



**FORESTS  
ASIA**  
SUMMIT  
2014

# Youth in Southeast Asia's Forests

Special session at  
the Forests Asia  
Summit

May 5, 2014  
Jakarta, Indonesia



[forestsasia.org/youth](http://forestsasia.org/youth)

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RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Forests, Trees and  
Agroforestry



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# 1 Executive summary

The Asia and Pacific region is home to over 45% (700 million) of the world's young people as well as great social and economic dynamism and tremendous opportunities.

Nevertheless, significant numbers of youth across the region face a variety of obstacles in their access to employment, education, healthcare and other resources. While national youth policies have been developed and implemented in several countries across the region, youth still often remain at the margins of participation in policy and research efforts across the forestry and development sectors, often due to cultural barriers.

Young people can be powerful agents of change, using innovative solutions and means to propagate messages and promote economic and social advancement.

For these reasons, at the Forests Asia Summit on Monday 5 May 2014, we brought together 120 of the brightest minds from across Southeast Asia to identify new ways of tackling the region's major forestry and development challenges and to identify the role youth could play driving such solutions forward (Section 3).

From over 60 applications, five young people were selected to each lead a discussion focused on one of the Summit's themes: governance, investment, climate change, food security and equitable development (Section 2).

Over a period of five weeks prior to the event, youth moderators took part in a mentorship program with young CIFOR scientists to develop and refine their discussion aims and objectives, and an expert facilitator to decide on a moderation technique that would help achieve the aims of their discussion (Annex 1).

The youth session was very lively and generated a set of clear and feasible recommendations for youth empowerment and involvement (Section 4, Annex 5) that were circulated to all session participants and incorporated into the Summit's outcome document. Concrete steps should be taken to ensure these recommendations are operationalized (Section 5).



*"I have gained a lot of valuable experiences from the connections I made with the youth session organizers, professional participants, moderators, youth participants and the social media team."*

Jan Joseph Dida, youth moderator

<http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/moving-river-life-experiences-youth-moderator/>

Extensive interviews following the session showed a significant uptake of new skills and knowledge amongst both moderators and participants (Annex 4). Feedback indicated a need to also offer these capacity building opportunities to session participants, perhaps with dedicated skill sessions at the next youth session.

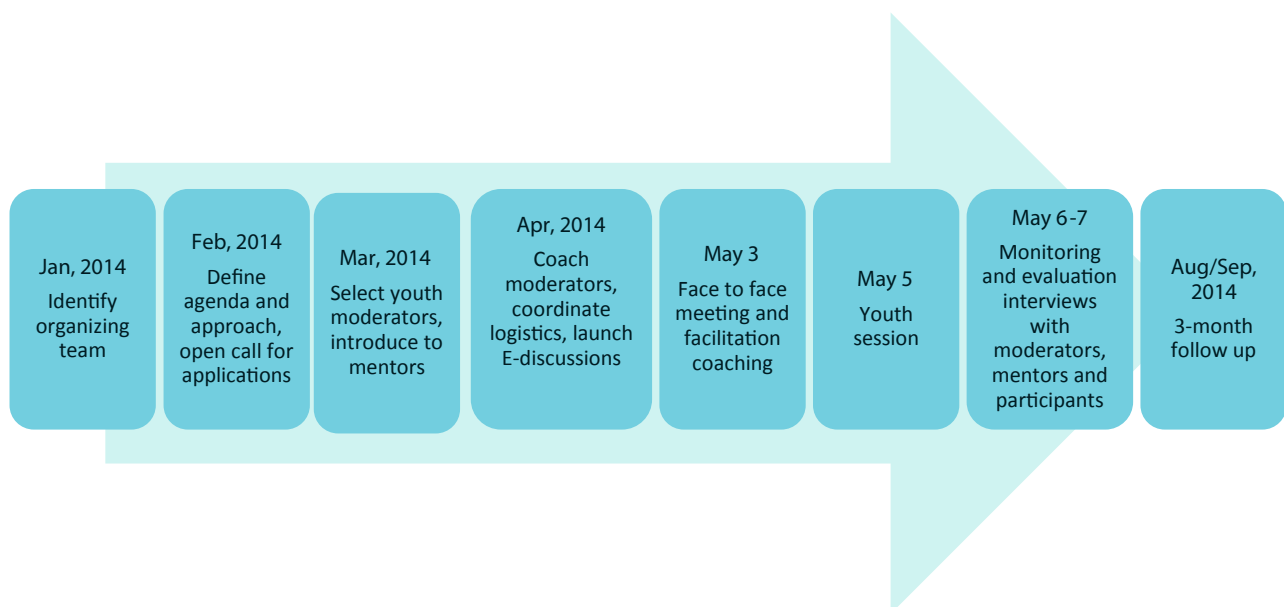
There were pleasing signs that young people were considered integral to the Forests Asia Summit: the presence of a youth MC, youth representation in the closing plenary, and recommendations being mentioned by high level moderators at the second day of the Summit. However, more could be done to ensure young people are encouraged as panellists and panel organizers for topics where youth issues are of key relevance (e.g. education, employment, policy etc).

Organizers of the second Global Landscapes Forum at COP20 in Lima have already indicated their commitment to youth involvement. This report's recommendations (Section 5) intend to inform development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to empower and equip youth with the voice and skills to effectively contribute to key strategic discussions and ultimately to a sustainable future.

## 2 Process and methodology

The youth session at Forests Asia was conceived in the wake of the success of the special [youth session at the Global Landscapes Forum in Warsaw, 2013](#) - where 10 young professionals from across the world shared their experiences on the challenges and successes in implementing an integrated approach to natural resource management. While the session was widely praised as one of the most dynamic sessions, participants recommended that future events apply a more participatory approach.

In light of this feedback, the youth session at Forests Asia was designed to facilitate discussion and debate around the [5 themes of the Forests Asia Summit](#): climate change, equitable development, investment, food security and governance. To ensure that the youth session was relevant to the rest of the Summit agenda, youth session discussions were informed by and intended to feed into five policy briefs developed by Summit organizers as part of a multi-stakeholder consultation process.



**Figure 1: Timeline of activities related to the youth session**

A competitive application process saw 5 young people from, or with experience working in, Southeast Asia selected to facilitate the discussions. We created two capacity building processes to assist youth moderators develop and refine their discussion topics (more on the role of mentors in Annex 1). These two processes include scientific mentoring and facilitation mentoring.

**Scientific mentoring:** In late March, youth moderators were paired with a young scientist from CIFOR with a background in their discussion theme (e.g. moderator of the climate discussion was paired with a climate scientist). Mentors played an important role in helping youth moderators define the key objectives and outcomes of their discussion and ensuring these were closely related to the aforementioned policy briefs.

Topic	Youth moderator	Mentor	Aim/s	Facilitation method <small>(read more: <a href="http://www.kstoolkit.org/">http://www.kstoolkit.org/</a>)</small>
<b>Governance</b>	Yi Ying Teh	Bayu Shantiko	<p>To come up with concrete ways in which young people can encourage or pressure key actors to improve forest governance</p> <p>To identify the skills and capacity of youth, and how we can utilize these to play a role in governance and policy discussions</p> <p>To present key, actionable recommendations to stakeholders and policy makers</p>	World cafe
<b>Climate</b>	Jaime Webbe	Bimo Dwisatrio	To develop recommendations on how youth can be mobilized and supported to acquire the skills needed to build careers in climate change and REDD+.	Knowledge expedition
<b>Equitable development</b>	Aristia Hady Wanjaya	Annie Yang and Shintia Arwida	To develop recommendations from youth in ensuring forest protection and equitable benefit for local communities in Southeast Asia's forests.	World cafe
<b>Food security</b>	Jan Joseph Dida	Samson Kofi Foli	<p>To develop youth-oriented solutions that address the issues of food security, particularly access to food and poverty. At the end of the discussion, the participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the sources of forest food and promotion of forest food from the past to present</li> <li>Determine concrete actions to improve forest food access</li> </ul>	River of life
<b>Investment</b>	Luke Pritchard	Sophia Gnych	To explore the green investment topics that are most important to youth in the region, and then devise ways that we, as youth, can organize to better influence green investment processes.	World cafe

**E-discussions:** Once youth moderators and mentors had decided on the general focus of their discussion, they were asked to develop and lead online discussions to scope the general response of the online audience to their chosen topic. By responding to over 120 comments and posing strategic questions to generate further discussions, moderators were able to test and refine their ideas for the most stimulating discussion topics.

**Facilitation mentoring:** CIFOR's knowledge sharing officer, Vanda Santos, helped youth moderators and mentors to choose a facilitation technique that would support the achievement of their discussion objectives. Two days prior to the event, we ran a half-day facilitation skills coaching session for youth moderators and their mentors, which was very well received.

**Preparing participants:** All participants chose their discussion groups a week prior to the event and were sent a one page discussion brief (Annex 2) which covered the aims, background, key questions, and further reading, and included a list of discussion participants.

**Networking opportunity:** Involving not only youth but also older professionals interested in youth issues was a strategic decision by the organizing team. There are two reasons for this:

1. Young people often find it difficult and intimidating to connect with organisations and network with senior professionals. The youth session was an opportunity to encourage informal networking.
2. While young people often have innovative and creative ideas, it will be difficult to mainstream this thinking if older professionals do not support and operationalize these ideas. The session aimed to marry the energy and enthusiasm of youth with the experience and guidance of senior professionals to raise awareness and bring these two communities together in the hope of linking goals and action statements. Older people could benefit from the youth session by being pushed to have fresh perspectives and find new ways of explaining their ideas.

**M&E:** Straight after the session comprehensive semi structure interviews were conducted with moderators and mentors. Participants were asked to complete a feedback survey (Annex 4). Follow up interviews will be conducted in 3-months and will apply the Most Significant Change method. All responses will be kept anonymous in order to promote free discussion.

### Online discussions

L'Oreal, Nestlé (& other companies) are committing to zero deforestation...but where are the youth?  
[cifor.org/ydiscussion1](https://cifor.org/ydiscussion1)

What can young people do to encourage good governance of Southeast Asia's forests?  
[cifor.org/ydiscussion2](https://cifor.org/ydiscussion2)

How can youth promote the importance of SE Asia's forest foods?  
[cifor.org/ydiscussion3](https://cifor.org/ydiscussion3)

What skills do youth need for future climate change careers?  
[cifor.org/ydiscussion4](https://cifor.org/ydiscussion4)

How can youth work with local communities to achieve development outcomes?  
[cifor.org/ydiscussion5](https://cifor.org/ydiscussion5)

### 3 Agenda and participants

The event took place on the evening of the first day of the Forests Asia Summit, Monday 5 May, at the Shangri-La hotel.

<b>19:00 - 19:20</b>	<b>Introduction</b> By inspiring youth leader, <i>Andhyta Utami</i> <a href="http://cifor.org/y Moderator1">cifor.org/y Moderator1</a> MC: Sarah Dickson-Hoyle (IFSA)
<b>19:20 - 19:40</b>	<b>Dinner break</b>
<b>19:40 - 20:40</b>	<b>Discussions</b>
<b>20:40 - 21:10</b>	<b>Presentations from each discussion</b>

Over 300 people registered to attend the youth session but only 120 could be accommodated due to space and programmatic limitations. The participant selection process involved assessing their answers to 3 short questions and preference for discussion theme.

Despite the late timing, the event was well attended by both youth and older professionals interested in youth issues. Approximately 80% of the participants were from Indonesia, highlighting the difficulty for young people in the ASEAN region to obtain funding to attend the conference. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of on-site participants by sector.

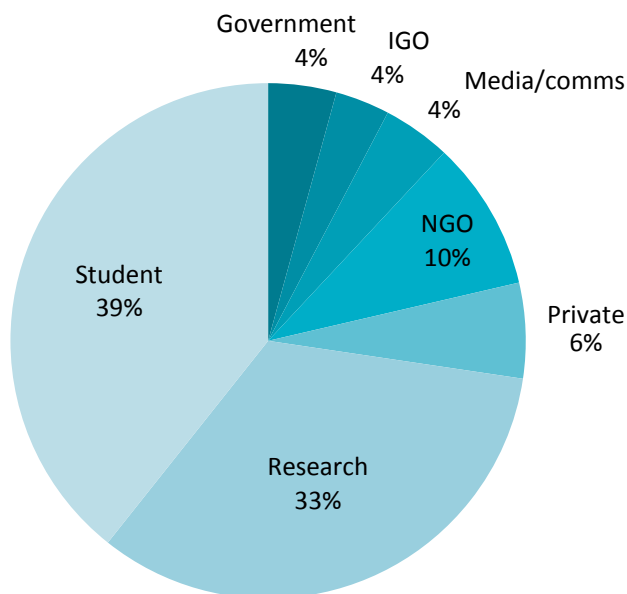


Figure 2: Youth session participant (n = 117)

## 4 Outcomes

**Demonstrated knowledge and skills uptake:** Extensive follow up interviews with the youth moderators and opening speaker (Annex 4) showed a significant uptake of new skills and knowledge e.g. blogging, facilitation, event organization, logistics, social media etc. Moderators expressed a keenness to apply what they learned, with several naming concrete local level initiatives in which they could apply techniques and methods learned. Likewise, 95% of participants who completed the evaluation survey found the session relevant and useful to their job (Annex 3).

**Recommendations:** The youth session was very lively and generated a set of clear and feasible recommendations for youth empowerment and involvement (see Annex 5 for the full set of recommendations).

Key recommendations emanating from the discussions were sent to all high level moderators at the second day of the Summit for them to bring up as discussion points in the panel discussions. Recommendations were also presented by Sarah Dickson-Hoyle, IFSA (co-organizer of the youth session) in the Summit's closing plenary: <http://t.co/cvDW25f7IR> (53:55 mins). The speech was eloquent and the feedback from the audience was very positive. High level speakers also acknowledged the need to integrate youth across sessions/panels in future events

At the conclusion of the Summit, recommendations were circulated to all youth session participants and incorporated into the official outcome statement.

**Youth involved in Summit program:** Yi Ying Teh, moderator of the governance discussion, was invited by the Summit organizers to MC the second day's program. She shares her experiences in a wrap up blogpost: <http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/say-significance-voices-youth-forests-asia-summit/>



*"Being an MC at the Forests Asia Summit was huge because...the Summit physically presented youth and adults as equals, sharing a space to co-produce ideas for the future. While youth usually appear on the sidelines of events...the youth voice was significantly louder at the Forests Asia Summit because youth were integrated into the agenda."*

Yi Ying Teh, youth moderator from Singapore

**MoU between research and student association:**

Immediately prior to the youth session, CIFOR's Director General, Peter Holmgren, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), aiming to facilitate the sharing of knowledge generated by CIFOR and its partners and facilitate the engagement and participation of IFSA students in learning about and participating in CIFOR's activities and networks.

**Increased awareness of youth initiatives and networking opportunities:**

Many participants were unaware of existing youth networks such as YPARD – The international network of Young Professionals for Agricultural Development and the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA). YPARD received interest from Bogor Agricultural University students to start an Indonesia chapter and discussed future collaboration with a network of young agricultural researchers in Australia (RAID). YPARD and IFSA have also built a strong base for future collaboration.

## 5 Lessons learned and next steps

1. **A separate youth session or integration?** This was discussed by youth moderators and their mentors in a world cafe training exercise before the Summit (full discussion notes in Annex 6). There are fears that relegating youth to a separate session condemns them to continued marginalization unless appropriate steps are taken to also integrate young people into the rest of the conference program. While there were pleasing signs that youth were considered integral to the Forests Asia Summit, more could be done to ensure young people are encouraged as panellists and panel organizers for topics where youth issues are of key relevance (e.g. education, employment etc).

*Next steps:* Alongside continued youth sessions, improve representation of young people in conference core sessions, as panellists, panel organizers, MCs etc.

2. **More capacity building and networking opportunities for participants.** While youth sessions have gone a long way towards raising awareness of the importance of removing barriers to youth participation in events, we now need to ensure we determine and equip young people with the skills and opportunities they need to succeed. Our capacity building efforts for youth moderators was a successful endeavour but future activities should look to how this can be applied to the many valuable participants in the sessions themselves. This is cemented in feedback from participants: *“Would be great in future to link young participants to established people in relevant fields. This was a good idea for the moderators, perhaps there are others who could act as mentors for interested participants, or other ways to link youth participants with those more established.”*

*Next steps:* Identify opportunities for capacity building activities (media training, budgeting, marketing, facilitation, advocacy, leadership, negotiation, communications with policy makers etc) during the session. To ensure young people and interested professionals have the opportunity to meet and develop contacts, create a youth meeting point, such as joint IFSA-YPARD booth. Interested professionals could pledge support to specific youth activities and these could be displayed/projected at the booth and on social media.

3. **Ensure appropriate timing.** Timing of the youth session was a big problem. The session ran far too late and people were too tired to pay attention to the closing remarks. Because of the late timing, participants did not have time/energy to complete the evaluation form. This significantly hampered our response rate. The timing for discussions received mixed feedback, with some participants commenting that short timing forces creativity and brevity while others said that more time was needed for sufficiently deep discussions.

*Next steps:* Examine the timing of the next youth session - especially if capacity building is planning to be built into the session. Recommended start around 10am, with time at the end of the session for participants to complete the evaluation form. Think about format of closing remarks, perhaps more interesting as a discussion panel so the group moderators had a chance to explain some of their group's discussion rather than just list a few dot-points.

4. **Implementing recommendations.** While recommendations that were generated by the session represent important affirmations of challenges and opportunities facing youth in the region, they were still rather general. There are several reasons for this:
  - The timing constraints of the session not only limited the extent and depth of discussions but also reflection on discussion outcomes that could have cemented the creative ideas into specific outcomes.

- Most of the policy briefs were received rather late so moderators only fine-tuned their topics at the last minute.

It's also important to ensure we define a clear process for action and implementation of session recommendations.

*Next steps:* Follow-up on the achievements and recommendations of the youth session in order to ensure the implementation of these at different levels. Some ideas of how this could be achieved at future events include:

- Each youth involved in the program should commit to bringing the outcomes of discussions to their own organizations and brainstorming ways in which actions could be implemented. This could be part of a youth leaders program/network, facilitated by YPARD and IFSA.
- Ensure that organizers designate a section of the website for people to share their thoughts and experiences following the session
- Share recommendations with stakeholders who have the mandate and resources to carry them forward e.g. universities, ASEAN youth networks etc)
- Follow up with more senior and/or professional participants to discuss ways in which they/their organisations could work with and support youth in implementing recommendations

5. **Encourage geographic and sectoral diversity of participants.** The participants were largely Indonesian, as many young people from outside Indonesia had difficulty in funding their travel to the conference. In some cases this skewed the discussions to a national rather than regional focus.

*Next steps:* Explore the idea of travel bursaries or sponsorship opportunities. Encourage organizations to support their young people to attend, perhaps by tailoring the session as more of a professional development opportunity.

## 6 Budget

Description	Vol	Day	Amount	Tax	Sub total IDR	USD
Youth Speakers (Hotel at Grand Sahid Jaya Hotel, 5-7 May)	6	6	1,270,500.00		45,738,000.00	3,977.22
Youth Flights (Economy)	3	1	5,000,000.00		15,000,000.00	1,304.35
Per Diem	6	1	2,000,000.00		12,000,000.00	1,043.48
Youth Session light dinner (5 May)	150	1	250,000.00	302,500.00	45,375,000.00	3,945.65
Facilitation training	1	3	6,000,000.00		18,000,000.00	1,565.22
Airport transfers	8	2	360,000.00		5,760,000.00	500.87
<b>Total</b>					<b>141,873,000.00</b>	<b>12,336.78</b>

# Annex 1: Sample guidelines for moderators and mentors

Congratulations on being selected as a youth moderator at the Forests Asia Summit!

This document outlines the process involved in being a moderator and developing your discussion topic over the next month.

In order to come up with concrete, action-oriented solutions, each roundtable discussion will focus on a pre-identified 'discussion topic.' Your task will be to develop and refine this topic, along with the help of your 2 mentors:



**Bimo Dwisatrio**  
([b.dwisatrio@cgiar.org](mailto:b.dwisatrio@cgiar.org))

Bimo is a Research Assistant on CIFOR's Global Comparative Study on REDD+. His key expertise is text data analysis using qualitative software and collaborative ethnography to analyze policy networks and local existing knowledge of changing climates. Bimo holds a bachelor degree in Anthropology from University of Indonesia.



**Michelle Kovacevic**  
([m.kovacevic@cgiar.org](mailto:m.kovacevic@cgiar.org))

Michelle is a science communicator with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) based in Bogor, Indonesia. She coordinates the knowledge-sharing website ForestsClimateChange.org and coordinates CIFOR's capacity building in communications program. She has experience communicating science across many platforms including social media, print, radio, presenting (to students, policymakers and practitioners) in corporate, academic and non profit settings. Michelle holds an honours degree in neuroscience and a diploma in Indonesian from the University Of Melbourne.

## Key dates for your calendar:

**March 31:** Send us a blogpost introducing yourself and start your diary

**April 4:** We will send you a policy brief on your discussion topic

**Week of April 7:** Speak with your mentor

**Week of April 14:** Webinar to help you choose your facilitation technique and start of online discussions

**23 April:** Send us a one-page description of your discussion topic that can be shared with participants

**2 May:** Youth moderators travel to Jakarta

**3-4 May:** Social media training

**5 May:** Youth session

**7 May:** Monitoring and evaluation session (moderators travel home that evening or next day).

**Logistics:** CIFOR will arrange your accommodation and airport transfers. Erisa ([erisa@cgiar.org](mailto:erisa@cgiar.org)) will be in touch with you soon to ask you for further information.

**March 31:  
Introductory  
blogpost and  
start your diary**

We're very excited to confirm your participation in the youth session, and we want everyone to know who you are!

By March 31, please send **Michelle** ([m.kovacevic@cgiar.org](mailto:m.kovacevic@cgiar.org)) a 500-600 word blogpost that tells your story – who you are, what you are interested in, why you applied for the summit, what you hope to learn, what is the biggest challenge you have faced as a youth working in Southeast Asia's forestry sector and how you have tried to overcome this challenge.

This blogpost will be published on the Forests Asia website ([www.forestsasiasia.org/youth](http://www.forestsasiasia.org/youth)) and possibly in several mainstream media outlets.

For tips about how to write a good blogpost, read this article: <http://www.blogtips.org/how-to-write-good-blogposts/>

We're also asking that youth moderators keep a weekly diary of their experiences and activities during April and May. Use your diary to record what you've learnt each week, what you have found difficult, interesting etc. We will collect your diary entries on 7 May and use these as part of our (confidential) monitoring and evaluation process.

**April 4:  
Policy brief**

We want this Youth Session be meaningful and have a real impact beyond the event. To do this, discussion topics need to be relevant to both the Summit themes and to youth participants.

On April 4, we will send you a CIFOR draft policy brief on [Climate change and low emissions development on the ground](#). Your discussion topic must relate to this policy brief in some way so please read it thoroughly before moving on to the next stage of the process.

**Week of April 7:  
Speak with your  
mentor**

To assist you in developing a relevant topic that can spark interesting and creative discussions and solutions, you have been assigned a "mentor" – a young scientist at CIFOR currently working on climate change. Your mentor is Bimo Dwisatrio. We will send a follow up email to introduce you to your mentor.

The role of your mentor is to:

- Help you define the key objectives and outcomes of your discussion
- Provide feedback on the outcomes of the stakeholder meeting and the main themes of the policy brief
- Provide guidance and advice on identifying and refining your discussion topic
- Participate in your roundtable discussion
- Assist you in summarizing the key outcomes from your discussion to feed into the Summit outcomes

After you have read the CIFOR policy brief, we ask that you set up a Skype meeting with your mentor **during the week beginning April 7**. During this call, your mentor will talk you through the main themes of your policy brief and help you identify the key objectives and outcomes of your discussion.

As the aim of the session is to identify youth-oriented solutions and highlight the potential role of youth in overcoming these challenges, your discussion topic could focus on:

- A topic touched on in the meeting/policy brief, where you feel youth perspectives and/or involvement could add value
- An issue or case study identified based on your own interests and experience (for example, your responses in your application), which is relevant and of interest to both your theme, and to youth in Southeast Asia
- An evaluation of existing policies and their effectiveness
- A topic/policy issue addressed in the meeting/policy brief, which you could further dissect or refine
- Identifying the gaps in research, policy or practice
- Or other creative ideas

Your mentor will continue to provide guidance for developing and refining your topic. During your first meeting, please discuss with your mentor their preferred availabilities and means of communication. You will also have a number of one-on-one meetings with Michelle who will provide feedback on your topic development.

**Week of April 14:  
Webinar to help  
you choose  
your facilitation  
technique and  
start of online  
discussions**

*Facilitation skills webinar*

Now that you have identified your aims and objectives with your mentor, it's time to talk about which facilitation technique will work best for your discussion. Perhaps it's the fishbowl, or peer assist or even a simolin circle.

No idea what these mean? Join us in the week of 14 April when we run a 2-hour webinar to find out what facilitation techniques exist, which one you should pick and how you implement it to help support the achievement of your objectives and outcomes. More information on the exact day and time to come soon.

*Blog post and online discussions*

Throughout April, you will be taking the discussions online to tap into the ideas and perspectives of youth around Southeast Asia and beyond.

By April 14, please send **Michelle** a blog post to stimulate discussions on the Forests Asia website. Your blogpost should be based around the general topic idea developed through your first discussion with your mentor, and set out a number of key questions to stimulate discussion.

Your task will be to moderate these online discussions to scope what youth see as the key issues, challenges, and opportunities related to your general topic. This will involve responding to comments and posing strategic questions to generate further discussions, and to build interest and excitement in the Youth Session. You will then draw on these to narrow down to a targeted and relevant topic to bring to the table.

**23 April:  
One-page  
description of  
your discussion  
topic that can  
be shared with  
participants**

One week before the youth session, we will be sending all participants some information on their chosen roundtable discussion so they can start thinking about key issues before the event.

Please work with your mentor on your one page description. It should include:

- The aims and objectives of your discussion
- Background about the topic
- Short description of the facilitation method
- Some key questions they could start thinking about.
- Further reading

**3-4 May:  
Social media  
training**

Youth moderators are given a free pass to participate in a social media training being organized by CIFOR directly prior to the Forests Asia Summit. See here for more information: <http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/join-forestsasia-social-media-team/>

**5 May:  
Youth session**

Check this page for updates: [www.forestsasia.org/youth](http://www.forestsasia.org/youth).

After what we are sure will be a very successful session, please work with your mentor to provide a one-page summary of the outcomes of your discussion and send to **Michelle** ([m.kovacevic@cgiar.org](mailto:m.kovacevic@cgiar.org)) to feed back into the formal conference process.

**7 May:  
Monitoring  
and evaluation  
session**

You will join the social reporters for a monitoring and evaluation session, analyzing your use of social media before, during and after the conference. We will also use this time to collect and discuss your diary entries from the previous month.

We're looking forward to working with you over the next 2 months and meeting you in person in early May! If you have any questions at all during the process, please do not hesitate to contact us!

## Annex 2: Sample discussion brief

These were sent to participants a few days before the youth session in order to get them thinking about their chosen discussion topic.

L'Oreal, Nestlé (& other companies) are committing to zero deforestation...but where are the youth?

Youth Session, Forests Asia Summit

19:00 – 21:10, Monday 5 May

Shangri-La Hotel, Jakarta

[www.forestsasiasia.org/youth](http://www.forestsasiasia.org/youth)

Hashtag for this discussion: #ForestsAsia #y2

You have been selected to join the investment discussion at the youth session.  
Please read this document (& further reading you can) prior to the youth session so we can be prepared for actionable recommendations!

If you have any questions or are not able to attend,  
please contact Michelle Kovacevic at [m.kovacevic@cgjar.org](mailto:m.kovacevic@cgjar.org)

### Aim of the discussion

To explore the green investment topics that are most important to youth in the region, and then devise ways that we, as youth, can organize to better influence green investment processes.

### The moderator

Read Luke Pritchard's story: <http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/meet-fifth-youth-session-moderator-luke-pritchard/>

### Background

SE Asia is undergoing an economic transformation, and now is as important as ever for us to mobilize and organize to encourage smarter, climate friendly investments which will be vital in ensuring our future prosperity. Opportunities to meet the challenge of promoting green investments are arising in Asia: large commodity producers in the region such as Wilmar and Asia Pulp and Paper have committed to deforestation free policies, while the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will provide enhanced opportunities for cross-border investment and trade. While these advances provide opportunities, there are also threats if investment policies are not implemented in a responsible and effective manner (see resources below for more).

While youth are the demographic that will be most affected by these policies, our input in forums such as the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, the Consumer Goods Forum, and AEC Council meetings has thus far been relatively insignificant. Youth are unlikely to influence investments with our own financial capital, but we can influence the policies that financial institutions and other companies operate under.

### Key questions to think about:

1. Which green investment policies in particular that need our urgent attention?
2. What mechanism or platform could be created to allow youth to have a greater voice in green investment policies (such as deforestation free products) in Southeast Asia? Can we capitalize on existing platforms or networks (such as the International Students Forestry Association)?
3. What concrete actions can we take away from this Summit to raise our voice in green investment dialogue?

## Method

We will be splitting into three groups to discuss each topic in a “World Café”. Three different areas will be set up for each group to discuss the key questions above, which will be facilitated by a host who will be taking notes and reporting back on the outcomes of the session. Each topic will be discussed for roughly 15 minutes.

## Discussion participants:

Surname	First name	Role	Organization
Gnych	Sophia	Scientist	Center for International Forestry Research
Safford	Agnes	Managing Director	Green Works Asia
Rahman	Miftah	Student	Bogor Agriculture University
Sarigumba	Paula	Student	University of the Philippines, Los Banos
Wati	Prima	Environment, Science & Technology, and Health Assistant	U.S. Embassy Jakarta
Indrawan	Mochamad	Expert staff	Indonesian Parliament
Tinhout	Bas	Technical Officer Climate-Smart Land Use	Wetlands International
Dian Putra	Indra Gunawan	Finance & Administration Director	Yayasan KEHATI (Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation)
Latif	Abdul	Secretary	Jepara Association of Wood Craftsmen
Sugianto	Febrina	Student writer	STUNICA Newspaper (Stunner)
Filailly	Farahiyah Nur	Student	Bogor Agricultural University
Rossi	Tampubolon	Researcher	Ministry of Forestry's research agency
Esa Pangersa	Pangersa	Researcher	Ministry of Forestry's research agency
Vivin	Silvaliandra	Researcher	Ministry of Forestry's research agency
Irmawati	Suzana	Investment Specialist	Yayasan KEHATI (Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation)
Hendrati	Rina Laksmi	Researcher	Centre for Forest Biotechnology and Tree Improvement, FORDA
Ramadhan	Areska	Student journalist	Asian Medical Student Association (AMSA) University of Indonesia
Jane	Valencia	Student Journalist	Medical faculty, University of Indonesia
Ayu Sukmaningrum	Layyinah	Undergraduate Student	Bogor Agricultural University
Chandrakesumma	Viivianne	Student Journalist	STUNICA (Student Union of International Class), Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia
Justicia	Nurul Ikhsan	Social media representative	

Surname	First name	Role	Organization
Ginting	Thasia Paulina	Student	Bogor Agricultural University
Herawati	Gusti	student	gadjah mada university
Rachmat	Rhaema	Executive Associate	Asia Pulp & Paper

**More Reading:**

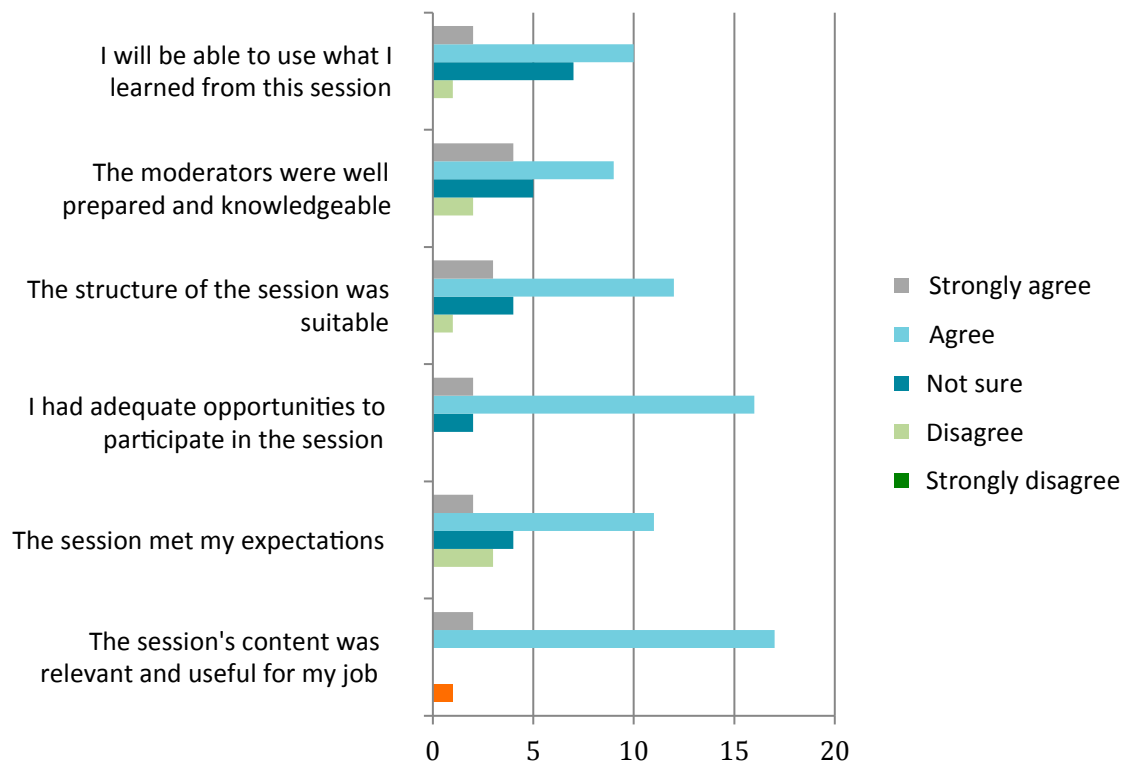
[Wilmar's No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation Policy](#)

[APPs Forest Conservation Policy Progress Review](#)

[Zero net deforestation is the wrong target, warn experts](#)

**Looking forward to your ideas and contributions!**

## Annex 3: Participant evaluation (n = 20)



### What were the 3 most valuable aspects of the session?

- Great to meet young people working in a similar field. I think the short time worked well - 1.5 hours is sufficient, forces creativity and brevity. These things can be drawn out longer but still yield similar results.
- - knows what we don't know before - get some lesson - Meet some people who expert and professional in forestry and environment sector
- 1. Youth's voice can be heard by other participants 2. Precious networking 3. shared knowledge discipline, respect and focus
- Meeting others interested in same issues Networking Hearing different angles & approaches
- 1. Identify problems 2. Make some solutions 3. How to application the solution to solve the problem
- really inspiring session, very motivating and encouraging youth to contribute and share their ideas to the forest problem
- - having the opportunity to connect with other like-minded people (and then having friends to hang out with on the second day!) - meeting people from different countries & organisations and learning from their experiences
- Networking, share ideas, youth able to contribute
- 1 delivering and hearing ideas. 2 special and specific youth session among the student during the professional event. 3 knowing other perspective of forest issue based on the problem in their country
- 1. to here some fresh ideas on how youth can be involved 2. give younger people a chance to participate in a big conference 3. inspiring youth speaker
- 1. group discussion on separate themes, 2. Sharing recommendations from group discussion, 3. Sharing inspiring success story

- meeting other people working in the field having time to think creatively
- Ideas sharing, networking, reflective work
- Method, knowledge, theme
- Topic, session method, results
- new experience, new connection, new knowledge

### **What were the 3 least valuable aspects of this session?**

- Bad selection for participants
- None
- 1. Identify problems 2. Discuss sources of problem 3. Make some opinions
- just share ideas forum, very limited time and participants
- - the initial talk (she was a great speaker, it was just poor timing to go from a motivational speech to dinner!) - the wrap-up/summary session (definitely needed, I think it was just because it went by so quickly that i didn't get much from it)
- 1. very short time of the session
- 1. questions needed more thought 2. Should have had more time to discuss at the end. Session was held a little late and not much time.
- 1. It seemed the discussion was more focused in Indonesian context 2. After going through the list of recommendation, it seemed that moderators/facilitators team randomly selected those points regardless of the recommendation came from the group discussion
- focus on getting increased funding for youth participation from private sector and government, one of conclusions from session, actually I think the session should have been orientated on what the youth can contribute - e.g. volunteering time and energy - to society. We shouldn't wait for the government or private sector - but do the things we can now.
- too late in the evening...
- time, goals, preparation of participants
- Number of youth, discussion time, follow up of recommendation
- stiff, short time, need prepare before discuss

### **What ways could we improve this workshop for next time?**

- Would be great in future to link young people participants to established people in relevant fields. This was a good idea for the moderators, perhaps there are others who could act as mentors for interested participants, or other ways to link youth participants with those more established. I hope the findings will be considered, and that this approach is continued. I enjoyed myself!
- I think everything was good...., for next time, perhaps you need to increase youth participants in more event like this
- make better promotional activities so that everyone can know the existence of this event especially interested in a forest
- Please select better participants to join the session. at least they must have background knowledge or study/work relevancy with the issue.
- A brief description ahead through social media of the issues to be discussed
- We should have more times for youth sessions. in this wonderful event, unfortunately we did not have many times for this sessions even though it is very important to get several and wonderful ideas to give the solution for our forests asia. We also need something that can continue as mediator for all of our ideas so we can contribute not only by ideas but also by actions. thank you :)
- extend the discussion session, and involved other institution or person who could help to follow up our ideas

- a longer session with more time to discuss would be good - it seemed rushed! the summary session would be interesting as a discussion panel - so the group moderators had a chance to explain some of their group's discussion rather than just list a few dot-points
- I think youth session duration should be longer. Participant's age should be more suitable as youth, maybe below 25 or 30.
- spare more time for the session. that one was too short.
- more time to discuss at the end
- 1. Do more research on youths expectations instead of recommending quite general points; 2. Encourage professional youths to share their experience
- either no wrap up or a better wrap up.
- Schedule the session on mid-day, during lunch break, or very early morning, not late evening...
- time is not long enough for discuss and how to encourage the youth to think alternative ways
- More time, more people, more topics
- We must to discuss about how many students' ability for help make people to reduce of climate change

## Annex 4: Follow up interviews with moderators

This M&E effort intends to assess the effectiveness of the Forests Asia Youth session in:

- Contributing to the Summit discussions and recommendations, and beyond, to Sustainable Forestry Development plans
- Providing the youth with a capacity building opportunity

A face-to-face interview was conducted with each of the youth moderators and opening speaker and covered the following questions:

1. What have you learnt?
2. What have you found interesting?
3. What have you found difficult/what hasn't worked?
4. Do you think the recommendations/topic fitted in the overall summit?
5. How will you possibly be able to use what you benefitted from at the summit? (networking, skills, learning process, recommendations etc)
6. How do you see the follow-up of this session? At your individual level, at IFSA, YPARD, CIFOR level? With your organization/university?

### What they learned

#### *Blogging*

They learned a lot about **blogging** – they indeed were requested to submit two blog posts prior to the conference; one to present themselves, the other to present their topic and generate e-discussions. They improved a lot their writing style, their way to communicate and their ability to narrow and **refine their topic**.

#### *Facilitation Skills*

They were particularly satisfied by the **facilitation skills** gained: the knowledge about techniques but also the opportunity to practice and gain experience, and manage international groups. The toolkit and the session on Saturday with Vanda, the CIFOR Facilitation person was particularly useful. They liked the flexibility of the methods – some more experienced people were used to rigid techniques of moderation.

#### *Youth are willing to engage*

One of the youth champions expressed that through this experience she learned ( - surprisingly, to her) that apparently **there ARE youth concerned and willing** to participate. She found out that the youth do have ideas related to governance, which the youth session helped them to voice and that may not have come up otherwise. The summit came as a channel to bring forward these ideas.

#### *There are senior youth supporters*

She also realized that **some older people do have youth perspectives** and young and fresh ideas. Older people seemed to benefit from the youth session by being pushed to have fresh perspectives and adapt their speech instead of using jargon.

### *Logistics of a youth session*

They also learned from observing the management of **logistics** of the session and the way to **connect youth with organizations** like CIFOR and big occasions like the summit – how to put ourselves in an important event like this – by observing the process, instructions.

### *Put theory in the real world*

One moderator learned a lot **through interacting with participants** and particularly young people in Indonesia. It helped her **reflect what she learned from her readings into the “real world”** and understand that things are more complex than they may seem when put back into concrete context, with stakeholders fighting for their own interests.

### *Inform and getting informed through Social media*

One of the moderators particularly got hooked by the **social media training**. She now sees the value of twitter and learned how to use it effectively. She used Facebook for keeping informed – she now understood Facebook is more for socializing while twitter serves the purpose of **getting informed and inform**. It will help her reach out people interested in forestry and update them while she will use Facebook to stay connected with her friends.

## **What they found interesting**

### *Moderation techniques*

The **moderation techniques** and interacting with senior moderators was particularly interesting to them. The session on Saturday really helped clear things up. They saluted the work of Vanda, their CIFOR moderation mentor. Linking with young people and **understanding which type of facilitation methods particularly work with the youth**, what doesn't, what inspire people, was useful.

### *Online discussions*

The **online discussions** unexpectedly brought good comments. For one of the moderators, the feedback gained from the discussions changed the way of organizing their session, with comments encouraging a more specific exploration of issues related to youth involvement rather than technical skills.

### *Youth involvement in Key Development events*

It was interesting to see **how a big organization like CIFOR welcomed the youth** – how such an institution can provide room to the youth.

## **Challenges**

They considered their role as young moderators as a **challenge**, and not a common one. Some expressed that they never faced such type of exercise. It was a strong learning experience and an intense capacity building plan but it was a worthwhile investment of time and effort.

### *The inspiring speaker*

The idea itself of having a young **inspiring speaker bringing a general view on youth engagement** and try channel the idea within the context of forestry was welcomed.

### *Blogging*

**Blogging** felt difficult for some of them – they wished they had a better grasp on CIFOR’s standards for their channel. Giving an example of blog post was helpful. It was particularly difficult to understand how to write the e-discussion blog. Perhaps, though, the main challenge wasn’t about blogging but rather about fine-tuning the topic to be discussed and knowing the audience who to write to.

### *Understand what they were supposed to do*

It was difficult **to understand what they were supposed to do**, and notably find a balance between being general while narrowing down enough the topic for pertinence, but the skype meeting with the mentors helped. The webinar would have enabled them to get more knowledge before the conference. Also the topics didn’t feel mastered enough prior to arriving to the summit. There were confusion on what their role as a moderator would imply. Some understood their role as a panel moderator rather than discussions moderators. Perhaps more explanations about this should have come earlier while developing the topics. They didn’t expect to have to develop the topic and the method. Making it specific would have enabled people to make sure they had the time for it. The preparation required a lot of time.

### *The process to go towards the recommendations*

The **process to go towards the recommendations** didn’t feel clear enough. They would have changed the topic if they knew it would feed into the final recommendations in a very concrete way. The policy briefs came very late. The idea of commitments didn’t come until the Saturday’s briefing; it would have been good to know about the 3 commitment focuses much earlier: research, investment, multi-stakeholders dialogue. They were not able to get the specificities we expected.

### *Get in touch with their mentors*

Some got difficulties to get in touch with their **mentors** in a timely manner; they were too busy and the timezone differences didn’t help. It was not such a problem for some of them though. Some had too many layers of mentors (4people), not easily reachable, and too many different feedback from the mentors. The expectations from the mentors felt sometimes too rigid (“like a dissertation”). The suggestion is to dedicate one mentor who has enough time, i.e. who is not involved in the event, who can create a good social relationship and leave a certain degree of flexibility to the mentee.

### *Logistics*

The **logistics** did not seem clear until late. Some youth moderators commented that it would have been good to clarify that they would have a roommate. It seems that the organizers had sent the information though.

### *Social media training attendance*

The **social media training** didn’t seem particularly relevant to some of them. The rationale behind attending the Social Media training was not clear and confusing for the lack of linkages with their focus: the youth moderation session. Some consider that a big part of what was covered would not be useful in their work in the future. Most importantly, it was time consuming while they were rather focused on their moderation role. The social media training per se was good; just not their priority before the youth session. They are grateful for the chance offered to attend such a capacity building opportunity but would suggest to make it clearly optional.

### *The moderation techniques overview*

The **moderation techniques overview** should have been presented to the young people for them to be able to make their own choice (instead of the moderation coach to suggest them the best technique); they may have used different and more diversified techniques. Having the webinar as initially planned would have been useful towards this purpose, and would have increased their knowledge about moderation skills in general. Also, they would have welcomed a longer training on-site on moderation techniques, and particularly more tips and tricks to overcome the challenges of facilitation.

### *Timing of the session*

**Timing.** An evening session didn't seem appropriate – people went home not because they weren't interested but because it was too late. Some young people were dependent on public transportation, However, because all the sessions were finished people were also more relax - they may have been more active during the day but they were less distracted because they didn't have to pop up in other sessions. Also, because of the late session particularly, the wrap-up period felt too long. Also, perhaps for the wrap-up/ reporting back, it would have been good to have a new face and maybe a facilitator. Several moderators would have appreciated 2 hours of discussions in order to give more time on some activities and the development of the ideas on actionable solutions particularly.

### *The social/human relationship of the team*

The **social/human relationship** among the team at the beginning could have been enhanced – some people wished we had first of all an icebreaking moment to build the relationship before we go into the session's preparation. Vanda helped a lot in creating the bounds; it was initially very formal. Online communications was also a challenge to create more connection among people. Suggestions: we should talk frequently, make some storytelling, ice-breaking, email discussions with other moderators and create more "fun".

### *The sessions' participants process*

## **Are the recommendations/topic relevant in terms of the overall summit?**

Most of the moderators think the topics did fit the overall summit discussions and outcomes – while bringing a youth perspective to the themes. The youth session gathered participants from different sectors enabling to have different perspectives for a same topic as intended by the summit. As an overall the discussions are complementary.

However there should have been more cross- fertilization between the sessions; ie the session on education and the youth session. We should create more linkages with other sessions in the future.

It is a satisfaction for the youth to see the youth recommendations fit what was discussed during the other sessions. The challenge is now to take action on this – they want to see how this will translate into concrete implementations.

**Moderations skills and recommendations** - The moderators and speaker were all very positive on their chances to re-apply what they learned in the context of the summit. They expressed that they can replicate the same type of initiatives at a local level. They would engage into discussions with local organizations (ie in the Philippines and Indonesia). Some already hold youth sessions with the organizations they are involved with and thus are sure and willing to apply the techniques learned.

Some of them particularly are interested in working with forest communities and thus foresee the utility of such facilitation skills.

One of the examples of how the built capacities and the youth recommendations could be used in the future by the participants is through the UNEP REDD+ academy. One of the moderators is committed to take what was discussed in the group to help tailor the academy program. Some recommendations on concrete skills needed by the youth came up, which they didn't think of in the UNEP REDD+ academy.

**Networking** – The youth moderators plan to stay in contact with the people they met for advice and collaboration (ie peers or seniors). Some had extended contacts with senior people; some had limited interaction but would like to keep in touch with their mentors.

## How do they see the follow-up of this session?

The moderators and speaker encourage the organizers of the session to:

- Carry on organizing **youth sessions**
- Get the **youth involved in other core summits' sessions**. CIFOR is particularly encouraged to carry on supporting the youth by getting them involved in other conference sessions.
- Push for **mentorship**
- Engage **more people in the coordination** of such sessions from IFSA, YPARD, CIFOR.
- Push for **participation of youth in other organizations/events**

They encourage IFSA, CIFOR and YPARD to **follow-up on the recommendations** – make sure that things happen and that the recommendations will be put in place, at different levels.

**Each participant** of the capacity building group, for example, will get the outcomes of the discussions and **bring them to their own organizations to build actions** from there.

People are interested in sharing their information – put a **place on the website where people would report back**. Try to make a follow-up after some months. Make updates.

Also, there may be some ideas from the recommendations to propose to **founders** (Singapore and Indonesia ministries have money to invest in agriculture and youth). The recommendations could be shared with different stakeholders who have a role to play. Ie: universities.

We could **solicit further comments and feedback on the recommendations** online and share with as many channels as possible in ASEAN and schools, all the people who applied as well.

Focus could perhaps be to **create leaders** who want to specialize in agriculture and forestry so that they don't leave the sector. We could train people **so that they take over the recommendations** (advocacy, leadership, negotiation and communications with policy makers) through webinars, for example.

In addition, we may want **organize agriculture youth summit** or youth forestry summit for youth to commit themselves.

We could **invite current beneficiaries of the program to further meetings to coach** new participants.

**IFSA can be the platform** to support youth in investment.

IFSA and YPARD are encouraged to **build a strong network in Indonesia**. How to get local people on board? Build your reputation; contact the participants; promote your ideas more; give flyers and contact the mailing list.

## Comments for improvement

While having a stronger involvement of young people in the core summit sessions is important, it is still relevant and recommended to have a specific youth session to get youth perspectives on specific youth issues.

We may want to boost stronger local youth involvement in regional or national events, as long as they show the skills for the intended project.

While some of the moderators expressed that they appreciated the level of guidance and the clarity of the explanations, some may have appreciated more flexibility from their mentors. Some were boosted by what they felt as high standard requirements while some others would have appreciated more flexibility. However, all of them took the challenge as a valuable experience from which they learned a lot.

The moderators received very positive feedback from the participants to the youth session: they expressed that it was important and refreshing to have the youth involved significantly in the summit. The youth session felt like a “breath of fresh air after a long day” for the youth presence and the chance to contribute and participate in a more interactive session.

Many participants asked for more information about IFSA and YPARD. More information about these networks would have been useful but not at the end of the session – distributing flyers or making other time for communication could be a solution.

We should create momentum earlier among the participants and go deeper into the ideas during a month preparation with fine-tuning what they want to see out of the session.

Young Indonesian people who attended the youth session expressed that it was unclear to them how the recommendations would be brought forward. We need to share with them the outcomes and show how this will be used and engage them.

Some young moderators were amazed to see how social media empowered young people. The training and the practice was engaging and useful. “I have never learned so much in my Life” one student in medicine said. It is “empowering”. The fact of interviewing summit’s participants was also a rewarding experience for the proximity it creates with all levels participants. It felt as a real capacity building experience. Also, it is powerful to see that we have the means to tweet and share information in Indonesian. In addition, senior people in CIFOR, expressing their support in empowering young people was very motivating for the youth present at the summit.

The level of interaction with senior people varied from one moderator to another one. The majority seemed satisfied with their chance to interact and connect with experienced professionals. It was expressed that perhaps the international experience of most of the moderators may have helped this facility to talk with senior people – support may be needed for Asian youth who haven’t got experience abroad who have a different approach of inter-generational relationships (as mentioned by a young woman from the region). In a purpose to boost the interaction, a forum could be put in place in order to create a channel for junior-seniors interactions.

Yi Ying, who evolved from youth moderator to Master of Ceremony of the Summit’s day 2, received very positive feedback on her work. She also appreciated the freedom and trust she received from CIFOR in filling her role as MC: “here is the script – go ahead; we trust you will do well.”

## Annex 5: Recommendations

### Equitable development

**Topic:**

How can youth work with local communities to achieve development outcomes? More: <http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/e-discussion-can-youth-work-local-communities-achieve-development-outcomes/>

**Recommendations:**

1. Governments should support capacity development of local communities to raise their awareness and knowledge to give them more bargaining power.
2. Youth should be encouraged to act as a bridge between other youth, private sector, organizations, government and the local communities. They can deliver important messages about forest sustainability to every stakeholder by using social media platforms or concrete movements.
3. Governments should enforce activities and regulations that ensure companies are operating in sustainable and equitable ways – e.g. supporting Community Cooperative for Small and Medium Enterprise; assessing and managing high conversion area (HCV); land swapping that pushes companies to use marginal land for their concession instead of forestland; providing health services, infrastructure and basic education for the communities in concession areas; sharing benefits equitably.

### Climate

**Topic:**

What skills do youth need for future climate change careers? More: <http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/e-discussion-skills-youth-need-future-climate-change-careers/>

**Recommendations:**

We ask governments, universities, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and the private sector to:

1. Increase funding for skills training and education for youth of all ages so that all youth have the same opportunity to build climate change skills;
2. Develop partnerships between youth, the education system and job providers to ensure that relevant climate change skills can be acquired at all levels;
3. Enhance involvement and engagement of youth in climate change conferences and decision-making, not just through participation but also through training and capacity building;
4. Provide seed funding for youth driven climate change projects so that youth have a chance to 'learn on the job' and test our own solutions;
5. Promote climate change jobs to build on the passion and commitment youth have by providing information on the paths that can be taken for youth to contribute to addressing climate change in Southeast Asia.

## Investment

**Topic:** To explore the green investment topics that are most important to youth in the region, and then devise ways that youth can organize to better influence green investment processes. More: <http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/loreal-nestle-others-committing-zero-deforestationbut-youth/>

- Recommendations:**
- NGOs and private sector could work together to engage youth and enhance their capacity in issues related to green investment decisions and sustainability. Engaging with experts as mentors to help youth groups target their campaigns and actions through the most effective channels, and make informed and coherent recommendations to policy development.
  - NGOs and young professionals should work with youth to develop consumer campaigns to build understanding of the most pressing green investment issues in the region and the consequences of consumption of unsustainable products. Using celebrities, role models and media channels can help elevate the position and increase the effectiveness of these campaigns.
  - Different forums, including private sector, governmental and non governmental actors (e.g. RSPO, ISPO, Natural Capital Declaration, TFA 2020, ASEAN economic community council meetings) within South-East Asia should reach out to youth in the region by using existing networks (IFSA, KOPHI) to enhance their input in the important dialogues that will shape their future.

## Governance

**Topic:** What can young people do to encourage good governance of Southeast Asia's forests? More: <http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/e-discussion-can-young-people-encourage-good-governance-southeast-asias-forests/>

- Recommendations:**
- We urge ASEAN to establish a Youth Secretariat on the Environment and grant youth access to high-level meetings such as the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment and Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.
  - We urge governments to enhance law enforcement on forest fires by establishing a mechanism for youth and the wider public to participate in monitoring and reporting forest fires (using ICTs such as text messaging, apps and social media), and for follow-up action to be taken by governments upon receiving this information.
  - We urge governments to lead by example and purchase certified forest products and contract suppliers with sustainable practices
  - We call on the private sector to not only comply with minimum standards of certification schemes, but to go beyond and operate in a way consistent with the spirit of certification schemes and ensure zero deforestation

## Food security

### Topic:

How can youth promote the importance of Southeast Asia's forest foods?  
More: <http://www.cifor.org/forestsasia/e-discussion-can-youth-promote-importance-se-asias-forest-foods/>

### Recommendations:

- Policy-makers should support more agroforestry projects and edible landscapes in the communities to improve food access. Local governments should start the integration of forests in the urban areas by encouraging the establishment of backyard gardens for each household and developing more edible botanic gardens. This activities would encourage the youth to promote the benefits of trees as sources of food through social media.
- Local leaders should support youth to conduct social entrepreneurship in communities that aim to develop products for food and added income. The mobilization of different youth organizations with the support of the local leaders will help in the information dissemination and sharing of knowledge for the communities.
- Young professionals should be encouraged to pursue research on potential sources of food. Studies on food alternatives such as mushrooms, wildlife and non-timber forest products are still needed and the participation of youth in these studies will help develop new ideas and innovations.

## Annex 6: The pros and cons of a separate youth session

While learning about moderator techniques during the facilitation training two days prior to the Forests Asia Summit, youth moderators and mentors took part in an exercise to demonstrate the principles of the World Café method.

The topic chosen was: the pros and cons of a youth session. This document presents the input from the youth moderators on this matter.

### What do we want to achieve in this youth session?

- Get youth input
- Foster youth participation
- Get to know youth's ideas
- Voice youth's opinion
- Get youth in touch with important stakeholders
- Youth to be an integral part of the summit
- Give inspiration to participants
- Gain knowledge and share it further after the session
- Stimulate new movements of young people
- Build commitment among the youth and among other stakeholders
- To encourage institutions and organizations to involve the youth more (ie scholarship, internships, jobs, researches, mentorship etc)

### Positives and negatives of a separate youth session

#### Positives

- Youth are likely to relate to each other and talk more; they will feel comfortable expressing themselves
- Youth really work towards the issues expressed and don't follow an agenda (ie policies)
- Youth are action-oriented
- Youth are innovative and with fresh ideas
- Youth consider long term interest/the future
- Coming as a group, their voice is stronger and their case more likely to be heard
- Youth can discuss about youth specific issues
- Youth are let out of a power structure and hierarchy

#### Negatives

- The outcomes of the youth session may be disregarded (heard but not taken in account) – the youth need representatives in high level plenaries
- Recommendations may stay within the session and no action will be taken from there
- Youth may be considered as youth group and not for their specificity as researchers, gov.body etc
- It may cost more money to organize a separate session although it is an investment on longer term
- Youth will only focus on general youth specific issues and won't take part in technical discussions

## What are past examples that can inform future decisions/platforms?

*Youth delegation to CDB:* they tried to draft recommendations but the language was not compatible – they needed a compatible language to the high level discussions. It was effective because the coordination was made by experienced mentors

Power in different organizations, activism

*Previous COP Landscapes Day:* it could have possibly had better integration; it successfully demonstrated why youth are important. Recommendation were brought at the closing session which notably led to this youth moderation session. We could integrate panelists into regular sessions in the future.

Y20 Summit

Delegations come from G20 but recommendations was not bound by domestic policy. It lacked follow-up. Recommendations were read by Putin.

UNFF

Has a coordinator focal point which mobilizes connections. The challenge was: How to monitor the follow-ups?

## Recommendation

As an overall conclusion, it was agreed that having a stronger involvement of young people in the core conferences sessions is important. Still, it is relevant and recommended to have a specific youth session to get youth perspectives on specific youth issues.



**FORESTS ASIA**  
SUMMIT 2014