YOUTH BOOKLET

Realizing Young People's Potential in Indonesia: The Path to a Brighter Future
Credits

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Disclaimer

The stories, findings, interpretations and conclusions presented in this document are those of the authors and do not reflect the policies, views, and positions of UNFPA and the Government of Indonesia.
Young people are not only the future of our world, they are also the present. That is why it is so important for us to fulfill the rights of young people like yourselves and help you to fulfill your potential to contribute to a better world.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled. UNFPA engages young people in its work, and advocates for youth engagement in the work of others. Promoting youth leadership and participation is key to UNFPA’s work. Our efforts enable young people to develop the skills, knowledge and support needed to make informed decisions about their bodies, lives, families, communities, countries and the world. UNFPA also promotes the meaningful participation of young people in international settings where issues relating to them will be discussed.

This publication, entitled “Realizing Young People’s Potentials: The Path to a Brighter Future” has been developed for the second time. Its purpose is to share stories of inspiring Indonesian youth leaders and their work as they develop their environment and realize their potential. Their stories aim to show that all young people, wherever they are, can achieve their dreams when provided with opportunity and investment. This publication also illustrates that Indonesia has a great deal to offer in the Post-2015 world.

It is with great appreciation that UNFPA extends its gratitude to all those involved in this report; our Youth Advisory Panel and youth leader contributors who provided expertise in the writing of the report. We also thank our Youth and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health team, our editor, and youth leaders and networks that have given their time to collaborate on and finalize this report.

Let us ensure that young people will always be a partner in developing the future we want.

Jose Ferraris  
UNFPA Representative in Indonesia
Introduction on Youth and Sustainable Development Goals

Planet earth is home to 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24. If you are between the ages of 10 and 24, then you are one of 65 million young people in Indonesia, and one of 1.8 billion young people living in the world today. If you have yet to turn 30, then you are in the global majority.

If you are a young person aged 24 today, you would have been 10 years old when the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration, committing to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty, and setting out a series of time-bound targets, with a deadline of 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs encapsulate eight globally agreed goals in the areas of poverty alleviation, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, child and maternal health, environmental sustainability, reducing HIV&AIDS and communicable diseases, and building a global partnership for development.

The United Nations is in the process of defining a post-2015 development agenda, to renew the MDGs commitment. This agenda will be launched at a Summit in September 2015, which is the target date for realizing the MDGs. The new agenda is currently being elaborated through informal consultations of the UN General Assembly; there have been numerous inputs to the agenda, notably a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The agenda is intended to be a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace and freedom, with the aim of leaving no one behind.

Young people are better equipped to reach their full potential when they are healthy and well educated, and when they have opportunities to thrive and fulfil their aspirations. The "My World 2015" survey revealed that globally, young people see “a good education,” “better healthcare” and “a better job opportunities” as actions that would make the greatest difference to their lives. Honest and responsive government and protection against crime and violence are similarly important. These responses show a lingering global need to provide the essential conditions and supporting environment for the development and empowerment of young
people. Young people are about to inherit an enormous responsibility for resolving many long-standing complex issues, ranging from poverty to climate change, yet they have mostly been excluded from participating in the decisions that will determine what the future looks like.

Young people in all countries including Indonesia have the potential to be agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Comprising about one-quarter of the world’s population and one third of total population in Indonesia, today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders, parents, workers, investors, active citizens and innovators. The ways in which young people are able to address their aspirations and challenges and fulfill their potential will influence current social and economic conditions and the well being and livelihood of future generations (United Nations Commission on Population and Development, 2012).

UNFPA is working together with a multitude of partners, in particular young people themselves, through five strategic prongs: 1) Enable evidence-based advocacy for comprehensive policy and program development, investment and implementation; 2) Promote comprehensive sexuality education; 3) Build capacity for sexual and reproductive health service delivery (including HIV prevention, treatment and care); 4) Take bold initiatives to reach marginalized and disadvantaged adolescents and youth, especially girls, and 5) Promote youth leadership and participation. With appropriate support to achieve their potential, they can be an immense source of productivity, innovation and creative dynamism that accelerates development.

This publication, titled “Realizing Young People’s Potentials: The Path to a Brighter Future” has been developed to show that young people have already been participating in fundamental development issues, not only in youth wellbeing, but also in broader development priorities. The youth leaders featured in this book have been grouped into three main areas of focus of sustainable development: social equality, economic development and environmental sustainability.

With this publication, let’s start thinking of young people not only as a target group of development, but also as potential initiators, partners, participants, decision-makers and leaders. We need to place young people at the center of sustainable development.
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The future of sustainable development, with youth at the centre

A youth of 10 in 2015 will be an adult of 25 in 2030, the target year for achieving the next generation of sustainable development goals. Governments aiming high today will make that young person’s future a brighter one, with rights upheld, promises fulfilled and potential realized.

Young people are central to the next generation of sustainable development goals, but especially those aimed at:

- Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Realizing inclusive, equitable and quality primary and secondary education
- Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all
- Achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Source: www.globalgoals.org

Source: www.circlesofsustainability.org/circles-overview/profile-circles/
Environmental Sustainability
There are three important values that should always be the fundamental basis of our actions: support for each other, sense of belonging, and sincerity.
Adeline Tiffanie Suwana

Environmental Activist
Promoting the Importance of Befriending the Nature
seven years ago Adeline Tiffanie Suwana (20) watched as a massive flood hit Jakarta, submerging her entire neighbourhood and forcing her family to flee. Adeline wondered what had made the water rise so suddenly to over ten feet as Jakarta transitioned from the dry to rainy season. As she researched she learnt a lot about climate change and global warming, which in turn led her to establish Sahabat Alam (Friends of the Nature) in 2008. Her goal was a simple one: to foster a sense of caring and awareness in children and youth for the environment and its biodiversity.

“With early understanding and care towards the environment, a collaboration of children and youth, engaging actively in environmental activities and having an inherent safeguarding value on environmental concerns, could potentially become a turning point against the global environment problem,” says Adeline, who believes that the youth of today holds the key in solving the climate crisis. Her first environmental envoy involved planting mangroves in a nearby swamp, and more than 100 kids from three different schools all took part voluntarily.

Years later, Sahabat Alam has become a well-established non-governmental organization, transcending places beyond Jakarta. As a youth platform, it now welcomes more than 25,000 youth, teachers and other activists who organize environmental projects. They have now hosted more than 100 different activities ranging from simple actions such as biking to school and making bio-pores in local parks, to nationwide-scale projects such as coral reef conservation and hawksbills turtle conservation.

Continuously seeking for improvements, Sahabat Alam is currently establishing more youth representatives in other cities and creating new pioneers, as the role of proliferating environmental awareness should never begin from only one, but from multiple individuals dispersed in various areas. Through www.sahabat-alam.com/en, the organization collaborates with media industry in order to reach youths nationwide.

Adeline finds it a blessing to be able to witness the profound change young generations can make towards their peers, the nature and the environment, and to have received the
opportunity to continue exploring her passion on the matter. “I always love seeing various children and youth start nurturing their sense of love and care towards the nature, especially when they realize that they could trigger real actual changes,” says Adeline, who was awarded ASEAN Champions of Biodiversity in 2014 for her contributions.

That is why she welcomes the challenges with open arms. To ensure that all actions are safe for the members as young as 5 years old, Adeline and her team always conduct a pre-survey of the site for their activities and prepare a thorough detailed plan on the standard conduct of procedures. As for garnering the funds and making sure all activities are cost-efficient and effective, they do a number of ways for fundraising efforts, including selling eco-friendly products, as well as receiving supports from various government ministries.

Believing that she still has so much to learn, the sophomore Economics student at University of Indonesia is keen to continue her commitment in Sahabat Alam and pursue a concentration in environmental economics in college. By learning, reading and thinking more of possible innovative and effective ways to contribute, she could actualize what she has in mind into concrete actions to assist the development of Indonesia.

In ten years, although the recipient of Global Teen Leader (USA) and International Green Awards (UK) in 2012 has yet to have any concrete plans, she has a clear aim. “I see myself adventuring the wilderness of both life and the nature, and exploring new pathways on how I could expand my contribution towards improving Indonesia’s potential in the environmental and forestry sector.”
Indonesian youth needs to be aware that the environmental & sustainability issue they will face in the next 20-30 years is extremely challenging, and that Indonesia, as a community and as a state, is still far behind others in preparing ourselves to mitigate this very challenging future.
Forests, home for the trees and the wild, are often also called the lungs of the world. However, with deforestation and devastating forest fires occurring in a very concerning rate, the world is having trouble breathing. Andika Putraditama (27) is playing his part to ease it up through Global Forest Watch (GFW), a global platform to deliver high-resolution, accurate, and up-to-date forests monitoring system using cutting-edge satellite & remote sensing technology.

As a research analyst at World Resource Institute (WRI), a global think tank that works on forestry, energy, climate, water, and sustainable cities issues, Andika is part of a global team developing & delivering GFW to ensure the technology makes a positive impact on the ground. The project, initiated from a partnership of more than 50 institutions led by WRI, uses and analyze decades worth of earth’s images from satellites. By using cutting-edge algorithm & supported by Google’s computing power, the team is able to compute huge amount of data—that would take hundreds of years to complete using ordinary home PC—into high-quality near real-time forests monitoring data. By comparing reflectance value from each pixels and data from various sensors from satellites, this system enables users to detect deforestation and forest fires globally.

Initially hired in 2012 to work on POTICO project—aimed to analyze degraded land and its suitability for oil palm in Indonesia—Andika participated in developing a tool named Forest Cover Analyzer. The tool was later on scaled-up into what is now known as Global Forests Watch.

“Imagine the easiness of accessing financial information such as stock market price and foreign exchange rates; those are free, easily accessible, and up-to-date every seconds. GFW has the philosophy to make forests-related information free, easily accessible, and actionable,” says Andika, highlighting the idea of having the fire alerts that can be accessed through SMS by everyone, including the firefighters of Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Right now, Andika and his colleagues are developing a crowdsourcing feature to involve the locals in verifying the
data acquired from the satellites. GFW team is also looking into artificial intelligence method known as “deep learning”, to help teach computers to recognize deforestation pattern without the need for a human operator. The proliferation of satellite technology and advances in artificial intelligence will soon make the possibility of having a “CCTV” for earth a reality.

Personally, the alumnus of International Relations major at Parahyangan University says that although he never had any specific interest in the environment, he has always been passionate about science and technology. Through his current job, he is delighted to be able to work on things he loves the most, by learning about the scientific aspects of environmental protection while doing policy advocacy. With that in mind, Andika, who used to be a robotic science trainer, plans to pursue an advanced degree to develop his scientific understanding upon the issues he is currently engaged in.

“But in ten years, the difference I want to have is to be able to directly influence decision makers in a more significant way,” says Andika, who aspires to be a parliament member in the long run. “So, not only advising the government, I want law-making process in this country to also recognizes the importance of environmental issues,” he added.

As he explains about the world’s future challenges, his passion in sustainability issues speaks larger than words. Stating the fact that the world will soon have another 6-7 billion more people in the next few decades, he emphasizes the imminent fierce competition of resources and a very complex set of environmental challenges.

“This is the issue that defines humanity. If anyone fails to see the importance of environmental sustainability, I have no words for that,” he reaffirms, noting on how crucial it is to shift the way the world consume, because sustainability in consumption is rarely addressed upon. He believes that, if only people have that kind of awareness, then there will be enough critical mass to change the way market operates into a more sustainable way.
Youth should be brave enough to live their passion and inspire others.
Dayu Prastini Hatmanti

TV Host
Inspired by the Ocean
In 2010, Dayu Prastini Hatmanti (28) had a turning point of her life as she was made the third runner up of Putri Pariwisata Indonesia, a nationwide pageant in search for the country’s tourism ambassadors. Recently graduated with an English Literature degree from Padjadjaran University, she was soon kept busy by frequent traveling to promote the country’s tourism industry. But it was not until she went to a marine exhibition in Moscow, Russia, in 2011, that she was intrigued to get to know more about Indonesia’s hidden paradise under the sea.

“I was amazed to find many diving spots in Indonesia to be really famous in European market, even ones I had never heard before. As an Indonesian, I felt I had failed to see how beautiful my country is,” she humbly admits. Being crowned as Miss Scuba International in 2011, with additional titles as Miss Marine Conservation and Miss Personality, introduced Dayu to the unknown wilderness that was her homeland’s underwater. Inspired by the beautiful biodiversity, she vowed to take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but bubbles, and from then on has been known as an advocate of marine conservation.

One of these days, if she is not seen on the screen in television programs on traveling such as Kompas TV’s Explore Indonesia, Dayu brings her warm personality and enthusiasm to various platforms to promote marine conservancy. She also appears before local schoolchildren for similar reason on behalf of Save Sharks, a social movement initiated by Divemag magazine editor-in-chief Riyanni Djangkaru.

“Meeting students in different age groups, from elementary school to college, taught me to be more versatile in embracing my audience so that my messages can be well-received,” says Dayu passionately.

Volunteerism also encouraged Dayu to make the most of her wit. After participating in Kalabia Boat Education program in 2013, where she taught local children from the islands of Raja Ampat, Papua, about conservancy, Dayu realized how important it is for such initiations to keep on running.
A believer in sustainability, Dayu decided to pursue an advanced degree in Management of Corporate Social Responsibility, so she can further contribute in community development programs through well-managed CSR activities. Confidently, she envisioned herself managing such program in years to come.

For the time being, though, Dayu has her challenges coming from juggling academic responsibilities along with her dream job to explore her country. To produce an episode of the show, she would have to be away from Jakarta for up to two weeks, and squeeze her activism into her already packed schedule.

However, she finds everything she does to be fulfilling, as she has the opportunity to play her part in the country’s development by spreading the words to wider public. She does not want to stand idly by as her work and passion has shown her that Indonesia, as a country with one of the richest marine biodiversity in the world, has so many charms as well as problems underwater.

Sadly, these problems are not ones people generally see every day. Things happen in the deep blue sea, such as destroyed coral reefs due to fishing with bombs or declining population of sharks caused by the huge demand for shark fins, are considered distant matters by many. That is why it breaks her heart to see how some can be simply ignorant about the importance of sharks in marine ecosystem, as shark fins can still be found as written in a menu at a number of restaurants.

This is what encourages Dayu to continue doing what she does, refining her knowledge and skills along the way. She is hopeful that the more people know about this, they would be more concerned and start doing what they can to make a difference. In conclusion, she says, “As we save the ocean, we save the world.”
Youth must start collaborating, because as humans, they are also social beings.
Ghulam Najmudin Nuruul Islamy

Indie Musician and Student
Composing Activism in Music and Lyrics
When he sings *The Car is over*, he means it. Ghulam Najmudin Nuruul Islamy (20) did not only wrote the indie rock song himself, he also put his belief into practice by recycling used bicycles and make them ready for the road again. Inspired by his mother’s social entrepreneurship initiatives, he aspires to empower local youth in Malang, East Java, and put young people from punk subculture in a more encouraging limelight.

More often than not, things people do began at home. Ghulam is not an exception, as he had been watching his mother and her community giving trainings for women who experienced early marriage and domestic violence, among others, to make bags out of unused pieces of cloths from clothing factories.

Ghulam started his own initiatives from his hobby to bike around, and began recycling used bicycles to provide an alternative means of transportation to tackle his hometown’s traffic problems. Although he had a friend who partnered with him, he was still in short for workforce. He saw the potential in his friends from punk subculture who are jobless and choose to spend their time as street singers, and asked them to join.

“We want to prove that young people from punk subculture are not the scum of the society. They are also a part of the generation that can bring changes to the nation, with creativity and critical mindset in observing things in their surroundings,” says Ghulam, who hopes that this move would help them be seen in a more positive light. This way, and Punkers, can prove that they also can do positive actions and contribute to the society.

Ghulam also takes his campaign for environmentally friendly lifestyle to a bigger extent. Together with his bandmates from Feeling in the Morning, an indie-rock band, he promotes messages about environment and world peace to local youth in his hometown through his songs, *The Car is Over* being one of them. In Ramadan, he initiated Punk Peduli Panti, where Punkers and orphanage
children joined in a mass breakfasting event enriched with knowledge-sharing session on being environmentally friendly and appreciating diversity. Furthermore, he has worked together with a number of local communities for numerous environmental campaigns, from tree-planting events to a movement for using reusable tote bags.

This year, he plans to have a concert with his band in a unique, eco-friendly concept, where the audience is required to bring plastic waste to be exchanged with tickets and plant seeds.

On a related note, Ghulam realizes that not all young people in his hometown are as concerned as he is when it comes to the environment. However, the fact that there are teenagers who are still apathetic about his surroundings, the cars are not really over in his hometown, and plastic waste is still around, does not stop him from encouraging his audience to embrace environmentally friendly lifestyle. He also collaborates with local youth from all walks of lives, from street children and teenagers, Punkers, to college students, by exchanging information on his initiatives.

“I am thrilled to able to promote environment-related causes through something I love, and that is music. Whenever my bandmates and I are on stage and be seen, and our music be heard, we hope that the audience can bring home the information and the messages afterwards,” says Ghulam, who feels that he has found a new family with young people who are in the same boat with him.

Ghulam believes that every young person, regardless of their social background, has creativity and critical mindset in them. The said potentials need to be materialized through creative ideas and real actions, to show that they care about something bigger than themselves. If Punkers can do it, he says, then everyone else can, too.
The most rewarding thing to be amongst Indonesian youth is the fact that majority of us never think about what the government and other stakeholders can do for us but what can we do to help the government, and each other, in creating a great place to live in.
Gita Syahrani

Environmental Specialist
Driving Environmental-Related Initiatives with the Support of Environmental Law
Environment has been inseparable to the day-to-day life of Gita Syahrani (30), as her family upbringing has always taught her that it is the center of life. Her formal knowledge in environmental law serves as her educational backbone not only in her profession, but also her environmental-related activism.

“For me, what I am doing is far from special. It is only natural for everyone to do his or her part in creating a sustainable place to live in,” says Gita, who helped to establish and operate the former national REDD+ Agency, especially the funding instrument, in 2013.

Throughout the years, Gita also managed to establish and run several environmental related initiatives, which keep her grounded and in-tune on what is really happening at the grassroots. Among them are SiDalang (Kreasi Daur Ulang), a creative waste up-cycle initiative; Twist Events, a low-impact event styling and organizer; and SocolaS, an initiative of corporate lawyers to support establishment and institutional transformation of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and social movements. She admits to not really having any clear starting point of her environmental-related activities, but remembers one of her first childhood memories being her grandmother teaching her Latin names of all the flowers in their garden.

In the meantime, through her profession, she managed to establish and operate a practice area specializing on climate change and green investment at her former law firm to assist both government and companies. Since 2012, SiDalang has managed to assist tens of moms in up-cycling buyback programmes and educate hundreds of people on up-cycling. From the same year, Twist Events has managed to cater to almost one hundred low-impact décor and events since 2012. Moreover, since it was launched earlier this year, SocolaS has trained more than fifty partners.

Her job and initiatives enables Gita to be involved in environmental issue in a multi-dimensional way. Not
only to help design and put into effect policy changes, she can also assist to achieve tangible things and see how it concretely affect people. To date, the majority of volunteers she targeted to support the initiatives are young professionals who are busy with life but wants a platform to contribute back to society. Taking this into account, she is maintaining a balanced dynamic between her initiatives’ goals and capacity so that real impacts can be achieved without over-promising.

During her humble years of working, Gita realizes that consistency is quite a challenge. The hardest part, after designing concept and policy, is to gather support on implementation and stand-by it to make it work. She also highlights the importance of collaboration, because having allies and supporters to her causes is crucial in order to really make an impact.

“It can never be only ‘my agenda’. For me, collaboration is just a fancy word for making friends,” adds Gita, who dreams of starting a collaborative model of ‘responsible province’, with credible mapping and licenses system, sustainable supply-chain and an empowered local community dynamic in the country, which can be up-scaled and replicated across Indonesia and globally.

Furthermore, Gita believes that her consistency in her job and initiatives can bring real impacts for the country. As the Senior Programme Manager at Indonesia Palm Oil Pledge (IPOP) Management, she is creating sustainable supply-chain on strategic sector in Indonesia. In the meantime, SiDalang is to be her channel in setting a better waste management consciousness, Twist Events to transform ways of celebrating special occasions into a wiser – more sustainable one, and SocolaS to support the development of NGOs, CSOs, and social movements in Indonesia into a legal-savvy ones. With all of these, she hopes to become a bridge to facilitate concrete collaboration between government, private sector and people, for a more sustainable Indonesia especially on land-use governance and waste management.
Indonesian youth is all about dare to dream big, never stop learning, start to take actions, and share to inspire.
Infra Ranisetya

Social Entrepreneurship Enthusiast
Elevating the Value of Waste through Srikandhi Trash Bank
From Semarang, Central Java, the home of Diponegoro University where she studied Communications, Infra Ranisetya (24) started her eco-preneurship venture by co-founding Srikandhi Trash Bank in late 2012. In less than three years, the initiative has garnered nationwide recognition, and brought her to the path of a future leader.

Along with her four other friends, Infra established Srikandhi Trash Bank to work on environmental issues as well as community development, which hopefully would create a financially independent community in the long run. Their first project was to develop a foster village in Tembalang, Semarang, by assisting the locals to recycle plastic waste to create new products with higher economic value such as handbags, wallet, tissue box, and others.

In light of the Millennium Development Goals, the Bank focuses on three goals at once: to ensure environmental sustainability, promote gender equality and empower women, and eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The venture was built from scratch with zero rupiah in capital, but Infra and her friends marched on, because they believed that starting now is better than later.

“We wanted to prove that young people can not only dream big, but also start taking actions to make their dreams come true, even from the simplest ones,” says Infra, as she recounted the humble beginning of Srikandhi Trash Bank.

To date, the Bank has also initiated a number of projects to raising public awareness and participation in green lifestyle and waste management, from school visits to trash-picking during car free day and recycling competition. It went on to be a part of Top Ten Best Social Actions in Klik Hati Merck 2013, a nationwide competition for social movements. It also brought Infra to be one of 19 mentees for Jalan Pemimpin (The Path of the Leaders), a youth mentorship initiative, in late 2014.

All these, in addition to considerable media exposure both locally and nationally, have gained Srikandhi Trash Bank a reputation as a youth-initiated social business on
environmental cause. This year, the Bank is starting to develop its business aspect, in order to make recycled products with favourable quality and design.

The growth of her venture has also personally changed Infra’s life, and for that, being one of her biggest dreams that came true, she is tremendously grateful. Although she acknowledges that Srikandhi Trash Bank is still a baby, which means its contribution is yet to have a large magnitude, it nevertheless reminds her about the strengths and possibilities of a labour of love. It also keeps her and the other co-founders going on, because they do not want what they have started and seen developed to eventually cease to exist.

“With its existence, I learned that in life, there will be a time when we are ‘done’ with our own personal issues and started to care about our surroundings. Everything we own will have an added value to it when we start sharing,” explains Infra, who now works as a Business Development Officer in Bank Mandiri.

What Srikandhi Trash Bank has accomplished so far also serves as a reminder for Infra and her friends on the importance of contributing together as a team and making it a sustainable one. Therefore, as a leader, at least for themselves, every Indonesian youth needs to start taking actions and continuously do so.

“I believe that if youth have the awareness, optimism, and willingness to conquer their ego and start collaborating as a team, unifying their strength to cover each other’s weaknesses, even the simplest things we do will create a big impact,” she encourages. From then on, hopefully, Indonesia would be known in the world through the leadership spirit of her young people.
Indonesian youth are active and creative, but sometimes they have no idea where to channel their creativity, making the proper guidance a necessity.
Lidwina Marcella

Communications Practitioner
Making the Most of Youth Communities and Social Media
Are we cooking our planet? The aptly-titled youth leadership conference Lidwina Marcella (27) attended in 2008 had her hooked on the issues of global warming, and she has been actively promoting the cause since then. Combining offline and online strategies, Marcella, or Cea to her friends, uses both her knowledge and hobby to raise the awareness of young people on the importance of environment sustainability.

Not long after, Cea established her first environmental-related initiative, London School of Public Relations Climate Change Champions Club (LSPR 4C) at her alma mater. At that time, she was studying Mass Communications at the university. Presided LSPR 4C from 2009 to 2010, Cea also served as the Project Director of Asia Pacific Youth Assembly on Global Environmental Issues in 2011 on behalf of the organization.

In 2010, she started tinkering with social media when assisting WWF-Indonesia team for Earth Hour campaign to disperse messages through their Facebook and Twitter account. As the use of social media blossomed in the country, Cea began to see her activity in social media not only as a hobby, but also a useful tool to easily capture the world’s attention.

“Everyone can do something and make a difference through social media,” says Cea matter-of-factly. She takes as examples the recent news about the smuggling of cockatoos by putting them into water bottles that was widely circulated in social media, and the massacre of orang-utans in Kalimantan which garnered online responses from celebrities and ended with the capture of the perpetrators.

“Back then, news like these can only be found on conventional mass media outlets such as television and radio, but then, what can we do? Social media enables us to encourage people to do something which will create bigger impact,” she adds.
Her activism in environmental-related causes continued after she spent five weeks at the University of Montana as a participant of Study at the United States Institute on Global Environmental Issues in summer 2010. Came back to Jakarta enlightened from her study and meeting inspirational, like-minded people, Cea could not resist the calling to create something to raise awareness on environmental issues for Indonesian youth. Together with two other former volunteers at WWF-Indonesia, Cea came up with the idea to gather youth from Greater Jakarta area with interest on the environment. The gathering later gave birth to Koalisi Pemuda Hijau Indonesia (KOPHI), a youth coalition for the environment sustainability in Indonesia.

Since her early days as volunteering at an environmental non-government organization, Cea has intertwined her interest in social media with the causes she believes in. One of her attempts to do so was holding workshops on social media campaign in a number of cities outside Java such Bangka, Jambi, Makassar, Samarinda, Ternate and Kupang.

This way, people who live far away from the capital city would also be able to make the most of social media. Other than taking charge of social media team for environmental campaigns over the years, she also spent about two years as a full-time social media coordinator at Mongabay Indonesia, an online news outlet on environmental issues.

Hoping to be an entrepreneur in the future, last year Cea joined Pure Ink Creative Studio, a communications consultancy firm, where she currently serves as the Account Manager. On the other hand, as she has been campaigning for environmental causes both digitally and conventionally, Cea is fully aware of the importance of using social media wisely.

“Social media is like your diary for everyone else to see, so please use it well. There are many good things one can do online, such as campaigning for causes they believe in and tagging people along to do good together, so that they can make bigger impact,” Cea concludes.
Present Indonesian youth are at the forefront and holding the key for the future, so they have to be brave enough to envision the future, start taking the first steps, and proudly connect with the rest of the world.
Mizan Bustanul Fuady Bisri

Young Scholar
Fostering Knowledge Development and Youth-Led Initiative on Disaster Risk Reduction
Mizan Bustanul Fuady Bisri (27), or Mizan for short, immerses himself into volunteerism. By promoting the importance of disaster mitigation, he engages youth in looking at their localities and nurture ideas on how to reduce the risk surrounds them.

After an earthquake hit Yogyakarta and tsunami wiped out Pangandaran, West Java, in 2006, the Urban Planning student at Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) decided to focus more on disaster risk reduction (DRR) as an integral part of his field of study.

However, the decision to start organizing youth-led DRR activities came in 2008. As the chairman of ITB’s Regional and City Planning Student Association (HMP Pangripta Loka ITB), he decided to team up with Kyoto University students’ circle in disaster prevention (KIDS) to conduct disaster awareness education in two schools in Bandung. He later co-founded Bandung Disaster Study Group (BDSG) in 2010, to create a more open platform for students to volunteer for the cause. Along with his professor and two colleagues, he also established Kobe Risk Management Community (Kobe RMC) in 2013, with its DRR-related activities intended for foreign residents in Kobe.

For Mizan, his previous volunteer experiences have become an eye-opener. One example is when he went to Pangalengan district several times in the aftermath of the West Java Earthquake 2009, as he volunteered to support the trauma healing for the local children.

“At that point, again I was reminded that there are works that can be done as youth who has the privilege in receiving knowledge about disaster and how to mitigate them,” explains Mizan, taking into account initiating activities to increase awareness of the people and make preparation against disaster.

Over the years, Mizan’s initiatives have been quite fruitful. In five years, BDSG has been able to independently organize DRR-related activities in about twenty schools all over West Java. For three years, the youth-based organization also consistently organized Japan-Indonesian Youth Exchange in DRR, co-organized by Kobe RMC, KIDS and WASEND. The activity included innovative activities such as DRR Homestay program and youth workshop on DRR.
“Currently, as Indonesia is still lacking in terms of DRR-activities, youth, with appropriate mentorship, can become a bridge within the society in realizing a common-desired future,” says Mizan, adding that the activities he is engaged in also provide opportunities for youth-based international cooperation. For him, one of them was to be appointed as a panelist for the Children and Youth Forum at the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan, last March.

Presently, Mizan is also actively participating in the Youth Beyond Disasters (YBD) and the processes inside the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UN-MGCY), a forum for channeling and advocating children and youth interests in the United Nations negotiation processes. In particular, his present task is as member of the focal team of YBD and UNMGCY for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.

Based on his experience in the realm of youth-based volunteerism in Indonesia, Mizan identifies several challenges. Other than continuity, there are also issues on financial independency, legal recognition, and ensuring the impact of the activities to the changing of behavior and culture of safety.

In his opinion, to encounter the said challenges, regeneration is the key. Furthermore, he attempts to connect youth volunteerism with young professional development through research-based projects. He also breaks down his organizations’ financial plan and expenses on project-basis to help finding donations.

To describe youth contribution for the development of Indonesia, Mizan reiterates the motto of BDSG: Learn, Share, and Volunteer.

“By volunteering, youth can feed their mind and soul with real problems faced by the society, and it will be part of their character development. They will also be able to fully comprehend that knowledge is really a power, but what’s matter more is the character,” says Mizan, who aspires to make every child in the Asia-Pacific region has the knowledge and information about disasters, as well as the opportunity to practice the immediate response and basic skills in order to survive a disaster.
Indonesian youth have the motivation to do things that matter for the environment, but often times this virtue is yet to be properly directed and materialized.
Rahyang Nusantara

Environmental Activist
Walking the Talk for the Love of Environment
was used to talking to plants, now I have to talk to the government and retailers,” jokes Rahyang Rimba Prima Nusantara (26), when explaining his role as the Executive Coordinator of Gerakan Indonesia Diet Kantong Plastik (GIDKP), a national movement on reducing the use of plastic bags. Rahyang’s advocacy efforts includes launching an online petition on Change.org, campaigning for plastic bags diet in The Body Shop stores in Indonesia, and encouraging government and retailers to establish an initiation for a wiser use of plastic bags.

Began his activism in 2012 as a volunteer for zero waste campaign by Bioscience and Biotechnology Development Foundation (YPBB) Bandung, the alumnus of Faculty of Agriculture at Padjadjaran University has come a long way. When he was a Staff of Program Division at Greeneration Indonesia, the organization co-founded GIDKP in 2013 with Ciliwung Institute, Change.org, Indorelawan, The Body Shop Indonesia, Earth Hour Indonesia, Leaf Plus, Kreasi Daur Ulang (Si Dalang), and environmental activists Tiza Mafira and Joko Arif. The following year, he took the opportunity to be at the movement’s helm.

Previously experienced in raising awareness through facilitating workshops and making the most of social media, his current job gets Rahyang to build a new set of skills to help making a strategic and measurable long-term policy on environment sustainability. Not only he learns about governance and how to navigate into the system, he also establishes the system of how GIDKP is to be run, creates educational campaigns, and mentors his volunteers.

Through the years, he only gets more exposed to sustainability issues, encouraging him all the more to take real steps to support the cause. He believes it will be easier to encourage others to follow his lead by being an example than busy telling them what to do, so that is what he has been doing.

In addition to using his own shopping bag while going for groceries (and actually refrain from buying anything at all if he does not have the bag with him), Rahyang chooses dine-in over takeaways to avoid using Styrofoam, uses his own
reusable bamboo straw while eating out, and spared used plastic bottles to be given to scavengers. He also no longer opts for toiletries products made by companies which are not environmentally friendly, to the extent of making his own toothpaste.

“The environment doesn’t need ambassadors who look pretty and talk in public to get recognition,” says Rahyang, openly criticizing the tendency for lip-service acts in promoting environment-related causes, done by those with no proven track record in activism simply to impress the public.

However, he believes that one can never be too late to start to dip their toes into the cause. It is actually possible for someone to focus on a particular issue on environment that they are passionate about, so that they can make real impacts. Personally, he believes that youth can achieve something that can make them happy more than money, and it is exploring their potential and achieving something they thought they can never do.

While passionately explaining the problems of plastic bags, he recounted the experience of some of his volunteers whom helplessly faced an angry businessman who claimed that the organization was trying to kill his plastic bag business. He clarified that it has never been the intention. “I believe that basically a business exists and survives due to supply and demand. When Indonesian consumers have become more educated, the businesspeople will have to adapt and innovate to meet the demand for environmentally friendly alternative to plastic to make their business more sustainable,” he concludes.
With the strength in both quantity and quality, Indonesian youth needs empowerment so that not only they become the heart of development, but also to have the heart to develop.
Vania Santoso

Green Entrepreneur
Making the Empowerment to be Environmentally Sustainable and Fashionable
When Vania Santoso (23) initiated AV Peduli (originally AV CARE, which stands for A Vision: Concern About Renewing Environment), an independent youth-led NGO to raise students’ awareness and contribution in environment-related issues, with her elder sister Agnes in 2005, she did not envision how sustainable it can be. The thirteen-year-old was simply determined to make a change, as she heard that Indonesia was declared as one of the dirtiest countries by WHO. Yet ten years later, she is now internationally renowned for her passion in innovative waste management, and has found her niche as a green entrepreneur.

Vania’s humble beginning was set at her junior high school, from which her sister also graduated. The club’s activities slowly developed to partnerships with a number of elementary, junior and senior high schools around Surabaya, from mentoring extracurricular activities in neighboring schools to holding student competitions.

“Back then, environment wasn’t as popular an issue as present days, so we tried every way we could to raising awareness, while making them interesting for kids and teenagers,” recalls Vania, who also recorded songs about environment and distributed them in form of cassettes and VCDs, and later acknowledged by Indonesia World Records Museum as the youngest environmental activist that campaigns uniquely in 2005.

Over the years, the recognitions in national and international levels also help her in introducing her projects, proving her credentials, and gaining trust from other stakeholders. After getting the top prize at the Volvo Adventure competition 2007 in Sweden by United Nations Environment Programme, bringing home a $10,000 grant to fund her project, her dedication shines even more.

As she observed the trends of environmental issues, Vania came to a conclusion that waste-related problems are not only on the matters of waste management, but also on how to market recycled products. From then on, she decided to develop her interest in incorporating the social business aspect into her project.

In 2011, she launched HeyStartic, a fashion apparel label specializing in up-cycling unused cement sacks into fashion apparels such as women’s bags and wallets. To support her production, she has three fostered villages in Surabaya,
Gresik, and Sidoarjo, East Java, thus empowering the locals and promoting the values of being environmentally friendly through business at the same time. In Surabaya, she also established a trash bank.

Her initiatives did not stop there. To provide extra layer of protection, she did her research with the support from Universitas Airlangga and came up with a natural coating formula made from vegetation sap, which makes the cement sacks waterproof and adds the extra shine onto it. Moreover, to attract the interest of domestic market and raise her products’ economic value, she combines the cement sacks with genuine leather or ethnic textiles, like Batik and Songket. Earlier this March, her innovations made her a Global Young Social Entrepreneur from Singapore International Foundation.

However, her activism has not always been a smooth sailing. After she was titled as an environment ambassador by the government not long after AV Peduli was established, some people from another local environmental organization seemed to grow jealous of her. They started to spread rumors about her, even planned to take legal steps because they claimed that she faked the title she was awarded.

“At that point, I was exasperated. Why would people do such cruel thing, whereas I was just a teenage girl trying to do something good for my surroundings? I wondered why we couldn’t be partners, since we were basically on the same page,” says Vania, who later became the only youth to receive Satyalancana Wira Karya, a special service award for Indonesian citizen by the President of Indonesia, in 2010.

Nevertheless, she marches on, because there are many things she loves about what she does. One of her most favorite moments is whenever she is appreciated, be it in forms of compliments or awards. Not because it becomes her personal achievement and something for her to brag about, but due to the fact that she can bring the story home to the people at her fostered villages and share the excitement with them. The member of UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel proudly admits, “The sincere pride that glows in their faces, upon knowing that their work can get that kind of recognition, is such a priceless mood booster for me.”
Human capital investments open the window to a demographic dividend

Regardless of their stage of development, all countries bear a responsibility to uphold the rights of youth and help them establish foundation for their lives. The includes equipping them with high-quality, relevant education, and comprehensive health care, encompassing all aspects of sexual and reproductive health. Youth need opportunities to earn a living and to participate in decisions that affect them. Given the disparities that persist in all societies, special efforts should reach groups marginalized on multiple fronts, such as age, gender, and ethnicity.

Promising Interventions

- Stopping child marriage
- Discouraging harmful practices
- Promoting gender parity in educations
- Bolstering young people’s sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Preventing sexual and gender-based violence
- Improving employment and earnings opportunities

Key Actions to Realize a Demographic Dividend

- Increase investment in young people’s human capital
- Expand access to contraception
- Increase opportunities for employment
- Improve access to financial systems

Many of the countries with the largest portions of youth today are among the poorest in the world, but they are also on the cusp of the demographic transition that can yield a demographic dividend. Transition begins as fertility and mortality rates start to fall, leaving fewer dependents. More people, proportionally, are in the workforce. The dividend comes as resources are freed for economic development, and for greater per capita spending on higher quality health and education services. Economic growth takes off. A virtuous cycle begins where capabilities and opportunities continuously expand.

Source: The Power of 1.8 billion (SWOP UNFPA)
Entrepreneurship

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Source: The Power of 1.8 billion (SWOP UNFPA)
Kawung, a traditional Javanese batik pattern, has a very important meaning to Indonesian’s youth as it represents hope, equality, and never forgetting our root and ancestors.
Dea
Valencia Budiarto

Social Entrepreneur
Empowering People with Disability through the Beauty of Batik
Everyone wants to change the world, but not everyone wants to change. To mark her own way in making it happen, the 21-year-old entrepreneur stands against discrimination of people with disabilities through her fashion line, Batik Kultur by Dea Valencia.

“I believe that a huge difference starts from a single person: the man, or woman, in the mirror. We cannot expect someone else to change the world, while we are not trying to do any good deed ourselves,” reaffirms Dea, who founded Batik Kultur in 2011, when she was an undergraduate student majoring in Information System at Universitas Multimedia Nusantara.

Batik Kultur started with Dea’s love of batik, which inspired her to learn the process of traditional batik making and the meaning behind every pattern. She later started selling batik fabrics online and designing her clothing products made of batik and other Indonesian traditional cloths.

Moreover, the company is also the embodiment of Dea’s aspiration to tell the world that every person deserves a chance to work, express themselves and experience life. She is particularly ashamed of and disappointed with disability discrimination, for the society judges a disabled person from their disability instead of their ability. The fact that people with disability are more disabled by the society than by their body themselves greatly limits their potential; and she wants to play her part to stop that happening.

With that in mind, Dea has been developing Batik Kultur into a social venture with international recognition. Her customers are coming from countries such as The USA, The UK, Germany, Hong Kong, The Netherlands, Singapore, and Norway, in addition to the domestic market. She also has opened her first brick and mortar store in June this year, and looking forward to expand her offline market in major cities of Indonesia on the coming years.
Today, Batik Kultur employs over seventy workers in its workshop in Semarang. Having affiliated with social welfare institutions, the company also incorporates workers with physical disabilities such as people with hearing and speaking impairment and amputees.

“Our main purpose is to support and nurture them, so that they will become more independent and surviving individuals who could benefit their family and community as a whole,” explains Dea, who earlier this year was dubbed by Junior Chamber International Indonesia as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Person on Cultural Achievement.

On another note, being a young entrepreneur, Dea finds the moments of leading older team members as one of the most challenging part of her job. To keep the balance, she stays respectful and upholds professionalism during working hours, but welcomes her employees for casual dinners and holidays for a family-like cooperation. Before graduated cum laude in 2014, she also had to juggle between college and work, having to go back and forth to Semarang on weekends to help on the manufacturing.

Being an Indonesian youth also inspires Dea to extend her dedication for her country, and she has done so by designing modern-chic and wearable designs for young adult customers.

“We are determined to entice Indonesia’s younger generations to understand, value, and most importantly wear our nation’s culture,” says Dea, as she encourages young people of her nation to contribute to Indonesia’s welfare growth and to nourish Indonesian admirable culture.
We as Indonesian youth must open ourselves up to embrace global challenge, yet still keeping in mind the things we have to preserve at home.
Dimas Ramadhani

Computer Science Student and IT Entrepreneur
Tinkering with the Possibilities of Technology
A country as big as Indonesia has her own challenges on accessibility, but as technology develops, enters the internet, with the ability to make the impossible possible. Dimas Ramadhani (22) seizes the opportunity and uses it as a bridge, which connects resources and people from across the nation to foster their access to quality education.

Since the first time he played with his mother’s computer as a third-grader in elementary school, Dimas had been improving his skills, mostly by learning on his own. His interest in information technology brought him to formally study computer science, and the opportunity to be mentored by his senior on website developing.

Today, as a final year student at the Faculty of Computer Science at University of Indonesia, Dimas is already recognized as one of the most promising young programmer. After he co-founded Sunsquare Studio, a technology start-up consists of Computer Science students with passion to innovate in technology and education, in late 2011, Dimas had managed a number of information technology-related projects. However, his skills on tinkering with computers have gained him reputation long before he does his formal study on the field.

“It is safe to say that I was an unofficial school technician, because I was frequently called upon to fix the computers at school,” laughs Dimas, recalling his days in junior and senior high school. At that point, he thought that his future will not be far away from computers, and apparently, he was right.

His first project with Sunsquare was called Beling, short for Belajar Programming (Learning Programming), an e-learning website to help Indonesian youth learn basic programming, for a grant project in cooperation with World Bank. Although Beling did not make the cut, the Faculty was interested in the idea of the project and decided to fund it in 2012. Six months later, after a website and a learning material were completed, the Faculty agreed to continue the support for the next two years. Until now, Beling has...
been used by first-year students of the Faculty to learn basic programming. The project was later awarded the 3rd Winner of Unity Educomp by State University of Yogyakarta in 2013.

Beling also helps Sunsquare matured as a community, and encourages Dimas and his team to keep innovating. One of the results was the award-winning SunClean Games, a game created to increase children’s awareness on sanitation, in which Dimas was the project manager. In 2012, the first version of SunClean Games became the Winner of Sanitation Hackathon by World Bank Indonesia. The following year, the game made Sunsquare the International Grand Prize Winner of Sanitation App Challenge by the World Bank in the USA.

“We were the youngest grand prize winner alongside two other teams, who had won over 180 other teams from around the world,” says Dimas proudly about the latter achievement.

From Sunsquare, whose members has gone from four to twenty-one, Dimas and his friend built Cozora, a website that allows everyone to make and publish guided learning materials to help Indonesians learn online in their own language. As the content manager, Dimas invites academia and professionals living in big cities in Indonesia to create an online blog and gives them the freedom to craft their curriculums.

As challenging as creating interesting educational content for Cozora may seem, Dimas also has to deal with the issues of scarcity of time and human resources in Sunsquare. For Dimas, the key to overcome the obstacles is the spirit of entrepreneurship, which he hopes to instill in the minds of young people through his initiatives.

“Entrepreneurship is not necessarily about being a businessman or businesswoman, but it is more like a paradigm. With the spirit of entrepreneurship, a person will be able to create things and solve problems with the initiative to do more and better,” he concludes.
I have seen so many inspiring Indonesian youth lately with their own great projects, but the most important thing is that we should collaborate for a better Indonesia.
Dini Hajjarrahmah

Social Entrepreneur
Endorsing Empowerment through Environmental-Friendly Tourism
For Dini Hajarahmah (25), or usually simply Dini, traveling is not simply about going places and taking pictures to show off on social media. Charmed by the locals she meets and enriched by deeper understanding about their lives, she is encouraged to combine the efforts of empowering people with the dream for environment sustainability.

By the end of 2013, along with her two friends Fany Ayuningtyas and Syahira Marina, Dini co-founded Wanderlust Indonesia. Not only it brings people from every corner of the world to fascinating destinations in the country, the social venture also enables them to experience responsible travel by practicing eco-friendly approaches and give back to the locals by volunteering.

Dini, who also founded Danone Youth Social Entrepreneur competition as a part of her work as a human resources executive at the company, has her own reason behind the establishment of the community-based tourism initiative.

“Every time I travel, there is always one big thing that makes me feel uncomfortable. The tourism industry earns a lot of profit, but they are not really using it to develop the locals, be it on their quality of education, economic improvement, or environment protection,” she declares. As she dreams of seeing her beautiful country grows through the practices of a sustainable tourism, that engages the locals to be the main actor of the business and raises the awareness for being responsible travelers, she aspires to make it come true.

After about one and a half year, since its first trip on New Year 2014, Wanderlust has been conducting about twenty trips ranging from monthly open trip for groups, private trips for one to three travelers, to customized trip for organizations, joined by some 150 travelers. At the respective destinations, the venture engages with ten local guides, called rangers, mostly young people aged 20 to 25. Other than that, Wanderlust also partners with a number of stakeholders: twenty school teachers and headmasters at the local villages, interact with more than three hundred students from kindergarten to junior high school, empowers local women to be the homestay hosts and catering provider, and many more.
Other than the three co-founders, Wanderlust team has also expanded to project manager, rangers, social media administrator, and sales and marketing staff, to a total of eleven people. The business has also received recognitions, from Project Catalyst Social Entrepreneur Program by Jolkona Foundation and the United States Embassy and selected to participate in Diageo-British Council Social Entrepreneurship Challenge 2015.

“We also would love to find the key people in the sector of community-based tourism in Indonesia and Asia, to make Wanderlust grows as a business and gives more social impact to the locals,” says Dini, who would like to continue her studies in Economic Development & Tourism Management.

Furthermore, Dini reveals, some of the most challenging parts of developing Wanderlust come from finding the suitable human resources, creating more sustainable projects, cooperating with different local stakeholders, and collecting capital and investment. She tries to flip them to opportunities by recruiting rangers, interns and volunteers through social media and Indorelawan, a volunteer portal, looking for non-profit partner to collaborate with, makes personal approaches to the stakeholders, and joins social entrepreneurship competitions to win seed funding.

The opportunity to live her passion while helping others as a part of Wanderlust is what makes Dini believes in the future of her venture. She truly hopes for it to be a leading community-based tourism enterprise in Indonesia and Asia, so her vision can make bigger magnitude. As much as she loves meeting the local people in every destination, living with them, listen to their dreams and aspirations for their homeland, Wanderlust gives her more reason to travel for a cause and tagging others along.

“If I can bring people to experience the same thing while helping the local through community-based tourism, step by step we can make change together through our traveling,”

Group of students and Wanderers at Sebesi Island, Krakatau after volunteering session.

Some of students community at the only elementary school at Selebes Island, Krakatau; interact with Wanderers in outdoor volunteering class.
Indonesian youth are young people who are empowered, active, creative, optimistic, and full of hope.
Fiona Ekaristi Putri

Tourism Promoter and Lecturer
Empowering the Local Wisdom of the Shadow Puppets
Inspired by the moral from the heroic epochs Mahabharata and Ramayana and her love for traveling to discover the beauty of her country, Fiona Ekaristi Putri (28) was determined to keep the local wisdoms alive for generations to come. She later decided to promote the intricate art of shadow puppetry, or wayang, at Kepuhsari Village in Wonogiri, Central Java, to improve the living of the local artisans, giving them the appreciation they deserve.

Fiona and her friends chose Kepuhsari Village because it is particularly special. It is a well-known home for shadow puppet artisans, who make shadow puppets of exquisite quality, as well as generations of puppet masters and musicians who play *gamelan*, a traditional instrument set performed in shadow puppetry shows.

Nevertheless, preserving the traditional shadow puppetry in the village is a challenging feat in many levels. As the local shadow puppet masters and makers grow old, they are urgently looking for young people to inherit their skills. Unfortunately, many of them choose to make a better living out of their hometown, believing that making shadow puppets or performing a shadow puppet show is rather difficult and the promising earning does not come regularly.

“Finally, my team and the local people came up with an idea to make this village a destination for cultural tourism, to further empower the locals from all age, and re-introduce the sophisticated culture of shadow puppetry to young Indonesians,” explains Fiona, who later started giving trainings and community-based assistance by the end of 2012. At the same year, her business plan proposal for Wayang Village Kepuhsari won the first prize for the Tourism Start-up Category of Social Entrepreneurship Competition by Bank Mandiri.

From September 2013 onwards, slowly but surely, Kepuhsari Village is also being recognized as Wayang Village, getting attention from donors as well as media exposures. To support the initiative, the locals established Kelompok Sadar Wisata, a group to raise the awareness of local tourism, to manage the tourism destination.

To date, about 200 tourists have been to Wayang Village and enjoyed the available traveling packages offered, ranging from one-day to three-days live-in package. At the home of
a local shadow puppet artisan, visitors can learn how to make their own mini-sized shadow puppet made of leather, make a glass painting of a shadow puppet character drawn on glass, and even be a puppet master.

Fiona admits, the rather slow progress can spark desperation for some people at the village, making them slowly decide to step back. That is why she and her team have to consistently foster their commitment to keep going forward, while also developing their method in conducting their community development initiative.

Other than strengthening the assistance, they are also start collaborating with other stakeholders to support the local people with further trainings, such as English classes as well as product development and marketing. Simultaneously, they are cooperating with a number of academic institutions, to bring schoolchildren to the village and introduce them to the cultural charms of shadow puppetry.

From the initiative she has been developing at Wayang Village, Fiona saw with her own eyes how important education is to empower a nation. “Indonesian youth needs to be introduced to things that can show them that they live in this world not simply for themselves, but also for other people who are in need,” says Fiona, who then made up her mind to be an educator. Last year, she started her stint as a lecturer at Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung, where she completed both her bachelor and master degree.

Despite the challenges, Fiona is hopeful with the future of her venture. She is especially overjoyed whenever she sees the happy faces of the empowered locals, because they can successfully earn their living with what they made with their hands and skills. From the people of Wayang Village, she learns that as a human being, she has a role to play, and she needs to make the most of what she can do in order to act on it properly.

“I hope I can show my students that doing social entrepreneurship will be able to bring benefits as well as happiness for both themselves and the community in their surroundings,” wishes Fiona.
I have a great sense of optimism that Indonesian youth are going to lead the future of the world!
Gigih Rezki Septianto

Techno-preneur
Serving the Society through Technology
wish I would be able to urge more people to side-by-side improve other people’s life, empower those who are still powerless, and promoting the use of technology benefitting humanity,” hopes Gigih Rezki Septianto (24), when asked how does he see himself in ten years. At present, Gigih – the word means ‘persistent’ in Indonesian – lives up to his name, by tenaciously making impact through CharityLights Foundation, a non-profit organization on a quest to build civic and pro-poor technology solution to drive social changes.

With his fellow co-founders of CharityLights, Gigih developed their first project, PhiRUNtropy, a mobile app that lets the user run and donate to the cause they care about. The app, available for Android and Windows Phone gadgets, began with an obsession to make doing good a part of everyone’s lifestyle, and built upon seeing the trend of running as a part of it for urban people.

“We were happy to see that youth movement was rising, but we still witnessed that the threat of social apathy is also happening in the middle-class environment,” says Gigih, aiming that PhiRUNtropy can raise empathy amongst them and facilitate their social participation, through a mix of charity, running and mobile technology.

Since then, he has co-initiated a running movement in 19 cities simultaneously using PhiRUNtropy, with more than 3,000 users participating. By being the first winner of Mandiri Young Technopreneur 2015 in March, CharityLights has also secured the first round of funding for the app from their first major recognition.

Being compelled by all-things-computer since childhood, Gigih, who knew how to code when he was in high school, has been aspiring to dedicate his life to working with computer and contribute to its knowledge advancement. However, as he commenced his study as a Computer Engineering student at Telkom University in 2009, he was fascinated with the new-rising wave of youth movement, compared to youth activism that toppled down Suharto’s regime in 1998.

Along the line, he found that youth were trying to not only influence the politics, but also to directly solve other
social issues, such as environment, healthcare, and youth empowerment, in a larger scoop. Curiosity got the better of him, and he jumped into the hype by joining youth organizations, attending youth conferences, and marching down to experience being in a street demonstration. As his excitement on youth movement and social innovation grows, the more he aspires to incorporate information technology into his idealism.

Today, what Gigih loves so much about what he does with CharityLights, where he serves as the Chairman, lies in the intersection of social innovation and technology expertise.

“We believe in our endeavor of connecting everyone for the greater good of the planet and we strive to ‘make the world smaller’, where it will be easier for us to help everyone in need,” says Gigih, who also co-founded SAGARA Asia, a technology consulting start-up focusing on the web and mobile apps development.

On another note, Gigih admits that, given its different nature from other for-profit technology ventures, CharityLights has challenges in raising funds. As a new non-profit organization, it is unlikely to be able to guarantee return the way other start-ups do, making the possibility of people making a bet on CharityLights rather slim.

Nevertheless, embodying the spirit of persistence in his name, Gigih marches on and slowly but surely, the organization starts to gain recognition. Words of mouth from government to private sectors and from the app’s users to developer communities, as well as media exposures for PhiRUNtrophy, help bringing CharityLights into the spotlight.

To further strengthen the impact of his organization, Gigih also plans to expand CharityLights’ projects to other initiative & product such as healthcare and environment. Gigih and his colleagues are also crafting possible social enterprise models for their organization. This way, they can continue giving back and keep innovating things to improve other people's lives and give them more opportunities, hopefully making a global impact in years to come.
A life becomes valuable when someone can achieve something and contribute their achievement for the welfare of the people in need.
Gloria Marcella Morgen Wiria

Techno-preneur
Finding Happiness through Business that Empowers
With the pursuit of happiness in mind, Gloria Marcella Morgen Wiria (23) has found her calling in empowering others. Since her first social business, Lele Food, was established in October 2012, she has ventured even further and initiated Glow for Indonesia (www.glowforindonesia.org), an independent organization in which her other four projects are managed.

“Three years ago, I asked myself, what is the meaning of true happiness?” Gloria recalls upon her one-million-dollar question. Her extensive search and contemplation brought her to a conclusion. “I can find it when I can give something to others,” states the Gloria, who now works as a Creating Shared Value Executive in PT Nutrifood Indonesia.

As the CEO of Lele Food, she leads a women empowerment programme in Cimenyan Village, Bandung, by training them to process catfish meat to various kind of food. Their first product, branded Aleci, is catfish floss in two flavors, original and spicy, that can be purchased online.

Her other programmes are Parahyangan Green Challenge, an annual conference on environment for university students; Sharing with You, an initiative that gives the space for young people to inspire others through their stories and knowledge; Inspiring Indonesia, a medium to empower young people to pour their inspirational thoughts into words and publish them twice a week on glowforindonesia.org; and Ruang Cerita, a room for story telling in many means, from recorded audiovisual to live shows.

The many initiatives began with one single thought: to Gloria, life can be very similar to a football match, where every single person can shout whatever comments as they please without even move from their seat. However, as regular audience, they would be the one who pays, and the players are paid, because they have worked hard in the field.

In her case, she does not want to sit and cheer, and ended up feeling hopeless as she watches her team losing. Instead, she chooses to be in the center and play her part to take the responsibility and give some contribution for her nation,
because she believes that the future of Indonesia is in the hands of young people and had seen her peers making the impact. Although she acknowledges that she might make mistakes along the way, but that does not matter as long as she had done something, and that is enough to keep her going.

The alumna of Chemical Engineering major at Parahyangan Catholic University strongly believes that nobody, despite their age, should ever hesitate to start giving their contribution for their nation. “If you wish to contribute to the development of Indonesia, do it now. Do not wait for the right time, for certain friends, or for a large amount of money,” she says encouragingly.

With a number of programmes going on, Gloria has more people coming in to support Glow for Indonesia, enabling the organization to touch the lives of hundreds of people. More programmes means bigger need for funding, though, and that is exactly what the organization is lacking. To overcome the problem, she makes the most of every possibility, from searching for donors, asking for sponsorship from companies, to utilizing internet for crowd-funding.

Nevertheless, she is hopeful for the future. Not only looking forward to further empower the people of Cimenyan Village to achieve prosperity through catfish meat business, she also plans to expand her social business initiatives by setting up the first social business school in the country as well as a social business consulting firm. “I want to increase the number of social entrepreneurs in the country and also assist those interested in social business in Indonesia,” concludes Gloria.
It is no longer the time for Indonesian youth to hate each other, but to act and be the solution, to join forces and build the nation together.
Hijrah Saputra

Entrepreneur and Graphic Designer

Introducing an Empowering Hospitality
Born and raised in Sabang, the city at the western end of Indonesia, Hijrah Saputra (31) was intrigued by the untapped tourism potentials in his hometown. The combination of the things he is interested in; graphic designing, marketing, and his academic background in urban planning, encourage him to promote positive change among local youth.

Hijrah, or Heiji to his friends, began his mission in 2008 by building Piyoh Design, his graphic design start-up focusing on creating merchandises to promote tourism in Sabang. Among his products are mugs, key chains, stickers, flannel figurines wearing Aceh traditional dresses, and t-shirts. The name “Piyoh” is inspired by a word in Acehnese that means ‘stopping by’, representing the local tradition to honor guests called Peumulia Jamee. Not only a fitting choice of word for tourists coming over, Piyoh has also become a household name. Chances are, if one has a t-shirt that says “I Love Aceh” or “I Love Sabang”, it might be made by Piyoh Design.

For the alumnus of Urban and Regional Planning Department in Brawijaya University, Malang, East Java, the numerous issues in his hometown were his drive to make the most of what he is made of.

“I see that people, with their own abilities, can change their surroundings for better or worse. I call it the power of Supercitizen. As the power is combined, we can complete each other and collaborate as a driving force for a better Indonesia,” says Heiji, who believes that every single person has their own purpose in the world, and for him, it is to foster the improvements in his hometown.

As his initial drive to make changes started from tourism, the son of Suradji Yunus and Erwani Meutia stays true to the cause. Since last October, he is serving at Laskar Nusantara as the Coordinator for Indonesia Tourism Ambassadors for western part of the country, which comprises the region from Aceh to West Java. He also has been contributing and illustrating for Travelwan magazine since 2009, and previously designed the promotional tools for Visit Banda Aceh campaign in 2011 by the City of Banda Aceh’s Department of Tourism and Culture.

Furthermore, along with his fellow youth in Aceh, in 2012 Heiji co-founded a youth organization called The Leader, to encourage positive changes in local youth. Its activities

Hijrah gardening organic agriculture. Hijrah as a facilitator in creativity class in Aceh. Hijrah as a trainer in agriculture class in Aceh.
include Dreammaker, to inspire them to make their dreams come true; Kelas Kreatif and Rumah Kreatif to promote creative thinking and actions; Ngobrol Inspiratif to serve as a hub for local youth and inspirational people; Sobat Buku to recommend must-read books for youth; and Aceh Luar Biasa to introduce inspirational young people who had made a difference.

On the other hand, he admits, the fact that plenty of young people in Aceh choose to complain about their surrounding without actually make any moves, made his ideas did not gain that much of support from even his friends. However, he is glad that, one of these days, some of his peers, who used to consider his thoughts to be pretty obscure, now wonder why they are not invited to contribute.

“I consider this as a positive change of mindset, because if they ask that, it shows that they care and are willing to make change. Many of them are also inspired to do social projects and offer their own version of solution for problems in the society,” explains Heiji, who earlier this year won the first prize for the Creative Economy sector of Marketeers of the Year.

Over the years, Heiji has been leaving his mark as a change-maker in his hometown, and he intends to keep on doing so and not to stop learning new things. In ten years’ time, he hopes to be an entrepreneur who is not only successful in building his business empire, but also to be a man of value to inspire young people across the sea to be their own version of change-makers.

Finally, he highlights, that “It is not the time to make a change on our own, but to do so together.”

Hijrah involving sail morotai. Hijrah receiving MDG’s award on education. Hijrah visiting national park in Aceh.
It is very important for anyone who wants to be in the comic scene in Indonesia to have a strong network with fellow comic enthusiasts, to help the comic scene develop into a viable and sustainable business.
Keinesasih Hapsari Puteri

Comic Writer
Bringing Lives into Drawings and Speech Balloons
Her love of comic books has brought Keinesasih Hapsari Puteri (27), or Ines for short, to a full circle. After being inspired by stories through the medium of drawings and speech balloons, she now has her own turn to inspire people through her works.

“I love comics so much I can talk about them for days, but it is a different feeling, knowing that I can actually participate in creating the magic. It is my own story, it is my own words,” explains Ines, who started writing comics in late 2013.

Ines’s first comic is Nusantaranger, which features the adventure of five young Indonesian superheroes in saving the world from the evil Kelana. The format is similar to super sentai series such as the Power Ranger. The idea was proposed on Twitter by her friend, Shani Budi Pandita, and Ines, one of its first supporters, was later invited to write the story. Published online on nusantaranger.com, a new chapter was released every two weeks throughout 2014 and can be read for free. In a year, Nusantaranger has created a pool of fan base with thousands of followers on Facebook and Twitter, who calls themselves Jagawana.

Other than creating a new comic title inspired by the concept of Nusantaranger, her latest challenge is becoming the mastermind of God Complex, a comic that she calls a deconstruction towards the culture of faith and organized religions in the world. The story is written in American comic style, completely different from the Japanese one that she is more familiar with, and will be released worldwide in August.

For Ines, the opportunity to create a character and watch it becomes alive, although it is only on paper, is the best part of being a comic writer. Through story, pictures, sequences, and speech balloons, she can present her thoughts to absolutely everyone and anyone. However, there are flaws in the picture perfect.

“It is kind of hard to make money out of writing comics, because currently the infrastructure and supporting system to establish the comic industry in Indonesia are not there yet,” Ines sadly admits. She has to juggle with side
jobs to make ends meet, but for many others, this is the reason they stopped making comics entirely.

Nevertheless, she is optimistic that the condition will improve soon. Developments are brewing in the comic scene in Indonesia, such as the comic enthusiasts’ plan to release a monthly comic magazine.

Moreover, Ines believes that building a new industry is always good for a country, for it can also help empowering related sectors of economy and supporting other emerging industries while trying to sustain it. For example, when Nusantaranger launched their merchandise some time ago, the team collaborated with a local fashion apparel brand to produce the t-shirts. She also believe that should there be a chance for Indonesian comics to go live on screen, it would help fostering the emerging local animation industry.

The way she sees it, comic scene is a very promising industry for Indonesian market due to a large size of audience, but the main issue to tackle is distribution. Local comic books are also still facing fierce competition with foreign comic titles. However, once the investors see this potential and the industry starts to grow, if the quality can be maintained and comic enthusiasts can invite the greater society to be interested in comics, making comics can be seen as a feasible way of earn a living.

This is why Ines is looking forward to be in the nation’s comic industry for decades to come. Not only wishes to keep on making comics that can touch people’s lives and hearts, she also aspires to be a comic editor. She says, “I don’t just want to write my own comics. I want to help people make their comics as well.”
The most significant challenges of our world cannot be solved by any single organization or sector; we need all hands on deck.
Khaira Al Hafi

Social Innovator
Bridging the Collaboration for Sustainable Initiatives
Khaira Al Hafi (24) dedicates himself to encourage civic participation on nation development, as he had seen its urgency in overcoming the challenges in building sustainable social changes. He believes that social innovation, featuring openness, collaboration, public participation, and connecting the dots, can provide a thorough solution.

Founded Kreanovator Indonesia last year, Khaira’s latest venture shows his dedication in making things happen. The social business acts as an intermediary to align a system where collaboration and partnership between the government, private, and the people can be organized. It is made to map where social problems occur, fully gather the data of the necessary resources to solve each of them, connect the relevant community initiatives, CSR programs and government programs and distribute the solutions at targeted people. As a collaboration system, it also encourages interdisciplinary solutions that catalyze the emergence of innovations.

“In the past decade, a sustainability action boom happened, indicated by rising number of CSR fund, social movement, social entrepreneurship, and government openness. However, my research found that 5 out of 6 actors said they recognized the challenges are too big to solve alone,” says Khaira, who presented the idea of social innovation knowledge management system in Indonesia as the country’s official delegate in World Forum for Democracy 2014.

Previously in 2012, Khaira began his innovations by co-founded and presided UI to PIMNAS, a community which connects Ministry of Education with prospective University of Indonesia students to conduct society empowerment and entrepreneurship projects. By assisting and monitoring the students in conducting their projects, the initiative boasted a whopping 96 projects implemented across Java in that year alone.

In the same year, on behalf of his university’s Student Board, Khaira also led the Community Engagement Grant Programme, distributing Rp.3 billion worth of total grant to 86 communities across Indonesia. The monitored projects managed to create a number of tangible social impacts, ranging from installing renewable energy facilities to developing sanitation system.

Khaira and Mr Andrinof Chaniagon in Indonesian Citizens Summit/ICS 2015.

Al Hafi were invited to present the idea of Open Parliament Indonesia at Demokrat Party Headquater.

Al Hafi and his system analyst, Shufi Syahida, were invited by Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional/National Agency of National Development Planning to discuss how http://meetchange.org.
Inspired by Pancasila, Indonesia’s ideology, which aims for social justice for all people in Indonesia, Khaira aspires to bridge the social inequality in the country. Through Kreanovator, he and his team has participated in a number of initiatives. Among them are designing Open Government Indonesia Action Plan by the invitation of Indonesia Presidential Office, conducted Change-makers Performance Research to collect the data of public initiative performance on social development in Indonesia, and initiated the idea of Open Parliament Indonesia to promote transparency and public participation in House of Representative.

In June 2015, Kreanovator conducted Indonesian Citizens Summit, the first and largest change-makers summit in the country. The event gathered some 500 nonprofit organizations, corporate social responsibility initiatives from private sectors, ministries, social activists and social innovators, aiming to discuss ways to create public participation system in Indonesia. Its outputs include a national master plan of sustainability development acceleration, which has been proposed to the State Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS).

“Right now, my team and I are working on meetchange.org, the first change-makers’ social media, where change-makers can network among each other to get and share resources for sustainability projects,” explains Khaira, whose passion is best represented by the words ‘social’ and ‘innovation’.

It is also his love of innovation that helps Khaira to endure when he experiences one failure after the other. Being a young person, he understands that he is having the time of his life to start building his legacy. He believes that, when one is young, they can explore new things freely, dream as high as they want, and take the unlimited risk.

“By experiencing new things as much as possible, it triggers the dots being connected, so then eureka comes into my brain. I really enjoy seeing new ideas transform into reality, and then giving more valued wider impact to society,” says Khaira, who, like Steve Jobs, acknowledges the importance of staying hungry and foolish.

Al Hafi delivered a single speech on Konferensi Nasional Administrasi Negara 2013.

Al Hafi and his mentors Bapak Handry Satriago (CEO General Electric Indonesia), Bapak Mardi Wu (CEO Nutrifood), and Bapak Budi Satria Isman (Founder One in Twenty Movement).
I am very optimistic in our generation.
Singer and Entrepreneur
Spreading the Spirit of Creative Entrepreneurship
Oxavia Aldiano (24) lives and breathes entrepreneurship. Also known as the singer Vidi Aldiano, he enjoys the opportunity to multitask as a business owner and the versatility it brings. Putting his bachelor and master degree in Entrepreneurship to the test, Vidi has set up a number of ventures, such as his own clothing line, restaurant, and recording company.

Being both a musician and an entrepreneur at the age of 25 makes Vidi’s life all the more colorful, because he has chosen the path his heart wants.

“I don’t normally do what I don’t like at the first place. So, my ultimate motto is, whatever I do has to start from my own passion,” says Vidi, who started singing when he was three years old, before entering the music industry fifteen years later, in 2008.

From his passion in singing, he developed an interest in fashion, and VA Apparel, his clothing line start-up, was born earlier this year. When spending his time abroad as a postgraduate student at the University of Manchester since 2013, he was introduced to the joy of cooking because he had to prepare his own meals regularly. The self-proclaimed foodie was later delved himself further into the food and beverage industry by establishing H Gourmet and Vibes in the south of Jakarta.

Moreover, as a recording artist himself, Vidi realizes the importance of a recording company to support his career. In 2013, the same year when he released his digital album Dunia Baru, he started his own recording company, VA Records, and got promoted as a Junior Manager in V8 Sound, his family’s business in pro audio industry.

It is no wonder that Vidi initiated his start-ups in his early twenties, because over the years, he has seen a first-hand, real-life example of living life as an entrepreneur. His father, Harry Kiss, is the man behind Harry Kiss Production, an event organizing company. Growing up with the man who has made an enormous impact in his life and his views about entrepreneurship, Vidi was inspired to follow his father’s footstep.

“Being a creative entrepreneur, in my opinion, greatly helps Indonesia’s economy, particularly from the microeconomics...
perspective. Given the country’s population growth, if everybody only wants to work for companies and chooses not to create new job opportunities, this would result in high unemployment rate,” explains Vidi, hoping to encourage young people to try entrepreneurship.

Having a handful of start-ups, for Vidi, means a rigorous process of trial and error. However, being a high-spirited youth, he considers it as a window of opportunity to enhance his entrepreneurship skills. Being a new player, he also wishes to garner as many insights as possible from other people who have already been in the industry, and thus making his desire to keep on learning to help him overcoming the obstacles along the way.

Keen to share the inspiration and his insights to and on behalf of the youth, Vidi makes the most of his fame to expose his ventures to the public, and foster positive change of attitude altogether. Last year, he released his single *Membiasakan Cinta*, which was dedicated to promote the end to discrimination towards people with HIV&AIDS. As a part of the “Getting Zero Discrimination” campaign, every time the video of the song is watched on YouTube, Rp.100 is donated to Yayasan AIDS Indonesia. In the spirit of investing on young people, he also took part in UNFPA Indonesia’s Youthnesian last year to discuss about social development through music.

Vidi’s aspiration to furthermore make impact for the development of his beloved nation has also become his drive to plan ahead. He wishes to continue his education by getting another master degree in Psychology, and pursuing a PhD on Psychology and Education, to prepare him to be a part of education system in Indonesia. Nevertheless, he does not have to wait to dream, learn, and work hard.

“One can dream, but they also have to work hard for it. There is no deadline for learning, so chase your dreams and keep on learning, because it is impossible to achieve a big dream without hard work,” Vidi reassures.
The young people in Indonesia have so many potential waiting to be uncovered.
Entrepreneur and Management Student
Embracing Young People in Exploring and Promoting Entrepreneurship
When Goodism.Inc, a school project he co-founded in his sophomore year, ran very well, Wisnu Aryo Setio (21), or Iyo to his friends, decided to continue the venture with some of his partners. Captivated by the spirit of entrepreneurship and its potential as a viable career option, Iyo aspires to inspire young people to also give the path a try.

After two years, Iyo considers Goodism to be in a very interesting stage. “Instead of focusing on growth, we are focused on recreating our products, so that they can cater more to people’s needs,” says Iyo, adding that after gained 250 million rupiah in revenue in the first quarter of 2014, he and his team decided to reflect on our business plan and theme. They then began 2015 by launching some new products.

Basically, Iyo explains, the objective of Goodism is to offer daily goods that can help people solve their daily problems. To date, it has two products: The Goodism Wallet, leather wallet with labelled partitions to help people budget their expenses, and Goodcash, a mobile app for tracking and recording expenses.

Other than being the Executive Director of Goodism, the final year student at School of Business and Management, Bandung Institute of Technology, also presides Progressio Consulting Group, a student organization that assists ITB students aspiring to delve into entrepreneurship.

“I like entrepreneurship because you have the liberty to create your own path and destiny. I also like the way entrepreneurs need to engage with a wide variety of people, and possess well-rounded perspectives and interdisciplinary mindset,” says Iyo, who led Indonesia team at World Schools Debating Championship, the most prestigious English parliamentary debating tournament for high school students, in 2011.

As a young entrepreneur himself, Iyo finds team building to be a very daunting task. As the people in his team have different dreams, visions and priorities, his biggest challenge is to align everything and make everyone on the same page. He tries to sort of mentor his change to chase a higher and common goal, but stumbles upon another obstacle. “There is actually a moral dilemma here. I don’t want my friends to stuck in a small size start up. But at the same time, this start up needs them,” he admits.
Nevertheless, Iyo believes that as a young person, he is giving contribution to his nation by making real impact in entrepreneurship, both through his products and the role he plays in his start up. As many successful entrepreneurs in Indonesia inherit their predecessor’s business, Iyo hopes to pave the way for aspiring entrepreneurs, and to give an example that entrepreneurship is possible for everyone, provided that they work hard. This is why, in the near future, he wants to set up a business incubator to fill in the absence of mentorship, business-investor relation, and support from partners for new start-ups.

Going further, the first champion at the global round of last year’s Unilever Future Leaders League wants to influence policy making and regulatory framework in entrepreneurship. He acknowledges that the government of Indonesia has indeed encouraged entrepreneurship and helped some young entrepreneurs by giving capital. However, the absence of monitoring and evaluation makes the capital misuse becomes very rampant, and he wants to play the part in rectifying the problem.

At the end of the day, Iyo has his own advice for Indonesian youth who has the idea of entrepreneurship in mind: try to re-contextualize everything to local wisdom.

“Don’t just get trapped in a quest to make the new Facebook or to be the next Mark Zuckerberg. See what Indonesia really needs,” says Iyo, who also encourages ones who do not to give entrepreneurship a shot. You might like it, he argues, as many things can be linked to entrepreneurship.
Reported Efforts and Achievements in 21 Areas of the Global Survey Related to Adolescents and Youth Among 59 Countries in the Early Stages of the Demographic Transition

- Keeping more girls and adolescents in secondary schools
- Increasing access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health for adolescents
- Ensuring the same rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV prevention
- Ensuring equal access of girls to education at all levels (primary, secondary, tertiary)
- Instituting concrete procedures and mechanisms for participation
- Creating employment opportunities for youth
- Improving the welfare of the girl child, especially with regards to health, nutrition and education
- Addressing violence, exploitation and abuse
- Promoting age-appropriate sexuality education and counselling in schools
- Ending child marriage/forced marriage
- Providing social protection and medical support for adolescent pregnant women
- Incorporating sexual and reproductive health and life planning skills into young people’s non-formal education
- Incorporating comprehensive sexuality education into young people’s formal education
- Reaching out-of-school youth with sexual and reproductive health information and services
- Facilitating school completion for pregnant girls
- Improving the safety of pupils, especially girls, in and on their way to school
- Collecting disaggregated data
- Addressing the adverse effects of poverty on adolescents and youth
- Preventing trafficking and smuggling in persons, particularly girls and women
- Incorporating life planning skills into young people’s formal education
- Providing training and employment opportunities to out-of-school girls and illiterate adults

Source: The Power of 1.8 billion (SWOP UNFPA)
Community Empowerment

Reported Efforts and Achievements in 21 Areas of the Global Survey Related to Adolescents and Youth Among 59 Countries in the Early Stages of the Demographic Transition

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Source: The Power of 1.8 billion (SWOP UNFPA)
Indonesian youth always strive for progressive ideas to create social transformation toward the nation; therefore it would be a disgrace if young people do not seize such ideas.
Afra Suci Ramadhon

Social Activist and Researcher

Getting Youth Organized
As a teenager, Afra Suci Ramadhon (27) was intrigued by how society sees youth as well as women and girls. While youth are seem to be inseparable from social apathy and juvenile behavior, and thus meant to be under control and scrutiny, women and girls often face the difficulty to escape from gender inequality and social injustice. However, believing that young people is an active group with innovation and urge to challenge every view applied within society, she sees them, herself included, as a part of the solution instead of the problem.

Along with several senior activists, who shared the idea of supporting youth initiative with knowledge, capacity building, maintaining collaborative network, and breeding new generation of social activists, Afra co-founded Pamflet in 2012. The youth-initiated non-governmental organization focuses on research for youth issues, supporting capacity building for youth organizations, and building online information portal for youth activists and youth organizations in Indonesia. As the organization’s Director, Afra is particularly excited to capture and study the wave of youth movement nationwide within the past six years.

“We are excited with countless emerging initiatives built by young people outside Java, from Aceh to Papua. We should note this moment as part of discourse and knowledge for the endeavor of social change in Indonesia,” explains Afra, who started her activism at Indonesian Feminist Journal as an intern journalist, in 2007. After she obtained her Communications degree from University of Indonesia, Afra continued her work at Change Magazine, IFJ’s publication for youth empowerment, climbing up the ladder from reporter to managing editor and youth program coordinator.

Through Pamflet, Afra continues to distribute essential information for youth through various channels, never stop digging into young people’s innovative minds and look for effective way to provoke them.

“I love the idea that youth are here not to be the spectators of ongoing destruction, but to participate on the movement for social change,” says Afra, who gets her inspiration
through direct involvement with many youth groups nationwide and from the survivors of human rights abuse cases in Indonesia.

However, Afra, who participated in *There is No Such a Thing as Virginity*, a teenage short story anthology published by UNFPA in 2010, admits that challenges are inevitable. When people she works with are not open for criticism, it may lead to unnecessary internal conflicts that end in personal split and detachment. Furthermore, the information clutter in this digital era becomes another issue in fostering meaningful youth participation. The intention of targeting youth becomes a contested ground from many social movements, which sadly includes radical and chauvinist groups, while government is generally clueless about tackling the threats. Therefore, in order to weave youth into Pamflet’s causes, constantly adapting youth insight and creating room of experiment becomes necessary.

Personally, Afra tries to contribute by extending active consciousness of the fundamental rights toward young people through collaborative knowledge transfer. She is also aspires to encouraging them to generate more initiatives on struggling critical issues surround their environment or local area.

“If there is an opportunity to have meaningful discussions with government agencies related to youth issues, I am always ready to present the relevant evidences in order to create more effective policy for youth,” says Afra, who prefers not to be recognized as an individual. Instead, she hopes that Pamflet’s movement or its ideas can be replicated in other parts of the world, making it possible for a wave of youth movement to play the part in social and political transformation in a global sphere.
I have a dream that every Indonesian youth has the courage to free themselves to dream and making them come true, despite any possible barriers along the way.
Alfrado Raymond Sewwar

Youth Activist
Igniting the Courage to Dream of Pursuing Education
A native of East Nusa Tenggara, Alfrado Raymond Sewwar (24), known to his friends as Nong, dreams a dream of conquering his limitations and soar. He believes that education is the key to empower young people, despite where they come from, and make the most of their intrepid spirit to be at the heart of development.

“There are a lot of potential young people coming from eastern Indonesia, but they have limited access to information. Many of them are actually keen on contributing, but there is neither room for them to do so nor institutions to facilitate their initiatives,” says Nong, who has been a member of UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel since 2013.

Growing up in a part of the nation where access to knowledge is relatively scarce, due to limited infrastructure and other resources, Nong realizes that not each and every Indonesian youth can be exposed to quality education. However, he sees the opportunity that lies within; in general, Indonesian youth actually have high motivation to study. Knowing that a step towards change must be taken eventually, he aspires to play his part in encouraging and developing the untapped potentials of young people by showing them how much education means for their future.

After he finished high school in Maumere subdistrict in 2009, Nong went on to study Agriculture at Nusa Cendana University in Kupang, the capital city of the province. During his time in college, his academic background sensitized him to food security and food diversification issues, and youth activism took him around East Nusa Tenggara to raise youth awareness on reproductive health, drugs, alcohol, and HIV&AIDS. He also made the most of the opportunities to exchange knowledge and speak in public about his experience and thoughts on young people, from his activities at the local church to international youth gatherings, and continued to disseminate the knowledge back home.

Although he has gone places and been introduced to causes related to young people, it is education that becomes the core issue of Nong’s activism. In his opinion, the education system in Indonesia today is yet to be contextual to
accommodate the diversity of the nation. This makes the Government tend to focus more on the growth and less on the distribution of education, making access to education remain a challenge for some. He also has seen for himself that many young Indonesians are incredibly passionate to pursue an education, but the flame died out as they face obstacles and limitations in making their dreams come true, and that includes the ones from his province.

“Many of them barely even dare to dream, let alone taking the baby steps to move forward. I have a great desire to change this mindset, because I believe that limitations are not a hindrance for youth to excel and achieve their goals,” explains Nong, whose public speaking skills had once made him a university-level speech contest champion.

All things considered, Nong is confident that youth can and will be the heart of development for a better Indonesia, beyond the status quo that places them as an object of human development policies.

“Young people should be incorporated from the very beginning, starting from the planning, the decision-making and implementation, to actively taking part in monitoring the policies that would build a stronger, smarter nation,” says Nong, expressing his hope for the youth of his beloved nation.
My journey is a combination of hard work and also luck, and I believe that it is also applicable in other people's lives.
Maudy Ayunda

Musician and Actress
Representing Youth from under the Limelight
Raised to stardom as a teenager, Ayunda Faza Maudya (20), also known with her stage name Maudy Ayunda, wants to do more than singing, acting and getting nationwide admiration. Currently pursuing her bachelor degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at St. Hilda’s College, University of Oxford, Maudy has become a voice of Indonesian youth in a number of prestigious platforms, such as The Regional Meeting and Stakeholder Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Maudy gets plenty of opportunities to connect with young people because, other than the fact that she is one herself, her many activities in the creative industry requires her to interact with them as a part of her audience. As she makes her own mark in Indonesia’s entertainment industry, she takes the opportunity further by providing a youth perspective and making them be heard.

“That is arguably why I can consider myself to be rather picky in choosing films to take part in or songs to sing, because I believe that both can be my platforms in delivering inspiring messages,” says Maudy, who spoke at UNESCO’s Global Media Forum last year in a panel on social development through social media.

The Forum was not her first, and certainly not the last. To expose young people to the importance of active political participation, she spoke in support of the formation of Parlemen Muda (Youth Parliament). She also talked about the significance of music in social development at Youthnesian, a youth event by UNFPA Indonesia in 2014.

Eight movie roles and two solo albums later, Maudy’s life is not all glitzy and glamorous. She is no stranger to volunteering activities, her latest one being a social media campaigner for ‘A Thousand Books for Braille’ this year. Born and raised in Jakarta, Maudy spends her days in Oxford not only as a student. She is also the Head of Speakers in Oxford Economics Society, and had her first three months of 2015 working as a Consultant Analyst at The Oxford Student Consultancy.

Nong having a quiz about education in Kupang.

Maudy having a social service in elementary school.
Living her life as both a celebrity and an international student, Maudy finds her inspiration from the public exposure for doing what she loves: acting, singing, and performing, as it gets her connected to as many people and gives her the chance to inspire them. On the other hand, the self-proclaimed nerd also enjoys the fruitful moments of curiosity as she stumbles upon the lines she reads.

“At the same time, being in two worlds, entertainment and academic, feels very nice because it broadens my horizon and giving me an abundance of experience. However, it brings me more expectations from both sides,” admits Maudy, who has quite a lot to judge as well as pressure to handle, from not only a lot of people but also herself. Not going to let the challenges get the better of her, she chooses to embrace everything with gratitude, and whenever she gets exhausted from having too much to do, she will remind herself that at least she had done something for someone else.

At the peak of her youth, Maudy is full of aspirations. For one, she aims to inspire young people to pursue a higher education, because she believes that the value of educated youth as human capital is indispensable for Indonesia as a developing country. She is also making the most of the opportunities to learn and explore the possibilities in other sectors, such as by interning at a consulting firm this summer.

“I would say that I have so many short term goals, because in my opinion, setting goals so far in the future can possibly limit myself. I would be thinking of only way to get to it and it makes me less able to adapt,” explains Maudy. Despite that, she states confidently that she does have a long term vision of the kind of person she wants to be, and that person is someone who knows what she wants to do and does many good deeds for others.
Living with HIV does not limit me to live my life as a good person, so I hope that people do not spread hatred.
Ayu Oktariani

HIV&AIDS Activist
Advocating the Lives of the Positives
Some time in 2009, confusion engulfed Ayu Oktariani (28) when she found herself to be HIV positive. However, the mother of one refused to feel sorry for herself, and has since relentlessly support others living with HIV&AIDS through a number of activism efforts.

“I was obviously surprised, but I didn’t get depressed. Instead, I was rather puzzled about it and wondered what I should do,” recounts Ayu, who got HIV from her late husband, an injecting drug user. Despite the surrounding stigmas and discriminations, she managed to pull herself together and started her activism by giving peer support for fellow people with HIV&AIDS.

The state of her health does not stop her efforts to make her life useful. She later engages with communities and initiates changes for the lives of people with HIV&AIDS, who have given her strength and inspiration to survive and thrive. Moreover, she is compelled to help them to be more informed, because she wants to extend the feeling of being surrounded by support and kindred spirit.

Since 2011 until present, Ayu joined the board of the Association of Indonesian Positive Women (IPPI). Currently, she is also a board member of Youth LEAD, Asia Pacific Network of Young Key Affected Population, and has been working as a Public Campaign Officer for Indonesia AIDS Coalition for the past two years.

All in all, it seems that, for Ayu, many things can only get better. Everyone she met became her teacher, and every place she went to was a place to learn. From every up and down that rewards her with humbling experience, she learns to be unselfish, about the importance of diversity and equality, and how the challenges in life must be overcome through making changes. She also committed in polishing her writing skills, so that she can help more people living with HIV&AIDS in the country by consistently communicating her cause.

However, Ayu acknowledges that stigmas and discriminations are still the top challenges in the struggle for the dissemination of information on HIV&AIDS. For example, there are fundamentalist groups who will always
link the cases of HIV&AIDS to moral issues and attitude, despite the fact that the virus can also be transmitted through other activities such as blood transfusion. Ayu considers the issues akin to sticky floor that cannot be cleaned with one touch, but instead needs a lot of effort. Another significant challenge is the decreasing amount of funding to finance the cause.

For Ayu, the key to rise above the challenges are two things: commitment and consistency on how she works, that includes taking innovative steps in dealing with the lack of funds, such as making the most of information technology and social media. This is also what Ayu has been doing, by using social media platforms on behalf of ODHA Berhak Sehat, an organization that promotes the rights to access health facilities for people living with HIV&AIDS in Indonesia. She also involves in doing advocacy efforts to encourage the changes of policy. Personally, she blogs regularly at sukamakancokelat.com and has spoken at Bloggers Speak HIV gatherings in Makassar and Yogyakarta.

“It is important to not talk too much but to make more action instead, implementing a way out of a problem,” says Ayu, who earlier this year has conducted a workshop on Social Media and HIV, to discuss the way to transform toward outreach 2.0.

Being an HIV-positive woman and a mother to an 8-year-old, one of Ayu’s biggest concerns is on the issues of women and children living with HIV, which has gained fairly little attention so far. Additionally, she dreams of having more chances in years to come to make more changes, which can contribute in making HIV issues more inclusive in other aspects such as jobs, education, and social life.

Most of all, Ayu emphasizes that having HIV inside her body does not limit her to be a better person, and that is the same case to everyone else living with HIV&AIDS.

“I really wish that people would open their eyes and hearts and get to know more about HIV and AIDS. It is not only a health issue, but it is related to every social aspect,” hopes Ayu, noting that it would be a start to put an end to the stigma and discrimination.
Indonesian youth must not be afraid of politics, for it can open the way for positive change to happen at scale.
Youth Politician
Encouraging Youth Participation in Politics through the Internet
His passion in helping communities improve how they earn their living has driven Dirgayuza Setiawan (26), or Yuza for short, to be back to his homeland and entered Indonesian politics four years ago. He believes that now is the time for youth to actively play their part in politics, and joining a political party is actually a favorable idea to do so.

For Yuza, the idea to delve into politics started brewing when he was a student at the University of Melbourne, after his part-time stint in journalism at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and research internship at the Parliament of Victoria.

“My experiences taught me, that advocating for certain issues on the media and social media is not enough to ensure sustainable change. The people might get alerted to a certain issue in the media, but there is this thing called ‘media cycle’ and it doesn’t last that long,” explains Yuza, adding that pressing issues that needs months and even years of debate and deliberation can only be accommodated, at most, for a week or two by media outlets. On the other hand, he realizes that the vast majority of policy makers and politicians in Indonesia lack in the capacity to tell their stories.

Yuza then changed his mind, and shifted from the plan to work in a media organization to enter The Great Indonesia Movement Party. Later on, as the Head of Social Media and Public Information, he has served as a digital communication strategists for a number of regional election campaigns, including President Joko Widodo’s Jakarta gubernatorial election in 2012.

On the other hand, the former Vice President of the Indonesian Student Association of Australia admits that human resources remain as one of the most prominent issues in his current job. The number of very well educated, talented young individuals who decided to enter Indonesian politics and work in or with a political party on a full time basis is rather small. This, in Yuza’s opinion, is due to the overarching perception that all political parties in Indonesia are corrupt, broken and useless. Therefore, through social media, Yuza and his team consistently communicate to the public that not all political parties are like that.
“When more political parties open themselves up for scrutiny and mass participation, the Indonesian people will benefit from better leaders and better public policies,” Yuza reassures.

Furthermore, he believes that this is the time when great ideas can be easily appreciated. In regards to this, Indonesia’s youth population has a big advantage compared to the other population groups when it comes to openness to new ideas, capacity to share and energy to do great new ideas.

As a young politician, Yuza has also already thought about the legacy he wants to establish for his nation.

“I would like to be remembered as someone who is responsible for realizing the Internet’s potential as a tool for positive change; as someone who transformed the way the Government of Indonesia governs, listens to, adapts for, and educates its citizens,” hopes Yuza, who is starting his Master of Social Science (MSc) in Social Science of the Internet at the University of Oxford this September.

In ten years’ time, he aspires to be in a better position to realize what he wishes for. He would love to try running for parliament in 2019 in order to advocate for his dreams through legislation, or working for the related government agencies. This way, he can help building a connected and responsive government, which will eventually increase a community’s standards of living and happiness.
An amazing Indonesian youth is someone who thinks about not only themselves, but also about how to encourage and serve the people.
Community Development Activist

Building Up the Initiatives for Social and Gender Equality
Moved by how marginalized women in Indonesia are deprived from their right to have access to basic health and education, Fitria Sari (23), then a Sociology student at Brawijaya University, started her activism efforts in 2011. An activist to the bone, she aspires to be a living example on what a young woman leader can be, and gives a shout-out that every woman deserves to get a better life.

Growing up in a small village where it was common for women to be denied opportunity to higher education and jobs, Fitria had been exposed to real-life situations of inequality early on. When she moved to Malang, East Java, to pursue her undergraduate degree, she found out that there was fairly little awareness on gender equality in her community, because even the room to talk about the issue was barely there.

In 2012, Fitria co-founded Komunitas Kajian Gender Malang, also known as Kojigema Institute, a youth-driven independent community that fosters discussions on gender studies and raises youth awareness on adolescent sexual and reproductive health. The community was legalized a year after, and she was at its helm since its inception until 2014. Her first steps to stimulate the discussions included capacity and network building, which were later developed to various awareness-raising campaigns. She also took part in a number of volunteerism initiatives to gain better understanding upon gender and human rights issues.

“The process had not been easy, because some people still believe that gender and equality issues are against human nature and local culture. However, I refuse to stay still and be silent, because I want to show everyone that equality is a right,” says Fitria firmly.

Currently, Fitria is engaging civil society organizations (CSOs) in Pasuruan, East Java, to increase their participation on reducing maternal and neonatal mortality rate. Her interest in directing her activism to this cause sparked when she had learned more about Millennium Development Goals, and found out that Indonesia is a country with one of the highest maternal and neonatal mortality rate in Asia, making the goal on this matter a priority.

Fitria speaking with senior high school for special need students about sexual reproductive health.

Fitria doing a volunteer activity from ECPAT Indonesia.
In Fitria’s opinion, this issue also starts from young women who had little understanding about their reproductive health rights, which followed by underage marriages. The phenomenon also shows the relation among gender equality, sexual reproductive health and rights, and maternal and neonatal mortality rate. Thus, she needs to consistently encourage people, particularly those who are marginalized, to start taking their health more seriously.

“However, the biggest challenge to encounter on this matter is to raise the awareness, of both men and women, on the importance of equality, such as the opportunity and access to education and job opportunities,” explains Fitria, who presently works on behalf of Expanding Maternal and Neonatal Survival (EMAS), a consortium programme for maternal and neonatal healthcare supported by USAID.

Armed with her passion to dedicate herself to her beloved country, Fitria believes that she has what it takes to promote participative approach and education for the people in the grassroots. She has been spending nearly five years doing so, and she does not plan to quit.

In years to come, she also wants to continue giving all her might to facilitate civil society to contribute in volunteerism on gender equality issues, which includes promoting information on reproductive health and capacity building for women. At the moment, she is doing so by volunteering at ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking for Sexual Purposes) Indonesia, to raise awareness on child marriage.

In retrospect, Fitria reveals that activism on gender equality and women issues had empowered herself to fight the judgment and stigmas directed to women in daily basis. Now that she knows how good it feels to empower and be empowered, she hopes that more women can have the same opportunity, too.
It is the time for us as young people to not belittle ourselves, because we are not the agent of change but we are the change producers.
Irine Yusiana Roba Putri

Youth Lawmaker
Making Changes by Being a Part in the System
“People are the power itself. This duty allows me to meet a lot of people who inspire me to keep voicing their rights and improving the system,” says Irine Yusiana Roba Putri (31) passionately. For the member of Indonesian House of Representative in Commission I, which areas of responsibility include Defense, Foreign Affairs and Information, the voice of the people is the vitamins of her soul.

Originally, the thought of being a lawmaker never really occur in her mind. Even after she completed her master’s programme at Monash University, Australia, she was rather reluctant to return to her home country. However, she finally found a way to encourage herself by creating the digital library at Idenesia.com, where she found many problems faced by Indonesian people, especially young people.

Once she was back home, Irine was involved in the management of the youth and sports department at the Central Board of Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P). Besides joining the activity of the party’s youth programs, she was often appointed to represent the party in international forums particularly related to discussion and training on youth and politics.

“Irine took a photo with religious leader in Morotai.”

“Irine visited military camp in Morotai.”

“Irine discussed with the head of military in Morotai.”

“Many young people in Indonesia do not want to involve in politics, whereas by dragging ourselves out from politics means that we are giving the opportunities for those who are indecent to politics to grow bigger,” explains Irine, adding that major changes can also happen through the changes in the policy of the politics itself as well. It makes her, who was elected in the House of Representative of the electoral district of North Maluku at the age of 30, believes that being a lawmaker enables her to bring changes that she expects to happen in the political policies.

Irine realizes that being a first-timer means the House of Representative means having a learning place where everything is so brand new. Although she has an advanced degree in Communications and Media Studies, and it matches with one of her Commission’s areas of responsibilities, she cannot simply apply the theory she learned back then. This makes her feel like being a student who has to constantly learn something new while facing the exams each day.
It is challenging indeed, but in Irine’s opinion, there is no way to overcome it other than directly go to the fields, because not doing so will only make her unable to provide data and material to formulate the legislation or the oversee of the program and budget allocations. She is confident that she can take up the challenge, because she has three main functions of the House of Representative, budgeting, monitoring, and legislation, as her weapons for achieving her goals.

Moreover, as a young person, she realizes that many of her peers, such as ones in the rural or border area, have not got their full rights, such as the right for having education, having space to express skills and having jobs.

“Therefore, in every working visits or recess, I always make programs for advocacy for the rights of young people. I believe that the fulfillment of young people’s rights will bear good quality of young people which are the forerunner of a strong state,” says Irine, who aspires to be the country’s minister of youth and sport. Currently, she has started to go around creating youth organization network which will be able to accommodate the youth to fight for the rights of young people.

Irine believes that success should not stop at the level of an individual. The real success is actually when an individual can spread well deeds extensively and many people are inspired to do the same way. As a lawmaker, that is exactly what she aims to do.
Young people are the creator of the future. If we do not prepare ourselves for it, we will not be able to do anything in the future.
Johan Albert Piter Ginuny

Peer Counselor and TV Personality
Being the Face of Empowerment for Youth in Papua
People generally acknowledge that youth is the future of a nation, but Johan Albert Piter Ginuny (25), also known as Piche, believes that it should not stop there. Growing up in the most eastern province of Indonesia, where the rate of HIV&AIDS is getting alarming, he is encouraged to empower youth in Papua to overcome their challenges in sexual and reproductive health issues.

Piche started his activism after he won the national level of Generasi Berencana (GenRe) Student Ambassador by National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN) in 2012. However, he was exposed to the cause way earlier, and had seen with his own eyes that many youth in Papua are engaged in unsafe sex, that leads to early marriage, street prostitution, and high rate of HIV&AIDS spread. The causes, he argues, are not only the lack of knowledge in adolescence sexual and reproduction health issues, but also peer pressure, and he aspires to play his part in supporting them to start thinking about and planning for their future.

Together with his friends, Piche initiates youth communities in local schools and provides them assistance to support their peers in raising awareness. In three years, he has built 18 communities in two regencies and one city, mostly in senior high schools, and he plans on expanding with the support of BKKBN, where he works as a peer counselor in Papua.

“Over the years, there is change in terms of youth’s knowledge on the matter, but very little change of behavior. Let’s say that there is a girl who knows about HIV and how to take care of her reproductive health, but comes to counselling sessions on her own, and ended up listening to her boyfriend rather than the counselor anyway,” explains Piche, adding that it is generally common for local teenagers to ‘take their pants off’, a term they use to refer to having sex as a part of dating.

To get his messages across, Piche makes the most of his public speaking skills, which are refined by his works as an emcee and hosting a music programme on TVRI, the
national broadcasting service. Not only making youth-friendly seminars and talks, he also personally approaches stakeholders, such as lawmakers and government officials, who attend the events he hosts, and asks for their support.

There are times when his presence to give talks on adolescence sexual and reproduction health issues are not welcomed, and some people decided not to come at all. Creating sustainable engagement with the students in the communities he has established, to make regeneration possible, is another challenging feat. Piche, who befriends young people from different local youth communities in Papua, also aware that at present they work on their separate ways and remain not empowered, despite having so much potential. Nevertheless, as a person who is open to challenges, Piche embraces the obstacles in his activism with open arms, knowing that the works must be done anyway.

“I want to make young people fully realize that we all are the subject of the future, we are the one who make it happen.

Youth is the time of our lives, to prepare ourselves to seize the future we have planned for,” says Piche, who has been a member of UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel for the past two years.

In the near future, Piche aims to get himself into provincial legislation system to get even bigger exposure from the people of Papua on youth-related issues and reach every related stakeholder. He fervently believes that young people in Papua need to be better represented, because they are great in numbers and facing complex problems they need to tackle in order to be actively and meaningfully participate in development. A believer in the importance to live for something bigger than his own self, he says, “In life, serving others is an honor, not a burden.”
Youth is not the number but youth is the power.
Social Activist
Calling Attention to Social Inclusion
Her teenage days spent as a peer educator and peer counselor has ignited Moudy Febriyati Taopan’s passion in empowering young people in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT). At present, the 26-year-old has her advocacy efforts extend to promoting social inclusion for street children and children in conflict with the law.

Born and raised in Kupang, Moudy began her activism in adolescent sexual and reproductive health over ten years ago. The senior high school student supported her peers to access the information and services on reproductive health at the Youth Centre of Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (PKBI) NTT.

For Moudy, it all started from what she saw around her back in the days, and she found no place for local youth to sit together and brew the idea of making contributions for the development of the nation. As a peer educator and counsellor, she did not want to stop there.

“I believe that youth are not part of problem. The future of a country is in their hands, thus empowering Indonesian youth to be responsible people can create a bright future for the country,” says Moudy, a member of UNFPA Indonesia Youth Advisory Panel from 2006 to 2010.

From her aspiration inspire her peers to follow her lead, Moudy, along with her three friends, recognized the need for a youth forum to unite like-minded young people. In 2004, she joined Forum Anak Peduli HIV&AIDS dan PMS (FAPHAP), a children forum with concerns focusing on HIV&AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. In less than a year, she got the opportunity to be at the forum’s helm until the end of 2008. When her term as the Chairwoman of FAPHAP has ended, she later led the provincial branch of Aliansi Remaja Independen (ARI), an independent youth organization, for two years since 2009.

Throughout the years of her involvement as a youth activist, Moudy also learned a lot about advocacy through the opportunity to regularly meet and discuss with local government, both the legislative and the executive body. These efforts, in turn, not only helped developing the
potentials of youth advocates in Kupang, but also improved the awareness of parents to be more engaged and involved with their adolescent children.

“Many parents in my hometown are still holding on to traditional way of thinking, believing that there are a lot of taboos. This eventually gets in the way of communicating with their children, making them feel inconvenient to talk to their parents,” Moudy explains in retrospect. Therefore, she has been using every chance she got to campaign about the need of parents’ involvement, that includes welcoming their children to talk about adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

After graduated with a Law undergraduate degree from Universitas Nusa Cendana, Kupang, Moudy continued to walk on the path of social activism. After completed her stint as a Program Manager at the AIDS Commission in Kupang Regency in 2014, she immediately started over as a Project Officer on Social Inclusion Programme for street children and children in conflict with the law at IPPA Headquarter.

As she strongly believes on the importance of learning and sharing among the youth of the nation, Moudy is now developing a network to connect youth organizations in Indonesia, with the main goal to foster youth contribution for development. Her motivation is simple: because she aims to be a part of the change.

“I definitely want to be a responsible Indonesian youth who encourages the other to share the same spirit,” hopes Moudy.
Indonesian youth are creative and innovative on their own, but they have to collaborate to strengthen the promotion of their causes and make changes.
Muhammad Ami

Youth Activist and Law Student
Pioneering Youth Movement in Eastern Kalimantan
A n eye-opening national youth summit and exchange in late 2011 brought Muhammad Ami (23) to a realization upon the challenges being faced by young people in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan. Driven by consumerism, many of his peers in his hometown are so used to hanging out or shopping after busy studying or moneymaking. Another prominent issue is the tendency for them to leave the island to pursue better opportunities for their studies or work.

“From that moment on, I knew that youth should play their part in driving the change, starting from their surroundings. But I was clueless on how to begin, because there was no example or role model for me to do so,” says the trailblazer, who then started the move by himself, tagging along some supportive friends from his closest circles. His first project, a mini festival in 2012 consisted of interactive talk show, acoustic music and art expo, as a follow-up from his participation in Indonesian Youth Conference, became a refreshing form of a youth-initiated event in Balikpapan.

Fast forward to 2015, he now leads Inspirasi Muda Kalimantan Timur (IM Kaltim), a one-of-its-kind youth movement aiming to inspire young people thorough the province. For the past four years, he has been spreading the spirit of youth empowerment by engaging both youth and local government in Balikpapan, to challenge the reluctance of local youth from contributing for their beloved city. He believes that with their creativity and enthusiasm, young people in Balikpapan can make the most of the support from their local government as well as CSR funding from multinational corporations who establishes their business in the city.

By welcoming teenagers to volunteer in his organization’s events, he ignites the spirit of social change in them and that encourages them to establish forums or communities at their own schools. Furthermore, IM Kaltim held its inaugural Kalimantan Youth Change Makers last April. In the three-day camp, 35 young people aged 15-24 from across the island were empowered to create more impactful contribution. Ami did these because he sees the importance of exposing local youth to national and international issues in fostering their commitment for their hometowns.
“In addition to youth being clueless about issues such as the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and Millennium Development Goals, the efforts to raise awareness from the local government are relatively minimum, mainly due to similar reason,” says Ami, who made one of the mayor’s expert staffs pleasantly surprised with his effort in introducing AEC issues through an IM Kaltim Rumpi talk show session.

The first-year law student in Balikpapan University admits that reaching out to the government is another concern, as there is a significant gap between them and young people. Nevertheless, he believes that it must be overcome, and he was determined to build the bridge. He has been making personal approaches to a number of people in charge at the city government, and received recognition for his youth activism from the Governor of East Kalimantan earlier this year. Also, when he was assisting LIPI, the country’s national research center, to evaluate the performance of local lawmakers in late 2014, he met several of them who now genuine support for his organization’s events through funding and being speakers.

However, the member of UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel does not want to stop there. Other than preparing his organization for a succession to make it sustainable after his leadership, he also aims to hold a post as a civil servant that will enable him to support youth empowerment through policy making. “I never really have the thought of leaving Balikpapan, because I have great hopes for young people in this city and determined in making it a youth-friendly town.”

Ami conducting the outbond for young people in balikpapan.

Ami becoming one of the facilitator in IM Kaltim.
As young people, sometimes your voice is not heard by people. But through your work, you can speak louder than your own voice.
Rifky Husain
Filmmaker
Lighting the Hope for Peace in Ambon
Rifky Husain (25), usually called Iki, grew up with the stories of communal violence happened in Ambon, Maluku, in 1999. The struggle of Ambonese to live in peace by rediscovering the collective memory of their once peaceful land later became his inspiration for Peace Provocateurs, a documentary that tells the story of peace in his hometown.

Born and raised in Ambon, Iki was no stranger to the sectarian conflict between Christian and Muslim communities that took thousands of lives. In fact, Ambon conflict left some remaining problems, as the settlement segregation prone to ignite new conflict and post-conflict trauma. However, seeing that the hope for peace has not died out, Iki wanted to let Indonesia know that Ambon is actually a place where people have been working collectively and continuously rebuild the harmony if living together peacefully.

In 2013, along came the Eagle Award Documentary Competition held by Metro TV, a national news television station. At that time, the Journalism student at State Institute of Islamic Studies (IAIN) of Ambon and his colleague, Ali Madi Salay, made it to the finals, and were given training and scholarship to produce Peace Provocateurs.

“In my opinion, a film is not mere entertainment, but can also educate people by putting strong messages in it. Being able to see my work inspire and become useful for the better change is very pleasant,” explains Iki.

Peace Provocateurs continued to bring international recognitions for Iki. Among them are Jury Price Eagle Award in 2013, the International Official Screening at the Asiatica Film Festival in Rome, Italy, in September 2014, as well as becoming a Nominee for best short film in Aljazeera International Film Festival 10th Edition, in Doha, Qatar, the following month.

Iki’s passion in filmmaking has been blossoming ever since. By the end of 2014, he had made Merah Saga, a short-documentary depicting a story of a Catholic who went beyond her conflict trauma join the Merah Saga, a theater group whose members are predominantly Muslims. It won the Ahmad Wahib Award 2014 in Short Video Category. Currently, he is working on Tifa Siwalima, a peace documentary film project which will be one of the references in the Multicultural Education Curriculum at schools in Ambon.
“The project is considered important because of Ambon as the former conflict areas does not have a comprehensive multicultural education that teach young people how to live in harmony between Christians and Muslims,” says Iki, who is also setting up BaileoDOC, a foundation focusing on informal film education and giving access for youth in the creative industry sector.

For Iki, living in a small town which once experienced humanitarian problems allows him to refine his survival spirit as he grew up. However, he is continuously challenged by various obstacles, from funding to access to communications and technology infrastructures, tempting him to give up on the circumstances at times. Garnering support from the local government, especially for BaileoDOC, is also another challenge for him.

In attempts to overcome the hindrance, Iki created networks with several youth creative communities and groups in Ambon and some non-governmental organizations in Indonesia, to address issues such as project financing and distribution of works. He joined with the Ambon Bergerak, one of the largest creative community alliances that bring the various youth communities in Ambon. At the national level, he invited Eagle Institute Indonesian and Eramusindocs to provide training and funding documentary production for young people in Ambon. Both institutions agreed and came to give the training in 2013.

With no hesitation, Iki claims that he is optimistic to pursue a career in the Indonesian film industry. Not only dreams of making feature-length films and wins international prestigious film awards, he also aspires to be a professional filmmaker based in the eastern Indonesia and educates young people to work independently in creative industry. It is all because he believes that young filmmakers have their own way of developing of the nation.

“Nowadays many TV shows and movies in Indonesia are not educative. As young individual, I think making good movies that inspire people means contributing in the development of Indonesia,” Iki reaffirms.
What do Young People Say Should be a Priority in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda?

The United Nations and partner organizations sponsored a global My World poll through which about 597,000 young people between the ages 10 and 24 ranked their priorities for the world after 2015, the target year for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. About 65,000 of the votes were cast by youth in countries with a very high Human Development Index rank, while about 532,000 were cast by those in countries with a low Human Development Index score. The Human Development Index is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living.

Source: http://data.myworld2015.org/
Contributors’ Profiles

Mr. Angga Dwi Martha

Kerinci, Jambi

Angga (24) was born and raised in the island of Sumatra. From 2012 to June 2015, Angga served as the Youth Advocate for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Indonesia. In this role, he advocated for the rights of young people in Indonesia, and worked to ensure their engagement and participation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals. Currently, he is pursuing Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. His academic interests include sustainable development, peace-building and conflict resolution, and human security.

Ms. Anggraini Sari Astuti

Jakarta, Special Capital Region of Jakarta

Anggraini (24), or Ange for short, is a UN National Youth Volunteer for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Programmes at UNFPA in Indonesia. She graduated from Faculty of Public Health University of Indonesia majoring Epidemiology in 2013. In 2012, she was awarded as the most outstanding student and most inspiring student in the scientific category. She had become lecturer assistant in Epidemiology, health research, and global health science since 2012, and aspires to be a lecturer in the future. Her interests include issues on global health, public health, adolescent maternal and child health also youth mobilization.
Ms. Anindya Nastiti Restuviani

Semarang, Central Java

Known to her friends as Vivi (25), she is a youth advocate in juvenile delinquency. She has been actively promoting legal awareness in early marriage since her enrollment in Law Faculty, Diponegoro University, Semarang. Upon her graduation, she is an active member of Youth Advisory Panel UNFPA Indonesia. Vivi was one of Indonesia’s civil society organisations delegations for 69th Session of UN General Assembly in September 2014, promoting issues of youth especially on justice and governance. Currently, Vivi is a project officer for Save The Children Indonesia, with main responsibilities include promoting youth opportunities in employment.

Ms. Briliansy Mulyanto

Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta Special Region

Briliansy (23), also known as Ansy, is a medical doctor with interests in public health, mental health, health psychology, and health education. Started her medical studies at Gadjah Mada University in 2009, she later worked for Center for Indonesian Medical Students’ Activities and International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations, also developed several other projects on adolescent mental health. In 2013, she was made a member of UNFPA Indonesia Youth Advisory Panel. Presently, she is developing a business with a mental health campaign background, Atakara Indonesia, which focuses on building a healthy mind through writing.
Ms. Diba Safitri

Depok, West Java

Diba (22) started her involvement in the community from early age of 13, when she was awarded by Indonesian Red Cross as the best junior first aider in 2006. Her passion for health issues evolved to youth empowerment and development, which in addition to her education background, has led her to become actively participating in several youth organizations such as Global Citizen Corps (2010), ClubSPEAK (2012), and UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel (2014-2015). Being a multilingual (Bahasa Indonesia, English, and Japanese) she still aims to learn more languages. She currently resides in Japan for a senior year abroad at Hokkaido University.

Mr. Faqih Aulia Akbar Rasyid

Jakarta, Special Capital Region of Jakarta

Faqih (22) is a UN National Youth Volunteer for Youth Engagement in UNFPA Indonesia. He graduated from Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), majoring in Sharia Economics. He is passionate about Youth Participation and Development issues, and since 2010 has been actively participating in several Youth Organizations such as Local Librarian Council (2008-2010), Global Citizen Corps by MercyCorps Indonesia (2010-2012), and Forum for Indonesia Chapter Bogor (2012-2014). As a member of Youth Advisory Panel by UNFPA Indonesia since 2014, he plays his part in empowering youth, promoting youth leadership on population issues, and ensuring youth-friendly approaches and action.
Ms. Faza Fairuza Az-Zahra  

*Jakarta, Special Capital Region of Jakarta*

Faza (23), widely known as Fay, is a radio announcer with experiences as an emcee and moderator for various events such as Indonesian Youth Conference. In 2013, she was also chosen as the representative of student exchange from University of Al-Azhar Indonesia, where she studies Psychology, to Japan for KIZUNA Bond-Project in 2013. Her other youth-related activities included being a volunteer for Global Youth Forum 2012 and a youth observer for World Conference on Youth 2014 in Srilanka. She also has been making active contribution in UNFPA Indonesia Youth Advisory Panel for the past two years.

Mr. Muhamad Fahmi Ramadhan  

*Tarakan, North Kalimantan*

Fahmi (24) currently serves as Website & Multimedia Assistant at UNFPA Indonesia, after interned for the Fund to provide assistance on digital communication for the Global Youth Forum in 2012. As an undergraduate student, he was highly involved in environmental and community engagement activities, leading to his participation in Study at the United States Institute at the University of Montana. Fahmi is also an enthusiast in IT, multimedia and design aesthetics. He holds a bachelor degree in Visual Communication and Design, pursued on a full scholarship from Paramadina University, Jakarta, and was awarded as best graduate in his faculty.
Mr. Muhammad Subarkah Syafruddin

*Bandung, West Java*

Also known as Sume, Subarkah (25) previously worked for the Gender as well as the Monitoring and Evaluation unit at UNFPA Indonesia before commencing his LLM study on law of the sea and international dispute resolution at the University of Virginia School of Law. His list of academic honors includes ESL Grand Champion at Australasian Intervarsity Debating Championship in Seoul and Second Best Oralist at the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. For his achievements during college, he was named one of Indonesia’s most outstanding students for the world by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2012.

Mr. Rizky Ashar Murdiono

*Malang, East Java*

Rizky, or Ekky (22), is a human rights activist advocating for civic participation, gender equality and diversity, reproductive health services and information for young people with disabilities. He currently sits as the coordinator of Youth Diversity Alliance. The inclusive community founded a media streaming project called Yours Radio, which discusses social issues, youth movement, and development from youth perspective, and is funded by UNESCO. Together with his team, the informatics engineering student at Brawijaya University, Malang, also supports creative activism and campaign on accessibility of media for youth and young people with disabilities.