Youth Congress

Homelessness is more than just the lack of a roof over one’s head. Human-centered approaches can help us truly understand needs.

Safe housing is not yet recognized as a priority.

Home is an essential tool for children where dreams, love, & hope are made.

Living is also about being part of a community.

Cities need to be livable physically & mentally.

Water is clear transparent. So many abandoned houses, yet homes in Tokyo keep getting smaller & smaller!

Bamboo is environmentally friendly. Easy to grow, easy to construct part of our culture.

Change mindset that it’s not strong or that it’s for the poor.

Sustainable not just the material itself, but also socio-cultural, local economy & environment.

You are not the future. You are the present.

Advocate for affordable housing for all.

Develop a sense of vocation!

Focus on people-centered solutions.

Asia-Pacific Youth’s Declaration on Building Forward Better for Inclusive Housing
WHEREAS the human right to adequate housing is recognized within the University Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and within other international human rights treaties.

AND WHEREAS almost all States within the Asia-Pacific region have ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

AND WHEREAS the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established by the ICESCR, has identified seven interrelated aspects of the right to adequate housing: legal security of tenure; availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; affordability; habitability; accessibility; location; and cultural adequacy.

AND WHEREAS the United Nations reports that in 2018, 27.2% and 31.2% of urban populations in the two regions of Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and of Central and Southern Asia, respectively, lived in slums.

NOW THEREFORE we, young people gathered at the 8th Asia-Pacific Housing Forum Youth Congress, call upon governments, private entities, and civil society, as relevant, to redouble commitments to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, by:

- Building resilient cities and communities
- Implementing innovative housing solutions and technologies
- Advancing sustainability in the housing sector
- Financing affordable housing
Building resilient cities and communities, more specifically through:

- Prioritizing secure tenure, which is crucial for cities and communities to be resilient to natural and human-caused disasters
- Investing in adequate infrastructure and basic services to sustain and improve the safety, health, livelihood, and living environment of urban residents
- Ensuring that housing is not located near disaster hazards and designated non-buildable areas, such as areas prone to flooding, liquefaction, and earthquakes
- Providing an inclusive stakeholder process that incorporates the priorities, experiences, and voices of citizens and communities.
Implementing innovative housing solutions and technologies, more specifically through:

- Ensuring the design of housing is adapted to local conditions
- Making indigenous, culturally-appropriate, eco-friendly, and structurally stronger materials readily available and affordable
- Using innovative digital tools to record different forms of land tenure rights
- Working with market actors to sustainably provide housing solutions suited to families in need of the right information, skills, design, budget, materials to build a safer, more durable home.
Advancing sustainability in the housing sector, more specifically through:

- Developing and promoting inclusive housing and urban development policies
- Government intervention ensuring safe, clean, and accessible water sources, energy democracy and reliability with incentivized options to transition to renewable energy
- Providing incentives to use innovative products or sustainable building practices through subsidies or discounts.
Financing affordable housing, more specifically through:

- Acknowledging the house construction sector as a larger-than-expected contributor to a country’s Gross Domestic Product and must be an essential of an integrated stimulus plan for maximum economic recovery and equitable benefit distribution.
- Developing funding instruments for creating affordable housing, particularly financing instruments to help people living in informal settlements and scalable slum upgrading approaches.
- Working with affordable housing market actors and companies to innovate housing products and services, financing and knowledge sharing.
- Providing opportunities for financial literacy for young people and engaging more youth in creating policies for affordable housing.