and implementation.

We identify education as a key enabler for change toward sustainability. Our current education systems still do not sufficiently highlight our connectedness to nature, behavior change, and relational values which are needed to address the root causes of biodiversity loss. A transformative education system that fosters a society that understands our place in the web of life will steer us towards a peaceful and equitable future, and this must be recognized in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Furthermore, we recognize that current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption are deeply rooted in systemic social inequalities and an unwillingness to question values and priorities which are not compatible with the vision we aim to achieve. This is why we need to stop the same economic system that seeks infinite growth, and exploits our finite resources. Stop the same injustices and violations against social and environmental rights of marginalised communities. We call for the post-2020 framework to be ambitious in addressing root causes and take a rights-based approach.

Hope to turn this crisis around does not just rely on words spoken today, but actual transformative change on the ground.

The ASEAN is a strong community that is not only bounded by our diverse culture but by the riches of our nature. And we have an opportunity to be a model for the world.

Let us not waste this chance to make our world a better place, not just for us but for future generations from whom we borrow the Earth.