

WHO WE ARE

The Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN) connects people in the region who want to work together to campaign for human rights change. It involves young people throughout the region to develop and coordinate campaigning activities. The Asia Pacific Youth Network also focuses on providing opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, share their creative and other skills and connect with friends in the region.

There are currently more than 6000 individuals in the network from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand. They are also joined by friends from other parts of the world! APYN currently have over twelve online spaces, on Facebook, Twitter, Orkut, Ammodo and more.

Meet on MDGs!

The 'Meet on MDGs' was a opportunity for youth across the Asia Pacific region to express their thoughts on MDGs and its relationship with human rights, facilitated by a youth team of APYN for during September 2010. A 'Meet on MDGs' is a gathering of young individuals to answer five important questions on MDGs and Human Rights. This aims to collect views from young people from diverse backgrounds on how they think their government is working and should be working to address the Millennium Developments Goals. This is also to gather responses from young people from the region to be transformed into a creative campaigning tool to achieve the MDGs in the human rights perspective.

The APYN extends its CONGRATULATIONS and THANKS to over one thousand young individuals across the Asia-Pacific region for taking action for Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) last 17-19 September through the APYN MDG Campaign that started August this year.



we are agents of change

ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH NETWORK

WHAT HAPPENED?

Young activists from the region shared their views on MDGs and discussed with fellow youth why Human Rights need to be included in the MDGs and how to make sure Human Rights sit on the very core of one of the most important global plans to end poverty.

The APYN is pleased to report the following accomplishments:

- About 142 volunteer-facilitators from countries – Bangladesh, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, hosted ‘Meet on MDGs’ to answer, with about five (or more!) friends, five simple yet important questions on Human Rights and MDGs.
- Around 50 registered their thoughts on MDGs through the individual online response form, others showed their support by lacing their Facebook profile picture with the APYN for Human Rights and MDGs.
- There were 87 individuals who donated their Facebook status to call government leaders to not ignore Human Rights in efforts ending poverty..
- We connected with youth organizations and networks, friends, in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, South Korea and Thailand.

Next steps:

Our next steps are to collate the responses to inform the next stages of the campaign – we are looking to provide a tool that everyone can use to continuing this campaign in local communities! So stay in touch and look out for the next opportunity to be involved!

INCLUDEPICTURE "http://www.apyouth.net/wp-co

**We share with YOU(th)
some initial reflections
from participants...
What do YOU(th) think?**

GEFORMATINET

5 Questions: Bangladesh

What can you buy with \$US 1.25 (a day) in your hometown?

“BDT 87 (USD 1.25) is virtually nothing for me-I would have to spend the money on rickshaw trips for my coaching. However, for the rickshaw-pullers whom I’m giving the money, it represents a large amount and there are virtually a limitless number of things they can do with that money.”

“When we ask this question to the participants of our meeting they gave different answers. But, among those answers, they focused on the thing people can buy for their daily use/things they obviously need. some of those answer- foods(2-3 kg rice), grocery (1.5 kg sugar), medicines (some tablets, but insufficient for curing any disease), some pens, 2 notebooks, 4-5 liter fresh drinking water, one meal in a cheap roadside restaurant, four plate rice (khichuri) in University of Dhaka, etc. After evaluating the answers, we found, US\$1.25/87.50 Taka (daily) is a very small amount for a person to survive in a country like ours. A person can only fulfill his/her need of daily food in that amount of money. Buying other necessary things seems difficult.”

Which human rights in the UDHR are NOT covered by the MDGs?

UNYSAB Executive Committee Panel

HR No. 6, 7- which demand that law should be equal for everyone.

HR No. 9, 10, 11- which demand that every suspect should go under fair public trial. No punishment should be imposed until guilt is proved.

HR No. 22- which demand that social security should be ensured and more opportunities should be provided to develop skills.

HR No. 17, 29- which demand that security of both private and public properties should be ensured.

“Almost all participants mentioned about the UDHR's article no. 7 and 10 are not covered by the MDGs. According to the participants, if equality in implementation and protection of the law is not ensured there will be no progress in the MDGs. Because, when poor people will be provided by social justice they will start thinking about improving their living condition.”

Number the MDGs from 1-8 in order of importance to you.

- 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2 Achieve universal primary education
- 5 Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4 Reduce child mortality and
- 3 Improve maternal health
- 7 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 8 Ensure environmental sustainability
- 6 Develop a Global Partnership for Development

What is one thing you can do to make the MDGs real?

“I believe that we should not wait for foreign aid to end our poverty; it is us who can contribute a little to make Bangladesh free from poverty.”

“According to the respondents, one thing that they can do, to make the MDGs real, is to spread more awareness among the mass regarding the MDGs. For this, they plan to conduct more promotional activities and at the same time, they hope to develop themselves in a way, so that they could be able to find out their own setbacks and try to improve themselves in order to make more contributions in achieving the MDGs.”

“Sufficient publicity of UN's MDGs in high schools, colleges, universities, NGOs, other organisation, so that people can know what the MDGs actually is.”

“When you are stuck in traffic jam, I know you get angry. Don't scream out to let that anger go away. Get angrier and retain that anger. When you go home, make sure you turn this anger into doing something positive for yourself and for the society.”

If you were the leader of your country, how would you include human rights in the MDGs?

“Some suggested to emphasis the rights through understanding, hard work and rising voice against social injustice. Perhaps United Nation does not include human rights in the MDGs but as a leader a man can add these to working process of the MDGs.”

“According to the respondents, if they were the leaders of Bangladesh, they would have analyzed every demand from the commoners, regarding human rights, very carefully and critically. This is because they think that when a particular human right is viewed from the commoners’ point of focus, it might prove to be a selfish demand which might be inconsistent with the countries’ overall welfare. Again, they emphasized on making decisions that benefit the whole country as well as ensure the proper enforcement of human rights.”

- 1. Implement the MDGs in order to protect and promote human rights.**
- 2. Invest enough money for education.**
- 3. Pass the MDGs goal.**
- 4. Work for poverty**
- 5. Reduce Gender inequality**

5 Questions: Thailand

What can you buy with \$US 1.25 (a day) in your hometown?

“Probably one meal or maybe two in the countryside. You can get one pair of sandals, and a really cheap T-shirt or shorts (of the worst quality).”

“1 or 2 meals (depending on the quality) notebook and small stationary or 1 to 2 bus rides”

Which human rights in the UDHR are NOT covered by the MDGs?

Right to religious faiths and religious respect

Right to internet and technology (although not recognized by UDHR, we believe access to technology is vital to human well-being in 21st century)

Freedom of speech

Freedom from political corruption

Right to political representation

Happiness or psychological well-being

Anti-discrimination (a problem that still exist in a lot of countries)

Number the MDGs from 1-8 in order of importance to you.

“According to our knowledge of Thailand, we believe that Poverty and Starvation has no.1 priority. We decided that environmental sustainability closely follows the second most important, considering also that Thailand is very much an agricultural AND tourism-based country. We believe that children mortality and maternal health is equally important, following environmental sustainability.”

“Goals such as universal primary education in Thailand had already been achieved. But we believe that education can still be made to be more effective and motivational to youngsters.

What is one thing you can do to make the MDGs real?

“We think youngsters should be educated in the field of MDGs. They must understand its importance and relevance, as well as its achievements and progression. We think campaigning in classrooms, on the streets as well as in parliaments are all equally important.”

By working to involve young people and other civilians to engage with reconstructing the MDGs

By aligning national policies and priorities based on the global resolution of MDGs

If you were the leader of your country, how would you include human rights in the MDGs?

We would like to screen DVDs on issues of poverty, starvation and environment in our college.

We would like to reinforce mandatory recycling in our college.

We would like to reinforce the youth activists network in Thailand.

We would like to voice our opinions on MDGs to the Thai government via collecting responses and asking APYN to present the final versions of Asian Youth opinions to the leaders in Asia.





5 Questions: Myanmar

What can you buy with \$US 1.25 (a day) in your hometown?

a meal, rice with curry (3 pieces of meat), a side dish (traditional) and a follow up plate of rice

3 meals without curry, just side dish and soup

Which human rights in the UDHR are NOT covered by the MDGs?

3. Everyone has the right to life and to live in freedom and safety.
4. No one has the right to treat you as a slave nor should you make anyone your slave.
11. Everyone should be considered innocent until guilt is proved.
12. Every one has the right to ask for help if someone tries to harm you, but no-one can enter your home, open your letters or bother you or your family without a good reason.
13. Everyone has the right to travel as they wish.
14. Everyone has the right to go to another country and ask for protection if they are being persecuted or are in danger of being persecuted.
15. Everyone has the right to belong to a country. No one has the right to prevent you from belonging to another country if you wish to.
17. Everyone has the right to own property and possessions.
18. Everyone has the right to practise and observe all aspects of their own religion and change their religion if they want to.
19. Everyone has the right to say what they think and to give and receive information.
20. Everyone has the right to take part in meetings and to join associations in a peaceful way.
21. Everyone has the right to help choose and take part in the government of their country.
22. Everyone has the right to social security and to opportunities to develop their skills.
23. Everyone has the right to work for a fair wage in a safe environment and to join a trade union.
24. Everyone has the right to rest and leisure.
27. Everyone has the right to share in their community's cultural life.
28. Everyone must respect the 'social order' that is necessary for all these rights to be available.
29. Everyone must respect the rights of others, the community and public property.
30. No one has the right to take away any of the rights in this declaration.

Number the MDGs from 1-8 in order of importance to you.

- 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 7 Achieve universal primary education
- 2 Promote gender equality and empower women
- 6 Reduce child mortality and
- 5 Improve maternal health
- 8 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 3 Ensure environmental sustainability
- 6 Develop a Global Partnership for Development

What is one thing you can do to make the MDGs real?

“Donation in terms of giving things and sharing knowledge”

If you were the leader of your country, how would you include human rights in the MDGs?

“To promote equality in people, instead of saying "gender equality"”

5 Questions: Pakistan

What can you buy with \$US 1.25 (a day) in your hometown?

A few vegetables and some bread

3 old books from Saddar (Popular Market), my passion for books relating other subjects than science igniting up though for 16 years I only study Science.

Home food

Just food (Beef Burger)

Bread and Chicken Spread

1 plate biryani(local cuisine), some fruits, Water bottle, Stationery

Probably something to eat like milk, sugar, etc

Which human rights in the UDHR are NOT covered by the MDGs?

“We understand that the MDGs were designed in a way so that they are basic and simple for everyone to understand and eventually realize. We applaud the fact that the MDGs have included goals which are specific to women, children, education and maternal health.”

“However, we find that the MDGs fall short on many fronts. It fails to provide for the elderly, for the religious and ethnic minorities, for the disabled (physical or mental), and the list goes on.”

Number the MDGs from 1-8 in order of importance to you.

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What is one thing you can do to make the MDGs real?

“The practical approach begins with the family at home, and neighbor right, this must be the preliminary step.”

“Start implementing these rather than just "speaking about it". More focus should be on the third world countries, because it is seen that only west seems to be interested in discussing MDGs”

“When something is CONSIDERED important, enough effort IS put into making it a reality. Sadly, with the MDGs, many governments have not made it their priority to meet the goals.

“I want to, and will, make the MDGs real by prioritizing it. Making every person that I come across realize that these are important goals. Educating people about it, especially kids at school.”

“I started with my little sister who is in grade five. It begins here.”

If you were the leader of your country, how would you include human rights in the MDGs?

“By expanding the 8 MDGs and clearly mentioning all the sub-clauses of these goals. I find it imperative to clarify even the simplest of things, because people forget or do not consider that which is not clearly spelled out.”

“For example, this pertaining to Pakistan; clearly mentioning in the explanation of Goal Two, that "Universal Education" does mean education for our religious minorities such as Ahmedis or Sikhs.”

5 Questions: India

What can you buy with \$US 1.25 (a day) in your hometown?

"1 kg rice (Rs 25/kg) , 1 kg potato (Rs 8/kg) , 2 eggs (Rs 8) , 1 bunch of saag (Rs 10) and half kg cabbage (Rs 9)"

"1.25 USD can buy me a coke can in my hometown and the Dollar shops will help me to buy few consumer items. It won't provide me with any solid food from any outlet, in groceries it will help me to buy vegetables weighing less than 50 gms."

"1.25\$ counts to approx. Rs. 60/- . In Rs. 60/- a day's meal can be procured for a man belonging to the middle income group in India."

Which human rights in the UDHR are NOT covered by the MDGs?

"The Rights pertaining to individual freedom, freedom of thoughts, choices and expressions, freedom from slavery, torture, harassment etc. and most of the rights focussing on the individual rather than the state or the society is quite neglected or omitted from the purview of the Millennium Development Goals. Though the Gender Equality and Empowerment of the women is one of the imp MDGs along with the Reduction in Child Mortality, but violation of other individual rights is going on on daily basis throughout the world. Bonded labour in terms of employment, inflicting harassment and physical violence in name of instilling something vague like cultural morality, violating privacy and intruding into personal space in name of keeping societal honour, and also the denial of justice in most cases by the tribunals of the country/state, shows that still the country/society is power driven rather than conscience driven and all the misdeeds which are prevailing in the society is due to the misuse of this power. Hence there must have been some MDGs which can ensure these very important rights in achieving the true essence of being human."

"I hardly see an overlap in between MDG and UDHR. MDG is vastly apolitical and does not take into account the functionality of states and their governance procedures, which are understandable, on the other hand UDHR has legal tonality as it charts out the rights of the global citizens, similar to what Constitutions of Democracies do. One gets an impression, that UDHR is more contextual while MDGs are more utopic and ideal. MDGs don't provide directives or set standards for the establishments, instead it sets out standards how our societies and therefore existences would be like. In the present state of affairs (current global politics), it's highly unlikely that, if MDG-s can't take into account the nature of governance in each geographical regions of the world, it would end up as Biblical principles which will never get implemented."

Number the MDGs from 1-8 in order of importance to you.

“All the MDGs are extremely important for overall development of the society and the world but the two MDGs I connect to are Promoting Gender Equality and to Achieve Universal Primary Education.”

“Goal 2(Achieve universal primary education) is KEY to me with the caveat Goal 1(eradicate poverty and hunger) is essential for physical survival of a being. Goal 2 will empower beings and we will be able to figure out the non-human and human tools that we need to avail for a healthy sustenance of the world and us in general.”

What is one thing you can do to make the MDGs real?

“I will start from lower class to make them understand first about their rights etc. And move to colleges and students to tell them the situation and encourage them to unite on one platform to meet MDGs and then approach to government, if needed.”

“The MDGs should have to be realized in day to day work and practice and people should be aware enough to exercise their HRs confidently in everyday situations. For this, I think, the primary and the most important step would be to arrange for extensive training and workshops in schools, colleges and educational institutions which should not be confined only within the urban milieu but also extended to the rural and grass root levels. The trainings should be free, and should be in a very simple language so that everybody can understand the nuances of the different Human Rights that they are entitled to, and also realize their part to play in actually realizing the MDGs planned by the United Nations.”

If you were the leader of your country, how would you include human rights in the MDGs?

“Right to access equal treatment for general population as well And without discrimination for People living with HIV without high level advocacy, or political/big approach specially in government hospitals in Uttar Pradesh, India”

“If I would have been the leader of my country, I would have tried to include MDGs which can put into practice and ensure the human rights that I have mentioned in the previous question, in addition to the very important goals that the current MDGs are trying to meet.”

5 Questions: Philippines

What can you buy with \$US 1.25 (a day) in your hometown?

“The amount is about PHP 55. It is enough to buy lunch meals in a university. But, nothing will be left for other expenses like transportation.”

Which human rights in the UDHR are NOT covered by the MDGs?

“None. The MDGs are definitely human rights goals.”

“The MDGs are general goals that don’t exactly delve into the individual needs by a person. Although the MDGs may be a general action plan to solving social issues that widely affect societies however it does not answer to the common problems that are often disregarded due to the traditional norms and mores that are present in the different societies.”

Number the MDGs from 1-8 in order of importance to you.

“Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) is most important to one participant as it encompasses all other goals. If the problem on poverty is solved, the rest will be solved as well.

Another participant thought that Goal 2 (Achieve universal primary education) is the most important as education empowers people to combat poverty.”

“Education is most important in the MDGs. A lot of the developing countries in Asia lack the ability to develop as much of their people have not been entitled to the privilege of basic education. If universal primary education could be achieved in many countries, the people would learn to discern what should be done and not done. Many people still live in backward societies which prevent them from seeing the importance of every living being in our world.”

What is one thing you can do to make the MDGs real?

“Proper education is a key to make MDGs real. Working in government offices is one way to help in solving world's poverty.”

“The mere fact that people can find the time and effort to contribute to this campaign was already a big thing. It showed that a lot of young people are interested in making a change in our society. So I think that as long as I also make an effort in helping out in this campaign, other people would also be encouraged to help while some might even find their own way to making a campaign of their own. This, I believe, is a good way of spreading the word and educating more people about the MDGs.”

If you were the leader of your country, how would you include human rights in the MDGs?

“Leaders can enact strong laws on human rights and efficiently implement mechanisms to remedy human rights abuses. People in authority should not be immune from punishment if found guilty of human rights violations.”

“Leaders should ensure that laws on corruption are properly in place to be certain that MDGs are appropriately funded.”



5 Questions: Indonesia

What can you buy with \$US 1.25 (a day) in your hometown?

“One meal for One individual”

Which human rights in the UDHR are NOT covered by the MDGs?

“Too many points about UDHR.”

Number the MDGs from 1-8 in order of importance to you.

“All of them are important, but the most important ones are goal nos. 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women), 4 (Reduce child mortality), and 2 (Achieve universal primary education)”

What is one thing you can do to make the MDGs real?

“Not only just talk, but also to react, one of the easy thing that I could do is to hire people in any kind of affiliation and activity based on their capability, because it's so wrong when we think that men can do all the things better than women.”

If you were the leader of your country, how would you include human rights in the MDGs?

“Put human rights issue in the constitution and strictly socialize and implement this.”