



## Local Governments and Social Economy: co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy

### GSEF Global Virtual Forum 4-8 October 2020

#### Session Report

<b>Title of the session</b>	Youth & SSE Session - Role of Future Generations to Build a Sustainable Impact Ecosystem
<b>Type of session</b>	Self-Organised Session
<b>Language</b>	Korean, English (simultaneous interpretation provided)
<b>Date</b>	Friday, October 8, 2021
<b>Time</b>	15:30 ~ 17:30 pm (Seoul time)
<b>Participants</b>	
<b>Speakers &amp; moderators</b>	Dong-Ryul Kang(SDSN Korea), Yoon Seo Jeon(LIFEIN), Margaret Kamau(SDSN Youth Kenya, Regional Coordinator), Rahyang Nusantara(GIDKP, National Coordinator), Dain Won(YLPF Korea), Chan-Ho Kim(YSDA Korea), Eric Lee(FUNCOMPANY), Ji-Eun Kim(SDSN Youth Korea)

#### **Name of moderator**

Dong-Ryul Kang(SDSN Korea)  
Ji-Eun Kim(SDSN Youth Korea)

#### **Speakers**

Yoon Seo Jeon(LIFEIN)  
Margaret Kamau(SDSN Youth Kenya, Regional Coordinator)  
Rahyang Nusantara(GIDKP, National Coordinator)  
Dain Won(YLPF Korea)  
Chan-Ho Kim(YSDA Korea)  
Eric Lee(FUNCOMPANY)



## Summary of presentations:

### ■ Presentations

#### ● Yoon Seo Jeon(LIFEIN): how young innovators solve social problems

- LIFEIN, in 2021, focus on 4 main thematic areas of social innovation, climate change, local issues, and youth issues where we need an integrated solutions and where the eco-system and values of the social and solidarity economy indeed matters and can contribute.
- Based on the reflections that youth centered stories were not enough previously, LIFEIN initiated a special youth series with the title of 'M 나 하시는 지 요 (in Korean, meaning what are we/you doing now?)
- There are more people pointing out and talking about problems, but not many try to solve those problems. LIFEIN defines young innovators as those who identify problems and find solutions.
- On 12th August, LIFE in collaboration with GSEF co-organized a special youth webinar celebrating the UN International Youth Day to have a time to discuss the challenges and problems of young participants and find practical ways to reach solutions
- What youth share as common challenges and problems is part of the time when we live together. LIFEIN will continue its role as a an online news channel communicating what the concerns of youth are, and as a connecting and collaborating platform for young innovators

#### ● Margaret Kamau (SDSN Youth Kenya): Youth participation in public policy making process for sustainable development and Social and Solidarity Economy

- Youth are a social resources with energy and creativity. In particular, young people play an important role in various activities for sustainable development. Young people are not beneficiaries of 'Agenda 2030', but developers and actors. Young people are also a dynamic source of innovation, historically contributing to and facilitating changes in the political system.
- Public policy guides the direction in which government agencies move. Public policy formulation is a dynamic, complex, and interactive process that is influenced by a variety of public issues and involves multiple stakeholders. Young people should also try to understand how public policies are established, and participate in the establishment process for a positive impact.
- Social and Solidarity Economy is an economy that focuses on providing answers to people's needs. Focused on a collective identity and shared values to create common solutions.
- The reasons why it is difficult for young people to actively participate in public policy and social economy include low access to information, unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, physical and mental health problems, marginalization in the decision-making process (need to ensure equal voting rights), and crime and violence, as well as exposure or lack of awareness of one's own legal rights.



- What is important in the future is not to limit the vulnerability of young people to economic problems, but to ensure their inclusion in the society. We need tax policies favorable for youth, encouragement for youth entrepreneurship through business clubs, inclusive and comprehensive education strategies, and policies for youth empowerment.

- SDSN Youth Kenya will reform or create new youth committees at the national/regional level as needed, and provide training so that young people can establish national and youth strategies to encourage other youth to participate in public policy making processes and also recommend the youth participation.

● **Rahyang Nusantara(GIDKP): Indonesian Youth Challenge Initiatives for carbon neutrality**

- GIDKP started in 2010 with the goal of avoiding the use of single-use plastics and using recyclable packaging, and proposed pilot projects for relevant ministries. In 2016, the 'Paid Plastic Bags Movement' started as a pilot project in 23 regions and spread throughout Indonesia.

- GIDKP uses three approaches: advocacy, collaboration, and education. GIDPK supports the government to introduce policy measures to reduce single-use plastics, cooperates with companies and organizations to make this advocacy effective, and conduct educational activities for the generation Z - mainly high school students - so that students can directly supporting the experience of finding solutions to problems.

- These activities led to policy changes, such as a ban on single-use plastics from 2030 and the passage of ordinances restricting the use of single-use plastics in 15 cities.

- GIDKP works with local governments and other stakeholders. Last year, in cooperation with the Jakarta local government, the use of eco-friendly shopping bags became mandatory. This reduces plastic use per household by 42%. In Bali, by restricting the use of single-use plastic bags, the usage of plastic straws, Styrofoam and single-use plastic bags are reduced: single-use plastic bags by 57%, plastic straws by 81%, and Styrofoam by 70%.

- GIDKP has been working to build an ecosystem through public campaigns, workshops with 26 local governments, monitoring support for academic research and implementation processes, awareness raising activities to reduce the use of plastic bags and single-use plastics in traditional markets, and youth-led protests.

- To prevent climate change, we need to re-use what we already have, and if we want to make a bigger impact and change in the system, we need to have a voice in local governments. It is important to start taking action because one small action does matter.

**Conclusion**

- Use what you already have - don't buy what you don't need
- Advocate to your local government
- Start your own initiative



**Second part:**

Current issues in the youth ecosystem in regards to covid-19:

- YLPF
  - Diverse definitions of youth lead to confusions even in employment policies and policymaking process
- YSDA
  - Youth have different concerns and so it is hard for them to work together and decide on the issues they need to work on and how long they want to cooperate for
- FUNCOMPANY
  - The young generation is fighting depression and the lack of hope - graduate from good universities, and looking for jobs, but looking at the future there are so many crises - our generation has the responsibility to fight too many crises and we might be lacking the capabilities needed to tackle them

**Questions under the main question**

1. In your opinion, what is the problem of youth from the perspectives of each organization?
2. What are the vision and roadmap to build a sustainable youth ecosystem?
3. How is each organization collaborating with young people, and how can young people participate in the group's activities?

**Answers to the questions:**

**1. In your opinion, what is the problem of youth from the perspectives of each organization?**

1. Dain Won /\_YLPF Korea

The biggest problem is the vague rules for youth. Since each law has different standards for youth, it is difficult for young people to comment on policies. It is difficult for young people to have a single voice and to form a strong sense of solidarity. YLPF Korea recognizes these issues and conducts policy research and policy recommendations from the perspective of young people.



2. Chan-Ho Kim / YSDA Korea

Korea To achieve sustainable development, young people from different perspectives have to work together. Therefore, we came up with the Korean Youth Sustainable Development Goals as Sustainable Development Goals adapted for Youth as a common agenda for young people to be able to promote development together. In Korea, there were no opportunities for young people to actively participate as stakeholders in the SDGs planning and implementation. The Korean Youth Sustainable Development Goals were established by considering how the Korean-style Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals could be connected and Korean youth can contribute and participate in the process of implementation together with the Korean youth society and international community. For this reason, the Sustainable Development Council was conceived

3. Eric Lee / FUNCOMPANY

The current young generation is struggling with the feeling of low energy and hopelessness. I thought about how to overcome these issues and found a solution called team startup. Most young people prefer jobs in large corporations, public companies, or governments. We are a generation that has to solve various and complex global problems as well, and we have understanding that the total amount of power to solve problems will be insufficient if we only go for a stable path. So, we are thinking about how each young person can develop problem-solving skills as a member of the ecosystem.

**2. What are the vision and roadmap to build a sustainable youth ecosystem?**

1. Eric Lee / FUNCOMPANY

It is important to create an 'environment'. Problem-solving skills, collaboration and critical thinking skills are the core skills that must be acquired in the sustainable youth ecosystem. The key to developing these skills is to put in to real practice. The direction should be focused on creating an environment where young people can mobilize their own resources, collaborate with people around them, and solve problems. I think the direct support will only help grow 'flowers in the greenhouse'. It is important to create an environment where young people can get up again even if they fall outside the greenhouse.

2. Chan-Ho Kim / YSDA Korea



Korean youth dream of sustainable development, and on the other hand, reunification and peace on the Korean Peninsula as well as world peace. Under this vision we came up with the Korean Youth Sustainable Development Goals. The implementation strategy is to gather young activists from each region under the theme of sustainable development, and to create a system and organization that can practice sustainable development in each region. In this way, we want to build an ecosystem where young activists can work together. I think our culture is to improve the difficulties we face every moment and to create a lifestyle that pursues positive changes. If such culture is everywhere, then we will have a good society everywhere as well. The most basic guide here would be the Youth Sustainable Development Goals. When a new international goal is set around 2030 and a new implementation strategy is needed in Korea, the experience of youth now contributing for the SDGs, youth can play an important role through a virtuous cycle connecting the present and future generations and make a good world where everyone enjoys quality of life.

### 3. Dain Won / YLPF Korea

For a sustainable youth ecosystem, goals that are suitable for young people must be made, and their voices must be conveyed and reflected to policy makers. Youth are a key stakeholder chosen by the United Nations. When setting up the Sustainable Development Goals for the youth in Korea, an open working group was formed and young people participated as stakeholders as well. After the Open Working Group, two organizations - YLPF Korea and YSDA Korea were established and currently preparing a place for various stakeholders to convey the opinions of young people to presidential candidates. In addition, young people are forming an alliance called the SDG Youth Committee with the Sustainable Development Goals as the main theme. A general assembly is held every semester to consider the group's sustainability and ways to coexist, and also raise a voice calling for resolution of social issues that hinder sustainable development, such as the human rights abuses in Hong Kong and the discharge of contaminated water from Fukushima, Japan. Towards the presidential election, there will be a declaration to force the candidates to listen and act.

### **3. How is each organization collaborating with young people, and how can young people participate in the group's activities?**

#### 1. Dain Won / YLPF Korea

There should be a variety of public forums where young people can join and express their opinions. In October, the Korea Youth Sustainable Development Forum was held. The issues discussed at the time can be summarized into four issues: 1) the use of ESG as a means of greenwashing, 2) the concentration of youth activities in the metropolitan area, 3) the



devaluation of young people's labor value, 4) difficulties in exchanges between younger generations due to physical cutoff due to COVID-19

I urge to include young people as stakeholders in the Framework Act on Sustainable Development. If these voices are empowered, it will be possible to lay the social foundation for collaboration and participation beyond collaboration and participation with each organization.

### 2. Eric Lee / FUNCOMPANY

We have a project we carry out with the keywords of youth and local. The problem would be that the young population disappears in local areas and is concentrated in the metropolitan area. We have developed a team start-up model that allows young people to start a local business and the prototype has been implemented for about six months. This could be an area where we can collaborate with more youth.

### 3. Chan-Ho Kim / YSDA Korea

It would be good to divide the ways of cooperation and participation into individual viewpoints and group /coalition viewpoints. You can say that activists can only get together first, or you can say that activists can only get together when they have an agenda to do together. You can choose one of the two options. If there are a lot of activists, they can gather first and then find an agenda together, or if there is an immediate agenda, activists can gather through the agenda. At the individual level, you should be interested in your own sustainable development, such as health and learning.

### Main question

**What should be the actions or strategies of individuals, governments, groups, societies, countries, to achieve a better and more inclusive world? What key actions should be promoted from the local level?**

### Yoon Seo Jeon(LIFEIN)

- What is the biggest problem: economic, social issues, unemployment, and climate
- What do you want to leave for the next youth generation: a livable social structure
- What does the youth need?



### Margaret Kamau

As individual,

1. Seek active involvement
2. Demand greater say in decision making processes
3. Stay focused and united
4. Get involved in youth political activism or join students organizations Start your own initiative

### Rahyang Nusantara(GIDKP)

- Use what you already have - don't buy what you don't need
- Advocate to your local government
- Start your own initiative

### Relevant Questions and Answers from the audience:

- **Question:** If the youth problem goes beyond a specific agenda and encompasses many social problems, how can the youth problem be solved?

**Answer:**

Answer: I think the youth problem is always a problem that reflects many existing social problems. It would be nice if we could act on small things instead of just saying 'a problem is a problem'. Collective effort and impact we can eyewitness. As social problems become more complex, various actors have no choice but to come together to solve the problems. (Yoon Seo Jeon, LIFEIN)

- **Question:** Is the solution of entrepreneurship and teamwork enough to overcome the problems of lethargy and unprofessionalism that the young generation is experiencing?

**Answer:**

Answer: We found out that the keywords of team and entrepreneurship are difficult to engage with. So, I adjusted the keyword to 'self-reliance'. We are planning programs in which we can do something on our own, step by step, and if these processes are followed, self-reliance will be developed on the way naturally. I have established the hypothesis that I will be able to overcome helplessness, develop professionalism through the process of practical experiences, and know who we actually are. (Eric Lee, FUNCOMPANY)

### Closing remarks by the Moderator

Let's stop thinking and act more, and if we need to think more let's observe more - we will be able to look at the world around us and voice our opinion, and once we voice out we will get more support





Screenshots of the zoom session

