



Youth Assembly

EVENT REPORT

June 24-26, 2025 | Cebu City, Philippines



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This report provides a summary of the Habitat Youth Assembly held in Cebu, Philippines, highlighting key sessions, youth initiatives, and collaborative outcomes from the three-day event.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Habitat Youth Assembly was held from June 24 to 26, 2025, at Seda Hotel, Ayala Center, Cebu, Philippines, convening over 40 youth delegates from across 8 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region. Organized by Habitat for Humanity International Asia-Pacific Office, the Assembly aimed to amplify youth voices in housing and sustainable development, create pathways for engagement, and spark collaboration across local, regional, and global levels.

Centered on the theme “Young Leaders. Local Solutions”, the three-day event featured keynote sessions with hands-on workshops, cultural immersion, and a youth project showcase. It provided an inclusive platform for delegates to share experiences, co-create solutions, and connect with leaders and changemakers from the public, private, and civic sectors.

Opening the Youth Assembly, Elizabeth Satow, Area Vice President of Habitat for Humanity Asia-Pacific, emphasized youth as central to people-centered, localized, and sustainable housing solutions, urging them to “forge connections and build communities.”

In closing, Shoban Rainford, Resource Development Director, echoed this message—applauding the youth's creativity, commitment, and courage in understanding local communities and advocating for innovative and inclusive housing solutions. He also encouraged the delegates—the changemakers of today—to lead with resilience, perseverance, and faith.

Throughout the Assembly, delegates explored the three core themes:

- Ideate, through sessions focused on the housing crisis, SDG-aligned development, and youth-led innovation;
- Network, by engaging in interactive workshops, speed networking, and collaborative breakout sessions; and
- Celebrate, as the event culminated in cultural immersion, an awarding night, and a showcase of the region's most promising youth-led housing solutions.

Youth delegates left the event with renewed commitment to advance sustainable housing solutions in their local contexts. They gained new tools, wider networks, and a strengthened sense of hope—ready to take the next steps as leaders in building safe, inclusive, and resilient communities across the region and the globe.

EVENT OVERVIEW

THEMES



ideate



network



celebrate

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



In February 2025, Habitat for Humanity rolled out its refreshed three-strand initiative to engage youth in Asia-Pacific to meaningfully contribute to the need for sustainable solutions for adequate housing.

Habitat Youth Solutions.

Habitat is providing 10 young individuals, youth groups or youth-led organizations in Asia-Pacific each with US\$4,000 to start, scale up, or replicate solutions to help families access adequate housing.

Habitat Youth Assembly.

In June, Habitat hosted 48 shortlisted applicants in Cebu, the Philippines. They networked with experts in housing, urban development and project management, learnt and ideated with peers from across the region, and celebrated success with the winners of the 2025 Habitat Youth Solutions grant.

Habitat Youth Learns

In the first half of 2025, Habitat provided the Habitat Youth Solutions grant winners with mentorship opportunities. They will be matched with Habitat experts and thinkers and implementors from its network of volunteer leaders and development partners.

The Habitat Youth Assembly itself aimed to empower and support young leaders across the Asia-Pacific region to become active contributors to sustainable housing solutions. The event was designed around three core objectives:

- **Ideate:** To develop innovative and contextualized solutions to housing challenges through youth-led Habitat Youth Solutions, applying local knowledge, creativity, and lived experiences.
- **Network:** To build leadership capacity and foster collaboration among delegates through keynote sessions, discussions with sector leaders and influencers, and opportunities to connect with global initiatives and resources.
- **Celebrate:** To recognize youth participation, cultural identity, and collective impact through community building-activities, cultural excursions, and an awarding night highlighting outstanding contributions.

These support Habitat for Humanity's global strategy by positioning youth as key drivers of sustainable, inclusive housing development in their communities and across the region.



BY THE NUMBERS



48
youth
delegates



08
countries
and
territories



07
keynote
sessions



04
breakout
sessions



08
speakers
and
moderators



40
youth-led
projects
showcased

10 **WINNERS** of the
Habitat Youth
Solutions grant

US\$ 40,000
total grants awarded





More than **1.2 million** people reached
via traditional and social media

80 posts uploaded to Habitat's Asia-Pacific social
media channels and the delegates' own accounts

250 new social media followers on Habitat's channels

Almost **80,000** impressions on social media

More than **27,000** with information about
the event through social media

At least **132** mentions in traditional media

Expected outputs by 2026

More than
16,100 individuals
will benefit

directly and indirectly from
Habitat Youth Solutions in
Bangladesh, Cambodia, India,
Nepal, Philippines, South Korea,
and Vietnam. This is four times
the initial estimate of people set
to benefit from the project.

At least
10 local
communities

will be positively impacted
through community-based
solutions in solar energy for
the homes, access to basic
services, climate adaptation
and mitigation, among others.

ASSEMBLY H FROM VISION



ideate

The Habitat Youth Assembly empowered delegates to ideate solutions by grounding them in the realities of the global housing crisis and encouraging them to imagine new approaches rooted in their communities. Through keynotes, discussions, and storytelling, participants explored the intersection of housing, sustainability, and leadership—beginning the process of shaping actionable, youth-led responses.

This was especially evident in Day 1 sessions, where delegates identified with Habitat's mission, the broader impacts of housing, and their role in designing inclusive solutions. Concepts like Next Generation Volunteering and SDG-aligned community development helped delegates explore what it means to lead through service and to shape actionable, youth-driven solutions tied to the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Volunteers are amplifiers and catalysts of change.”

– JAY ANCHETA
Director of Next Generation Volunteering
Habitat for Humanity International

“Any participation is a step towards change.”

– MA. ALEXANDRA BALA TADUA
Philippine Delegate

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ASSEMBLY INTO IMPACT



network



“People are your greatest resource.”

— LIZ SATOW
Area Vice President for Asia-Pacific
Habitat for Humanity International

Throughout the Assembly, youth delegates had multiple opportunities to connect with peers, mentors, and leaders across sectors, sharpening their skills in communication, collaboration, and advocacy. The Assembly created space for authentic exchange of stories, strategies, and feedback fostering a strong foundation for future partnerships. This came to life during Day 2 where it emphasized connection and collaboration.

Through discussions and workshops on leadership values, storytelling, and pitching, delegates built their confidence and expanded their networks. The day's activities reinforced that shared purpose, feedback, and partnerships are critical to the success of youth-led initiatives. Delegates practiced articulating their housing solutions, refined their communication skills, and deepened peer connections that were vital for turning ideas into action.



The Assembly culminated in a vibrant celebration of youth leadership, creativity, and grassroots innovation. Through reflection, recognition, and cultural expression, the event honored the contributions of each delegate and reaffirmed their role as changemakers in their communities and in the world through advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

This was most visible on Day 3, with final keynote sessions on advocacy and the youth landscape, followed by an inspiring cultural and awarding night. Top project awardees were recognized, heartfelt messages were shared, and delegates left with renewed hope, strong networks, and a shared sense of purpose.



**“Believe in your vision, in
your ability to change the
world.”**

– HARLAN STONE
Chair of Habitat for Humanity's
Asia-Pacific Development Council

IN FOCUS

DAILY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Over the course of three days, the Habitat Youth Assembly featured a total of seven keynote sessions that brought together voices from across sectors and generations. These sessions centered on the three core objectives of ideate, network, and celebrate by addressing themes of youth leadership, housing solutions, innovation, sustainability, volunteerism, and providing real-world perspectives, actionable insights, and personal stories that inspired the Assembly's youth delegates. Alongside the keynote sessions, the program included cultural experiences, project showcases, and community celebrations that reinforced the values of collaboration, resilience, and leadership.



Ideate: Grounding Youth in Purpose and Possibility

DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTS

The first day focused on building a shared understanding of the global housing crisis, Habitat for Humanity's mission, and the youth's unique position in driving change.

Through thought-provoking sessions, delegates explored key frameworks, real-world examples, and personal reflections—laying the foundation for innovative, context-based housing solutions.



Keynote Session 1: Intro about Habitat, Ways of Working, and Global Strategy

Delivered by Jay Ancheta, director of NextGen Volunteering, this session explored who Habitat is and what Habitat does. He emphasized the challenges and solutions surrounding inadequate housing and volunteering, especially youth volunteering, supported by global examples and Habitat's data on housing crisis and field volunteering experiences.

Ancheta introduced the concept of Next Generation Volunteering further discussed the essence of youth volunteering. In doing so, he presented the programmatic shift to completely illustrate this essence:

1. Transformative for the communities and the volunteers.
2. Engagement as it allows volunteers to participate in the complete process of creating and implementing solutions.
3. Volunteering which is impactful and meaningful, a kind that catalyzes change.

Centering on the role of young people in volunteering and advocacy building, he spoke about young people as 1) lifelong supporters in achieving development outcomes, especially in HFH and in housing advocacies, 2) stakeholders, being one of the most vulnerable and directly affected by inadequate and unaffordable housing, and 3) partners in development through their ideas and actions.

The session reinforced the idea that inadequate housing is a global issue, and everyone deserves a decent house they can call home. And this is where Habitat for Humanity comes in: bringing people together to build homes. And ultimately, where the Youth also plays a big role in: building homes through their people-centered, contextualized, future-focused and long-term solutions.



Keynote Session 2: Broader Impacts of Housing

This session focused on how addressing housing needs contribute to global development, with Enid Madarcos – Urban, Land and Policy Associate Director Habitat for Humanity International Asia-Pacific Office sharing about global relevance and community impact when proposing housing projects.

In her discussion, Ms. Madarcos dove deeper in the relation between housing and other areas of one's life and wellbeing. To illustrate her point, she revisited the UN Sustainable Development Goals, discussed how a housing project can target more than one SDG, and provided the case study of the Revitalization of Kampung Tanjung Kait in Indonesia. This case study established the foundation for discussing the interrelation and integration of several SDGs in addressing the housing crisis.

Ms. Madarcos further emphasized how the housing goal connects and impacts other SDGs, posing the question to the delegates, “What are the broader impacts of your housing solution?” and gave them time to reflect and respond. The session created space for a meaningful discussion with delegates sharing their thoughts on housing as a solution to better community hygiene, building sustainable communities, improved health (mental, public, physical), clean water and sanitation, opportunities for livelihood, safety and security, climate resiliency, and just a better chance at life.

Overall, the session reinforced the idea that there are a lot of (social) impacts in housing solutions and how housing projects and initiatives don't just build capacities but elevate life overall.



**“Adequate housing is a human right and a
key lever to achieve multiple impacts.”**

Enid Madarcos
Urban, Land and Policy Associate Director, Asia-Pacific
Habitat for Humanity International

Keynote Session 3: UN ESCAP's Work in Sustainable Urban Development and Role of Youth

Speakers Liam O'Connor – Associate Urban Climate Change Specialist and Sara Libera Zanetti – Sustainable Urban Development Advisor highlighted UN ESCAP's goal on driving resilient and sustainable urban futures especially in Asia-Pacific, emphasizing the role of youth's volunteerism, leadership, and community action in advancing housing solutions and sustainable communities. The discussion officially opened with UN ESCAP's works on sustainable urban development, particularly their present works and the progress made in the Asia Pacific region. This session also emphasized on the broader impact of sustainable housing as it is integrated in other SDGs (i.e., 6, 7, and 11) to build sustainable communities and cities. He then expanded on their work on the Four (4) Pillars of Sustainable and Crisis Resilient Cities, which are:

- Urban and Territorial Planning
- Multilevel Climate Action
- Urban Digital Transformation
- Urban Finance

Mr. O'Connor put emphasis on the first two, Urban and Territorial Planning and Multilevel Climate Action, as the focus of the session with its relevance to Habitat's mission as well as the youth's role in initiating housing projects. With this, he gave a preview on their published work and discussed the relevant thematic areas: Youth and Urban Planning and Youth and Urban Climate Changes.



“Authentic, sustained participation is really important. A meaningful youth engagement.”

Liam O'Connor

Associate Urban Climate Change Specialist, UN ESCAP



The following guidelines are proposed to ensure going down the right path in encouraging, engaging, and empowering the youth to participate in building sustainable and resilient communities.

Here are the guidelines for Youth and Urban Planning:

- Create a policy environment for transformative and resilient urban planning. This creates an avenue for the youth to also advocate for policies.
- Ensure capacity-building and coordination for effective urban planning and local action to help young people develop their skills.
- Develop holistic housing, urban planning, disaster-risk management policies.
- Promote integrated, compact, mixed use neighborhoods and cities, supported by public transport and active mobility.

For Youth and Urban Climate Changes, he emphasized first the importance of having the youth in this advocacy and action. With that, here are the guidelines that the UN ESCAP proposed for a more effective youth engagement:

- Integrate communities as key actors to build resilience.
- Deploy innovative urban adaptation pathways. Again, he emphasized that the youth should be involved, especially in indigenous- and environment-focused sustainable initiatives.
- Enhance data collection and local evidence because the youth has so much digital literacy and this can be leveraged in youth engagement and housing solution initiatives.
- Shift to low-carbon sources.
- Provide platforms for monitoring (MRV) in multilevel climate action.
- Harmonize and enhance nature in cities as it's time to start to value green spaces again and rekindle our relationship with nature. Nature is a key factor in long-term sustainability.

The session then moved on to focus on how to engage youth meaningfully, with Mr. O'Connor expounding on the youth's creativity, critical thinking, and innovative minds that will add impact to the initiatives and solution-building. This perspective added to the discussion by highlighting how to pave the way forward for a more meaningful youth engagement. The way forward is through:

- Advocacy and Awareness
- Data & Research
- Community Mobilization
- Innovation
- Policy Participation
- Partnerships

Keynote Session 3 Breakout Sessions

Overall, the third keynote session reinforced the idea that resolving the housing crisis is an ambitious one, but with Youth's added impact, dreams can be reality. They just need to be guided towards a more meaningful youthful engagement.



Breakout Session 1: Climate Action

with Liam O'Connor – Associate Urban Climate Change Specialist

Breakout Session 2: Housing

with Sara Libera Zanetti – Sustainable Urban Development Advisor



Network: Strengthening Leadership Through Connection & Collaboration



DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTS



The second day emphasized leadership in action, centering on values-based reflection, strategic communication, and peer exchange.

Delegates participated in workshops, networking activities, and breakout discussions that built confidence, sharpened their messaging, and expanded their partnerships for future impact.



Keynote Session 4: Pockets of Purpose (Youth Leadership in Action)

The second day of the Habitat Youth Assembly featured a keynote session titled Pockets of Purpose, led by Mr. Mark Laitflang Stone, Managing Director of AVENUES. Centered on the theme Youth Leadership in Action, the session invited delegates to reflect on who they are, what they value, and how their leadership is shaped by imagination, perspective, and action. Grounded in the idea of hope, the session encouraged youth to explore their purpose and leadership journey through the lens of values and self-awareness.

Mr. Stone did so by posing the foundational questions:

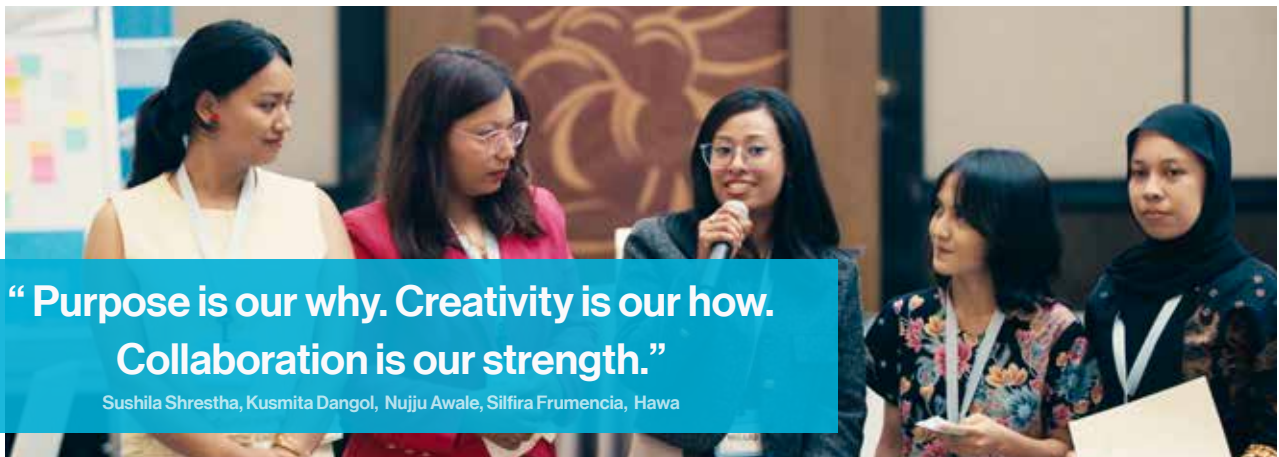
- What are you personally driven by—your personal set of core values?
- Why are you all here? What is your shared mission?
- Be more. Do more. See more.

Through a series of interactive and introspective activities, Mr. Stone guided delegates in identifying the people who influence them, recognizing the impact they have on others, and choosing values that define authentic leadership.

In Circles of Impact, delegates named people who had shaped their lives and considered whose lives they themselves might be impacting. Through the activity Pockets of Purpose, they identified their values, victories, fears, and dreams. These personal reflections helped participants connect their inner motivations with their leadership journey. Mr. Stone emphasized that leadership begins with imagination and must be grounded in perspective to drive meaningful action—a message reinforced by the youth's personal stories and insights shared throughout the session.



The second half of the session focused on defining values that guide leadership, particularly within the context of housing and community-building. Delegates explored concepts such as empathy, resilience, adaptability, trust, and gratitude. Mr. Stone also introduced 13 key leadership principles—including sustainability, creativity, equity, and collaboration—that are essential in the work of Habitat for Humanity. Delegates then grouped together to reflect and present their top three shared values, many of which highlighted imagination, purpose, integrity, and innovation as central to youth-led change.



To close, Mr. Stone reminded participants that their journey as leaders will involve hurdles and hurts, but with clarity of purpose and strong values, they can move forward with confidence. He left the youth with affirmations to ground their leadership:

- “I believe in [...],”
- “I’m afraid of [...], but I will [...],” and
- “I am enough.”

The session concluded with a powerful call to action—encouraging young leaders to be bold, kind, and values-driven in shaping their communities. Pockets of Purpose gave delegates not just a space to reflect, but a renewed drive to lead with authenticity, courage, and imagination in the pursuit of housing solutions and sustainable impact.

Keynote Session 5: Speed Networking Activity

The keynote session titled Speed Networking Activity, facilitated by Mr. Al Francis Razon (Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter) and Ms. Zahra Zanjani (CEO of CUBO Modular), focused on building delegates' communication, pitching, and networking skills—crucial for youth engaged in housing solutions and sustainable development work. The session was designed to simulate real-world networking experiences, empowering youth to refine how they present their ideas and build strategic connections.



The main session, titled “Flexing Your Communication Muscle,” guided delegates through eight dynamic rounds of speed networking. These included warm-up introductions, initial project pitches, feedback exchanges, and progressive iterations of their problem-solution framing. Delegates pitched key aspects of their housing initiatives—from the challenges they aim to address to the value propositions behind their proposed solutions. The repeated rounds allowed participants to internalize feedback, improve clarity, and strengthen their confidence.

The session continued with breakout discussions in Rosal and Adelfa rooms, where delegates practiced crafting clear, persuasive pitches through structured exercises. They explored how to analyze insights, identify patterns, and tailor messages for funders and partners.

Back in the main room, select delegates shared their pitches and reflections. Mr. Razon emphasized the importance of pivoting as an essential trait for changemakers, while Ms. Zanjani highlighted the need for strong teams and grounded strategies. Together, the session and activities sharpened the delegates' skills in communicating housing solutions and collaborating with impact.

Keynote Session 5 Breakout Sessions



Breakout Session 1: Creation of Value Proposition and Understanding Target

Mr. Razon guided participants in visual storytelling by sketching their project ideas to illustrate the problem, solution, and value. Delegates delivered elevator pitches based on these visuals and reflected as a group, reinforcing the clarity and creativity required to communicate impact.

Breakout Session 2: Building Resilience in Business or Enterprise

Ms. Zanjani introduced the “bottom-up approach” to pitching. Through structured exercises, delegates learned how to analyze findings, identify patterns, synthesize themes, and craft persuasive key messages tailored to potential partners or funders.



Celebrate: Recognizing Youth Action & Honoring Culture & Community



On the final day, the Youth Assembly came to a close with delegates reflecting on advocacy, youth inclusion, and systemic change—culminating in a cultural celebration and recognition of outstanding youth-led initiatives.

Delegates left with new tools, deeper purpose, and a shared sense of hope for the road ahead.



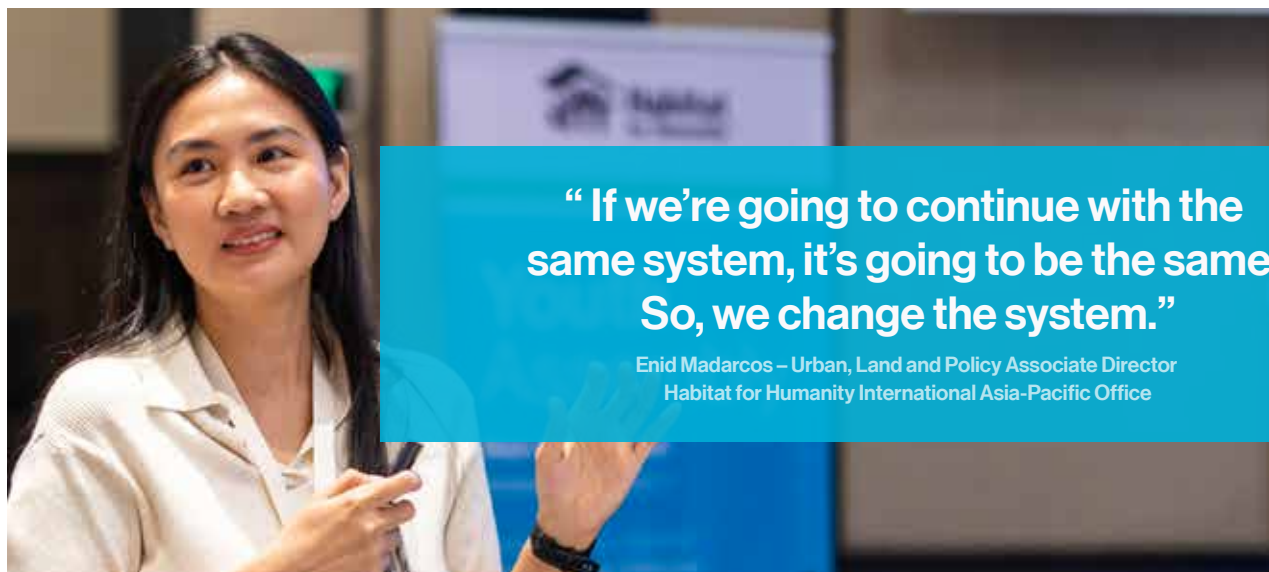
Keynote Session 6: Advocacy for Housing

The sixth session featured once again Enid Madarcos – Urban, Land, and Policy Associate Director, Habitat for Humanity Asia-Pacific Office who discussed advocacy for housing, presenting insights related to adequate housing, importance of advocacy in housing, and what the youth can advocate for. This session offered insights into the obstacles facing housing advocacy and the approaches being taken to drive change.

Through an interactive activity, Youth Delegates explored the eight elements of adequate housing, including habitability, affordability, and sustainability, and reflected on how these apply in their communities. The session prompted thoughtful questions and reflections from the delegates, especially around informal settlements. In response, Ms. Enid Madarcos emphasized that “informal does not always mean illegal” and highlighted secure tenure as a key strategy for addressing housing insecurity.

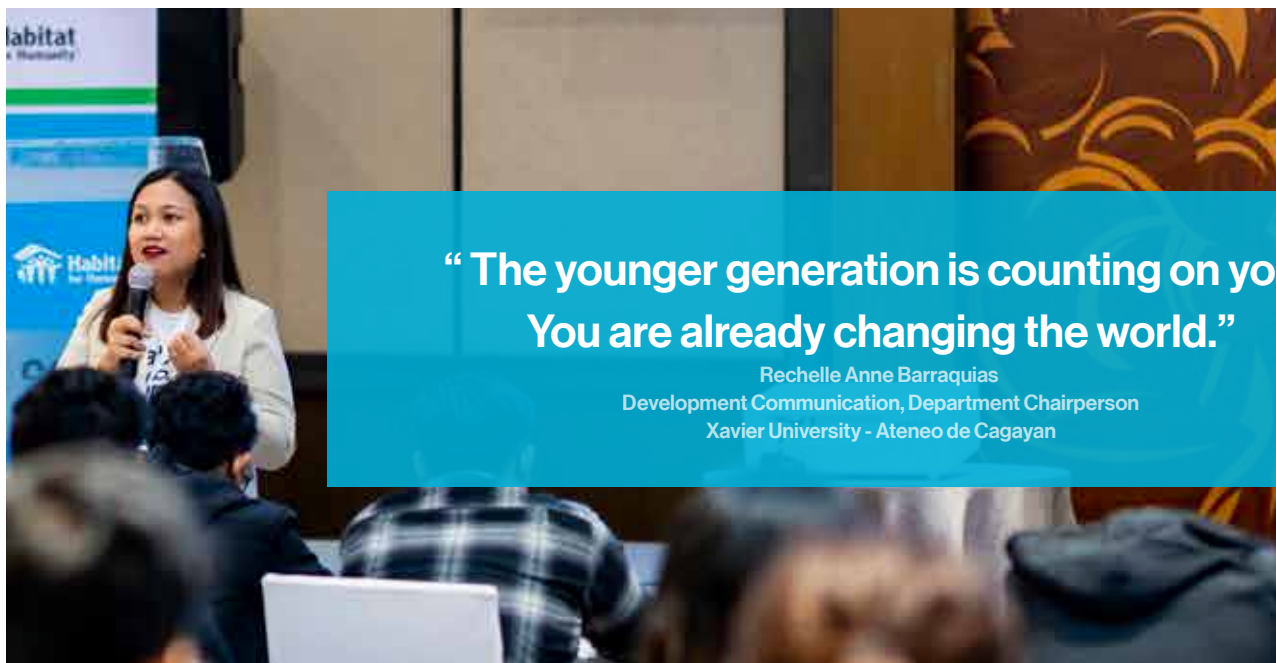
She then introduced advocacy as a tool for tackling the systemic causes of inadequate housing, such as weak urban governance and social exclusion. Using the Multiple Streams Theory, Ms. Madarcos explained how policy change happens when public awareness, practical solutions, and politics will align. She encouraged delegates to step into this space and participate meaningfully in shaping public policy.

In closing, she presented Habitat’s “Home Equals” campaign, which advocates for secure tenure, climate resilience, and access to basic services through research, community engagement, and coalition-building. The session reinforced the youth’s role as powerful changemakers equipped to lead advocacy efforts aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and grounded in local realities.



Keynote Session 7: Youth Landscape in Asia-Pacific and Its Critical Role in the Housing Ecosystem

The last session was led by Ms. Rechelle Anne Barraquias, Chair of the Development Communication Department at Xavier University. She opened with a compelling snapshot of the region: over 60% of the world's youth live in Asia-Pacific, yet their involvement in housing policymaking remains limited. She emphasized the importance of authentic youth participation in changemaking processes that directly impact their lives and communities, setting the stage for a powerful discussion on youth inclusion in volunteerism and housing development.



**“The younger generation is counting on you.
You are already changing the world.”**

Rechelle Anne Barraquias
Development Communication, Department Chairperson
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan

Ms. Barraquias unpacked the barriers to youth volunteering, including limited access to platforms, constrained opportunities due to economic and family expectations, gender norms, and safety concerns. Participants shared personal stories—such as having to prioritize income over volunteer work or facing societal expectations that discourage their involvement. These insights revealed gaps in current volunteer programs, which tend to be short-term, urban-centric, and largely adult-led, offering little space for youth to lead or shape sustainable initiatives.

She closed the session by inviting delegates to reflect on the long-term impact of their housing projects, prompting them to envision how their ideas could reshape their communities in the coming years. Many responded with hopeful visions of safer, more inclusive neighborhoods. Reinforcing the Assembly's purpose, Ms. Barraquias underscored that young people are already contributing to change—and with the right support, they can play an even greater role in advancing housing solutions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Cultural Immersion

Delegates participated in beachside lunchout at Maribago Blue Water Resort, a museum excursion at Casa Gorordo Museum in the afternoon, and a traditional clothing showcase on the closing night, fostering meaningful cultural exchange and genuine connections.



Awarding and Cultural Night

The Habitat Youth Assembly concluded with a vibrant awarding and cultural night, recognizing outstanding youth projects and celebrating regional diversity through inspiring messages, cultural performances, and traditional attires.



The Youth Assembly concluded with a vibrant awarding and cultural night, recognizing outstanding youth projects and celebrating regional identity through inspiring messages, cultural performances, and traditional attires.



ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANTS





INDIA

Delegates: 2
Projects: 2

1. AcquaHTLabs
2. Chhatt Shakti



BANGLADESH

Delegates: 3
Projects: 3

1. Stories of Home Media Fellowship
2. H-Map: Community Mapping & Crowdsourced Data Platform
3. Green Blocks: Eco-Housing for Resilient Munda Communities



NEPAL

Delegates: 13
Projects: 11

1. Climate-Retrofit
2. Empowering Youth in Roshi Rural Municipality
3. Aawas Sudhar Yuwa Abhiyan
4. SmartHousing Nepal: Safe, Affordable, & Informed Living
5. Sanskriti Prabadhan Kendra (Cultural Transmission Center)
6. Grow & Build: Bamboo Solutions for Climate Resilience
7. Samhita: Abhivyakti for Change
8. Anxiety 2 Action Scaleup Project
9. Empowering Futures: Youth-Led Sustainable Shelter Development in Nepal
10. Under Tin Skies - Water, Waste, and Warmth
11. Water Resilient Communities of Patan



VIETNAM

Delegates: 2
Projects: 2

1. Floating Green Community Initiative
2. Floating Futures

**SOUTH KOREA**

Delegates: 9

Projects: 5

1. FLOATSAFE
2. OSC Framework
3. CommUnity Root Project
4. Sonju Project
5. Aquamend

**PHILIPPINES**

Delegates: 6

Projects: 6

1. Solarpunk Urbanism Movement (SUM)
2. Floating House in Agusan Marsh
3. RH2 for Resilience Project
4. The Light We Share
5. RainCatcher
6. Re-Leaf the Heat!

**FIJI**

Delegates: 2

Projects: 2

1. Rise and Rebuild Crew
2. The Development of 100% Natural Bamboo Houses

**INDONESIA**

Delegates: 11

Projects: 7

1. Cahaya Rain Solutions
2. REBATA_Pondasi Yogyakarta
3. Rumbuh – Expandable House
4. 'mbako (Limbah Batako)
5. HiveFondasi
6. SAFEHOME: Smart Action for Flood Resilient Homes
7. CLO-BRICK

FACES OF CHANGE: YOUTH DELEGATES AROUND THE REGION

The Habitat Youth Assembly gathered 48 youth delegates from eight countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, the Philippines, South Korea, Vietnam, and Fiji. Representing diverse communities and united by a commitment to address inadequate housing, these young leaders exchanged perspectives, shared local insights, and showcased their roles as changemakers—advocating for inclusive policies, designing climate-resilient solutions, and driving community-based action.

BANGLADESH

Das Gupta, Swakhor Dip ([Green Blocks: Eco-Housing for Resilient Munda Communities](#))

Hossain, MD Fahim ([H-Map: Community Mapping & Crowdsourced Data Platform](#))

Rafid, Ariyan ([Stories of Home Media Fellowship](#))

FIJI

Nadan, Ricky Krishan ([The Development of 100% Natural Bamboo Houses](#))

Taleiqio, Alowesi ([Rise and Rebuild Crew](#))

INDIA

Lund, Muskan Dinesh ([Chhatt Shakti](#))

Nathan, Jerra Swamy ([AcquaHTLabs](#))

INDONESIA

Atmadja, Gracelyn Alicia ([HiveFondasi](#))

Caraka Trihanasia, Nizar ([Rumbuh – Expandable House](#))

Fauziah Misbahuddin, Azizah ([SAFEHOME: Smart Action for Flood Resilient Homes](#))

Frumencia, Silfira (['mbako \(Limbah Batako\)](#))

Hou, Edward ([Cahaya Rain Solutions](#))

Hawa ([REBATA_Pondasi Yogyakarta](#))

Nafisah, Aisyiyatun ([CLO-BRICK](#))

Ramadhan, Sukma ([Cahaya Rain Solutions](#))

Renwarin, Maria Risky Pratiwi (['mbako \(Limbah Batako\)](#))

Randika Rubiono, Rizki ([Cahaya Rain Solutions](#))

Donovan, Ryan ([Cahaya Rain Solutions](#))

NEPAL

Acharya, Upama (Anxiety 2 Action Scaleup Project)
Awale, Nujju (Samhita: Abhivyakti for Change)
Dangol, Kusmita (Samhita: Abhivyakti for Change)
Gautam, Ganga Bahadur (Empowering Youth in Roshi Rural Municipality)
Ghimire, Anubhav (Climate-Retrofit)
Kamat, Indra (Empowering Futures: Youth-Led Sustainable Shelter Development in Nepal)
Pokharel, Prakash (Sanskriti Prabandhan Kendra [Cultural Transmission Center])
Rai, Bijay (Anxiety 2 Action Scaleup Project)
Sah Sudi, Ganesh (Grow & Build: Bamboo Solutions for Climate Resilience)
Shah, Amresh (Under Tin Skies - Water, Waste, and Warmth)
Shrestha, James (SmartHousing Nepal: Safe, Affordable, & Informed Living)
Shrestha, Sushila (Water Resilient Communities of Patan)
Yadav, Indrajit (Aawas Sudhar Yuwa Abhiyan)

PHILIPPINES

Baliguat, Dennis Ivan Chavez (Solarpunk Urbanism Movement [SUM])
Cale, Anthony Adrian (RainCatcher)
Condez, Christian King Lagueras (The Light We Share)
Malaque, Renzo Isidore Ramos (Floating House in Agusan Marsh)
Masayon, Villa Chris Menoza (RH2 for Resilience Project)
Taladua, Ma. Alexandra Bala (Re-Leaf the Heat!)

SOUTH KOREA

Baek, Seoyeong (FLOATSAFE)
Choi, Seunghyo (OSC Framework)
Jung, Chanhyung (CommUnity Root Project)
Kim, DongHwan (FLOATSAFE)
Kim, Minjae (FLOATSAFE)
Nam, Iris Eunji (Sonju Project)
Suh, Paul (FLOATSAFE)
Yang, Hajin (Aquamend)
Yang, Seyeong (CommUnity Root Project)

VIETNAM

Chu, Thi Ngoc Anh (Floating Futures)
Le Thi Thuy Tien (Floating Green Community Initiative)

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: YOUTH-LED HOUSING SOLUTIONS



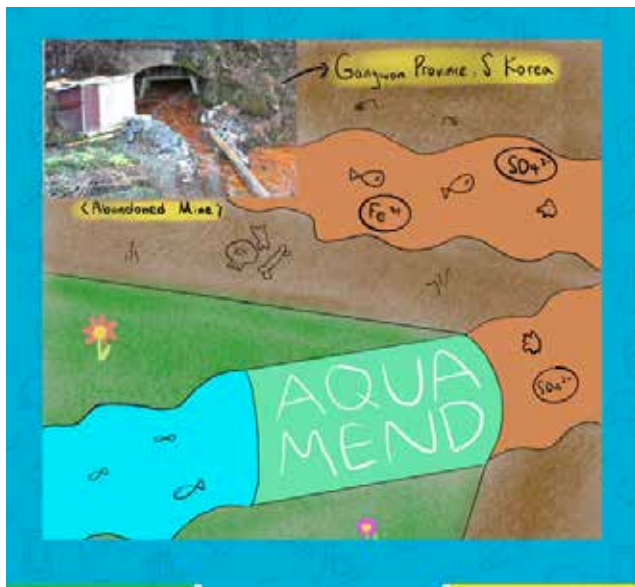
During the Assembly, 40 youth-led projects were showcased, covering areas such as climate-resilient housing, modular housing innovations, community partnership models, and policy advocacy initiatives. Through poster exhibits and elevator pitches, delegates presented practical, innovative, and community-rooted solutions designed to respond to local housing needs.

Ten top projects were selected to receive a total of US\$40,000 in grants under the 2025 Habitat Youth Solutions Grant. These winning initiatives—spanning countries such as India, the Philippines, South Korea, Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Bangladesh—demonstrated impactful, culturally relevant, and scalable housing innovations.

Learn more about the Habitat Youth Solutions projects and this year's awardees here:
<https://www.habitat.org/ap/youth-solutions>.

LEADING THE WAY

Top 10 Youth-led Projects and Awardees



Aquamend

By Hajin Yang
South Korea

Aquamend is a community-led water purification project in Dogye, Korea, addressing acid mine drainage (AMD) with eco-friendly DIY kits using limestone, activated carbon, and ion exchange resin. These purifiers remove up to 95% of toxins and acidity from streams. Through workshops and volunteer efforts, the project raises awareness, engages 50 people, and improves water access and public health for over 10,000 residents.



Chhatt Shakti

By Muskan Dinesh Lund
India

Chhat Shakti ("Roof Power") is a youth-led, women-powered initiative in rural India using solar reflective paint to cool homes by 4–6°C. At its heart, Chhat Shakti is about dignity and opportunity. Local women are trained to apply the paint, gaining income and purpose. The project cools 10+ homes, impacts 50 people, and raises awareness among 500—fostering resilience through community-led action.



Climate Retrofit

By Anubhav Ghimire

Nepal

Climate Retrofit aims retrofit public spaces with low-cost, sustainable solutions to address extreme heat, water scarcity, and poor insulation. Its pilot climate-smart demonstration hubs with thermal insulation, heat-resistant coatings, solar panels, rainwater harvesting, and passive cooling features are designed to inspire community-wide adoption and climate-smart housing solutions, opening entrepreneurial space fostering economic growth.



Floating Futures

By Thi Ngoc Anh Chu

Vietnam

The Floating Futures project supports climate-resilient floating homes in Hanoi's Xóm Phao through co-design and construction with locals. A home for Mrs. Tan will serve as a training model using affordable, local materials. The project connects 30 young architects with residents through workshops, benefiting 10+ villagers directly and over 1,000 people indirectly—building skills, resilience, and a community of climate-conscious designers.



Floating Green Community Initiative

By Kehkashan Basu

Cambodia

Green Hope Foundation's Floating Green Community Initiative addresses housing challenges faced by Kompong Phluk, a flood-prone floating village in Cambodia. It builds sustainable floating bio-homes using locally sourced materials such as bamboo and water hyacinth panels, solar roofing and rainwater harvesting systems, empowering youth with hands-on skills in sustainable construction.



H-Map (Habitat Mapping for Action and Preparedness)

By Md. Fahim Hossain

Bangladesh

The Floating Futures project supports climate-resilient floating homes through co-design and construction with locals. A pilot home will serve as a training model using affordable, local materials. The project connects 30 young architects with residents through workshops, benefiting people directly and indirectly by building skills, resilience, and a community of climate-conscious designers.



Re-Leaf the Heat!

By Ma. Alexandra Bala Taladua

Philippines

Re-Leaf the Heat is an urban greening initiative in Metro Manila's informal settlements, installing vertical green walls on 30 homes to reduce heat, promote sustainability, and improve health. Residents gain hands-on training in installation, maintenance, and green infrastructure. The project benefits 30 households, engages 150+ people, and indirectly impacts 500 community members—fostering resilience, empowerment, and climate action.



SmartHousing Nepal

By James Shrestha

Nepal

SmartHousing Nepal is a climate and safety risk visualization platform for urban properties. It integrates flood, earthquake, and air quality data with building level assessments to create interactive risk profiles for homes, businesses, and public spaces. By exposing hidden hazards from monsoon flooding to unsafe structures, it empowers tenants to avoid high risk rentals, homeowners to prioritize safety upgrades, and urban planners to target resilient infrastructure.



Sonju Project

By Iris Eunji Nam
South Korea

The Sonju Project is a youth-led initiative supporting single elderly households through monthly home checkups by trained volunteers, or “sonjus.” By addressing hazards like mold and poor ventilation, the project improves living conditions and health. It empowers elders with self-assessment tools and fosters a youth-led model of community care, raising awareness and strengthening local infrastructure for long-term, sustainable support.



The Light We Share

By Christian King Lagueras Condez
Philippines

The Light We Share is a youth-led initiative bringing solar lighting to off-grid communities in Zambales, Philippines. Through the Solar Scholars program, local youth and women gain skills to build and manage solar systems. Replacing kerosene lamps improves health, safety, and dignity while fostering leadership and opportunity. The project sparks dialogue on energy justice, empowering communities to lead climate-resilient, care-centered change.

“I feel when it comes to young people and the youth, they bring so much energy, they bring so much innovation, they bring a fresh mind into play. We always want to strive for change, we always want to break barriers, we want to break cultural norms, we want inclusivity. If my project wins, it means the world to me because I am in a position wherein I can help so many other women do the same for so many other women.”

Muskan Lund
Chhat Shakti, India



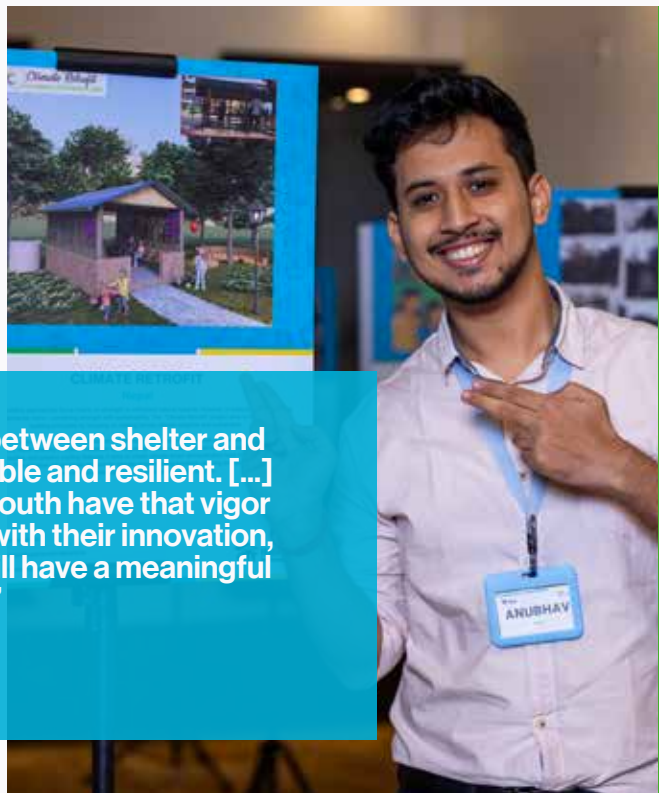
“Making affordable housing is so difficult. I [came] to [the] floating village and [asked] all the people, ‘What do you need? What [do] we need? What [do] we rely [on]? And how do you want [to] make this?’ And I discovered [that] together, we [can] have one solution. Together, we build [a] home—and [a] community starts with a home.”

Thi Ngoc Anh Chu
Floating Futures, Vietnam



“I do not want people to have given choices between shelter and safety. I want a shelter which is safe, comfortable and resilient. [...] Youth are creative, youth are innovative, and youth have that vigor to change the world. [...] With their creativity, with their innovation, they can develop meaningful solutions that will have a meaningful impact in the community.”

Anubhav Ghimire
Climate-Retrofit, Nepal



“I face a lot of failure [and rejection] from the government officials and the adults because they think we're not qualified for this. [...] Youth can challenge [the] problem differently compared to the traditional groups. So, by collaborating the youth and traditional groups together, I think we can come out with a different [new] ideas. Winning this grant means that we are sharing our problems to the global society. And also, this is a proof for our country's government that we need immediate solution for this issue.”

Hajin Yang
Aquamend, South Korea



VOICES THAT INSPIRED: MEET THE SPEAKERS

Notable speakers and facilitators included a diverse group of leaders, professionals, and youth advocates from across the region and beyond. They brought expertise in housing, sustainable development, youth engagement, and community leadership, bringing expertise and offering valuable insights in housing, sustainable development, and youth engagement.



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PROGRAM

TIME	DAY 1 - JUNE 24, 2025	
8:00 - 8:30	Registration	
8:30 - 8:35	Welcome Message	Elizabeth Satow
8:55 - 10:15	Expectation Setting and Fellowship Activity	Trinnah Caracho
10:15 - 10:30	Break	
10:30 - 11:30	Intro about Habitat, Ways of Working, and Global Strategy	Jay Ancheta
11:30 - 12:00	Group Discussions	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 - 13:30	Fellowship Activity	Trinnah Caracho
13:30 - 14:30	Broader Impacts of Housing	Enid Madarcos
14:30 - 14:45	Break	



TIME	DAY 1 - JUNE 24, 2025	
14:45 - 16:00	UN ESCAP's Work in Sustainable Urban Development and Role of Youth	Liam O'Connor
	Breakout Session 1: Climate Action Liam O'Connor	Breakout Session 2: Housing Sara Libera Zanetti
16:00 - 16:30	Group Discussions	Liam O'Connor and Sara Libera Zanetti

TIME	DAY 2 - JUNE 25, 2025	
8:00 - 8:30	Registration	
8:30 - 9:00	Fellowship Activity	Trinnah Caracho
9:00 - 9:15	Day 1 Synthesis	Youth Representative



TIME	DAY 2 - JUNE 25, 2025	
9:15 - 10:15	Youth Leadership in Action	Mark Laitflang Stone
10:15 - 10:30	Break	
10:30 - 12:00	Youth Leadership in Action (Continuation)	Mark Laitflang Stone
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 - 13:30	Fellowship Activity	Trinnah Caracho
13:30 - 14:30	Speed Networking Activity	Al Francis Razon Zahra Zanjani
14:30 - 14:45	Break	
14:45 - 16:00	Breakout Session 1: Creation of Value Proposition and Understanding Target Markets Al Francis Razon	Breakout Session 2: Building Resilience in Business or Enterprise Zahra Zanjani
16:00 - 16:30	Group Discussions	Al Francis Razon Zahra Zanjani



TIME	DAY 3 - JUNE 26, 2025	
8:00 - 8:30	Registration	
8:30 - 8:45	Day 1 Synthesis	Youth Representative
8:45 - 9:30	Advocacy for Housing	Enid Madarcos
9:30 - 10:15	Youth Landscape in Asia-Pacific and Its Critical Role in the Housing Ecosystem	Rechelle Ann Barraquias
10:15 - 10:30	Break	
10:30 - 11:30	Travel to Maribago Blue Water Resort	
11:30 - 14:00	Lunch at Maribago Blue Water Resort	
14:00 - 15:00	Travel to Casa Gorordo Museum	
15:00 - 16:00	Casa Gorordo Museum	
16:00 - 17:00	Travel to Seda Ayala Center Cebu	



TIME	DAY 3 - JUNE 26, 2025 CULTURAL NIGHT AND CLOSING PROGRAM	
18:30 - 18:35	Opening Remarks	Shoban Rainford
18:35 - 18:40	Inspirational Message	Harlan Stone Tony Lambino
18:40 - 19:05	Cultural Performance by Cebu Sayaw Cultural Troupe Audience Participation	
19:05 - 19:30	Awarding of Certificates	
19:30 - 19:45	Group Photo	
19:45 - 20:00	Awarding of 10 Habitat Youth Solutions Winners	
20:00 - 20:10	Highlight Speeches	(2) Youth Representatives
20:10 - 20:15	Closing Remarks	Trinnah Caracho
20:15 - 21:00	Dinner, Event Video (Same-Day Edit), and Socials	

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Habitat Youth Solutions, Habitat Youth Assembly, and this report are the result of a shared commitment to impact, storytelling, collaboration, and community. We thank everyone who contributed their time, talents, and voices to make this possible.

ASIA-PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Asia-Pacific Development Council played a pivotal role in the success of this initiative. Its continued commitment to inclusive leadership, innovation, and empowerment of the next generation of leaders is driving lasting impact across the region. We thank Mr. Harlan Stone, Mr. Fernando Ayala, Mr. Israel Cooper, Mr. Dennis Seah, Mr. Tony Miller and Mr. John Ryan for funding grants to our top ten winning projects. Their generosity and belief in youth-led solutions enabled young leaders across the region to transform bold ideas into actionable solutions. We thank Mr. Harlan Stone and Mr. Fernando Ayala for their generous support of the 2025 Habitat Youth Assembly, a platform fostering collaboration, learning, and regional connection for our young leaders.

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**Together,
we build
solutions.**

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