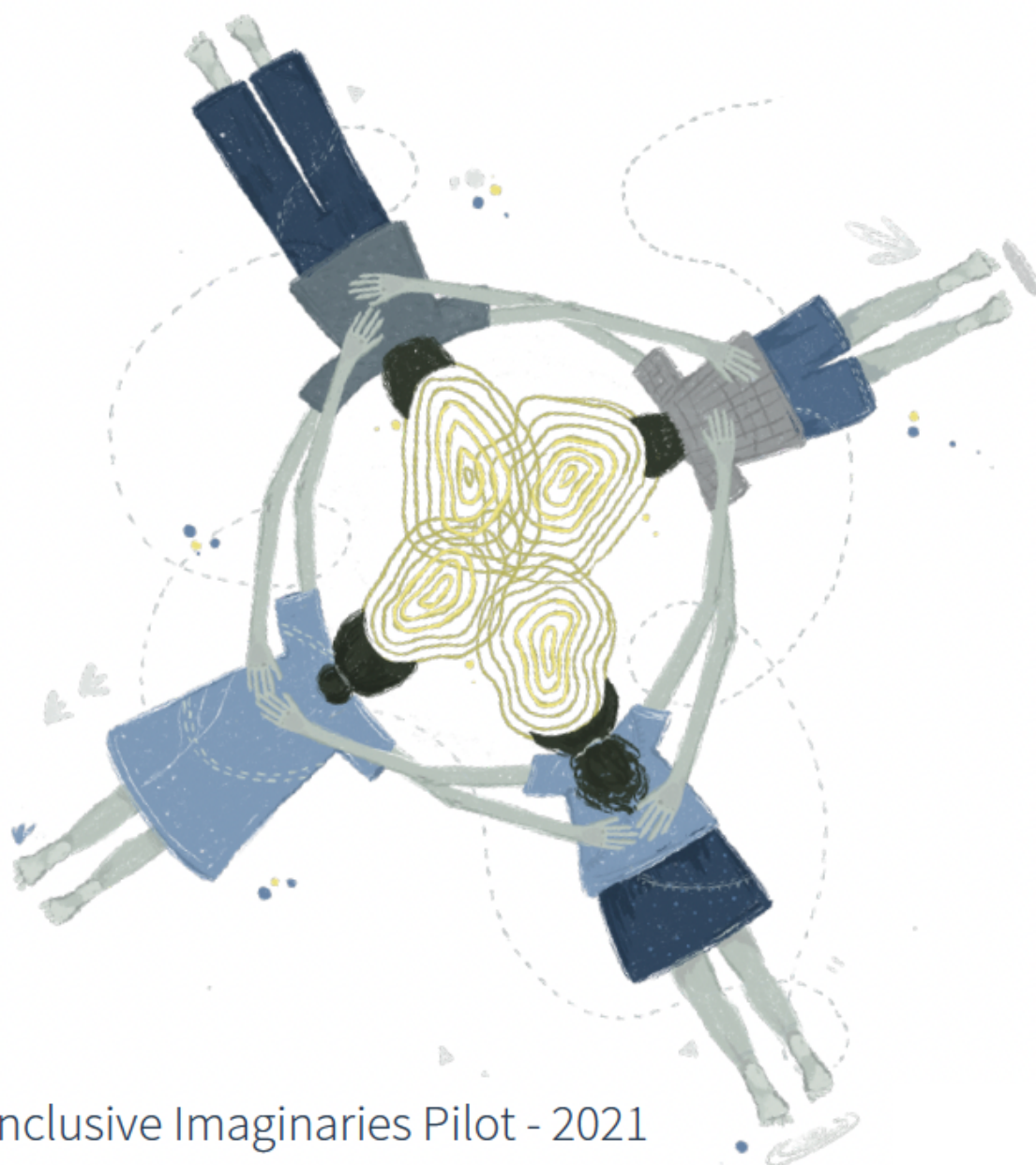# Inclusive Imaginaries

Catalysing forward-looking policy making through civic imagination

Report: Inclusive Imaginaries Pilot - 2021

United Nations Development Programme
Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
Strategic Foresight Network
with Poppy Seed Lab

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01 Harnessing Imagination for Forward-Looking Policy Development

> *Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand."* *Albert Einstein*

Reimagining Development

Today's complex challenges- including climate change, global health, and international security, among others - are pushing development actors to re-think and re-imagine traditional ways of working and decision-making. Transforming traditional approaches to navigating complexity would support what development thinker Sam Pitroda's calls a 'third vision' demands a mindset rooted in creativity, innovation, and courage in order to one transcend national interests and takes into account global issues.

If the COVID-19 pandemic and global catastrophes caused by climate change have taught us anything, it is that maintaining the status quo is harmful to the planet as well as human health. Current development policies, however, and trend analyses may not be adequate in shifting the said status quo.

The futures of communities and individuals are inter-connected like never before. This is a critical moment at which visioning exercises to plan and map interdependencies, risks, hopes and needs are not only done with experts but with people historically excluded or absent in development agendas. The research and evidence that backs policy thinking in many instances may be missing valuable linkages to culture and context where indications for solutions to complex problems may lie, and can even be a constraint when anticipating and planning for resilience in a time of uncertainty and unforeseen threats.

UNDP RBAP's *Reimagining Development Initiative* seeks to understand emergent indicators and gather alternative perspectives for policy and programme ideation from citizens' visions, insights, and imaginations. The initiative seeks to build the foundations for more forward-looking and inclusive policy-making focusing on areas such as equitable digital public goods, long-term thinking for future generations, new

What is Inclusive Imaginaries (II)

Inclusive Imaginaries is an approach that utilises collective reflection and imagination to engage with citizens, towards building more just, equitable and inclusive futures. It seeks to infuse imagination as a key process to support gathering of community perspectives rooted in lived experience and local culture, towards developing more contextual visions for policy and programme development.

Inclusive Imaginaries seeks to:

- Acquire visions that are reflective of local culture and lived experiences of people.
- Inform and cultivate more participatory policy making processes that ensure policy design is as close as possible to the desires of people it intends to serve.
- Create opportunities for diverse citizens to uncover and generate new knowledge that can help shift the status quo.
- Elevate community perspectives alongside those of 'technical experts' and those that have historically remained in positions of power.
- Build capacity among diverse people to explore and articulate visions of the futures they want, rather than those that they may inherit.

The Inclusive Imaginaries Approach

The sources of knowledge we generally use to build on policy and programmes emerges from a small set of stakeholders that have either; historically been in positions of power, or are considered 'experts' owing to their academic knowledge. In order to work towards building more locally driven and culturally contextual visions of our futures, there is a need to prioritise collaborations with diverse citizens in the development process, that makes space for them to articulate their aspirations and surface inherent knowledge that can help shift the status quo.

We recognize that the idea of participatory planning is not novel. However, the intention of looking into the future and the use of imagination to drive those ideas is unusual. In order to adapt the concept of imagination for the task at hand, Inclusive Imaginaries utilised an approach that married ethnographic research and design processes with storytelling and role playing tools that allow for looking into a moment in their future. It asks constituents to allow themselves a moment to pause, not be bogged down by the weight of current realities and its challenges yet remain aware of their existence, as they take a trip into the future.

At the heart of this approach is a conversation between the individual and culture - an exploration of how the imagination, as something very personal and subjective, grows out of our shared culture, and how our shared culture can be transformed by acts of imagination. (Zittoun, T., & Gillespie, A. (2016). Imagination in Human and Cultural Development)

The intention is to embolden people's imaginations to articulate beliefs, preferences, values, practices, systems or inherited shared knowledge that reflect the lived experiences of people, and can help bring their visions of the future to bear.

Why Use Imagination

We use imagination everyday. When you need to make sure the furniture you bought will fit in your room, have a difficult conversation with your partner, or even plan a surprise celebration for your best friend's birthday. We often put ourselves in the minds and shoes of others, to imagine how they may react or what they may do in a particular scenario in the near future, which helps us decide on how we may act in a given moment today. But what we don't do as often is use our imagination and particularly our collective imagination, to drive where we want to go.

Pop culture shares numerous examples of action arising from imagination that have turned to reality. We imagine something, we recreate that imagination and we are inspired by it, we repeat it enough for that imagination to become our scope of possibility, and we work towards making that possibility a reality.

However these images and ideals have historically been propagated by Western societies that have shared an almost singular vision of 'how things should be'. For decades, the visions, aspirations and cultural artefacts produced with a view of the West have promulgated global agendas, and have been the basis for development plans across Asia and the Pacific, thus producing narrow metrics for success. Orthodox ideas of sociology embody a hubristic Eurocentric conviction that only European history informs the natural and the universal because (western) modernity is supposedly the only blueprint which leads to developed, modern, and civilized status. Countries that had a dissimilar (decolonial) theory of development to the ready-made western framework of development were sentenced to clash with the West because of their inferior 'unmodern' epistemology. Alternative models have either been dismissed or marginalised.

With Inclusive Imaginaries, the intention is to bring forth and reflect on additional metrics that can influence learning, discuss new possibilities that are relevant and adaptable, and thus repeat a series of actions that create our scope of possibility, that can transform our dreams into our lives.

Imagining from Lived Experience

Our imaginations may give us the ability to temporarily escape reality, but they can also help us work through thorny issues.

Among the visionaries utilizing imagination-based thinking was science-fiction author Octavia E. Butler. Butler's novels, mostly released in the last quarter of the twentieth century, envisaged alternate futures that foresaw many aspects of life today, from the impacts of climate change to corporate profiteering off of public health needs, such as the case with 'Big Pharma'. Central to Butler's work was a form of escapism that challenged modern assumptions and stereotypes of what the status quo ought to be. She used her everyday surroundings and neighborhood happenings as inspiration to examine and imagine other veins of possibility for the future.

Embedded with the tangible experience of a reality, our imagination and vision for an alternative is real, concrete and that provides opportunity for action. Further, it creates a valuable opportunity to consider what new problems a proposed solution may create in the far future, be it for systems transformations or building for future generations.

Systems are the people, organisations, policies, processes, cultures, beliefs and environment that surround all of us. Potentially the most powerful way for people with lived experience to create a lasting difference is through directly influencing the design and delivery of policy and services. People with lived experiences provide a powerful and authentic voice and unique insights that can challenge assumptions, motivate organisations to do things differently and pinpoint areas for change. (CFE Research, 2021)

Researchers in the fields of psychology and neuroscience have examined how our brains absorb information received from multiple senses - interestingly, their findings point to a big role of the imagination in this cranial processing. What we imagine hearing or seeing in our heads, for example, can actually change our perceptions. "What we imagine hearing can change what we actually see, and what we imagine seeing can change what we actually hear." (Karolinska Institutet, 2013).

Our imaginations are powerful tools that allow us to envision different worlds - sharing these realities with others can quite literally help them see their worlds and the world around them differently. Certainly, policy, strategy, and institutional change are slower to evolve than individual attitudes and reframings of their own realities. But beyond individual reorientation, imagination exercises offer collective insight into how people's lived experiences inform their visions for the future. A key factor in ensuring that lived experience involvement is meaningful and not tokenistic is ensuring that people who are consulted are kept informed and receive timely feedback. Moreover, developing lasting opportunities for their involvement, and co-producing programmes with people with lived experiences will ensure that the activity meets their needs and they can play an equal role, rather than being just another item on the agenda.

Inclusive Imaginaries offers tools that can infuse more locally driven and culturally contextual visions within Asia and the Pacific, while attempting to highlight community perspectives towards the change they aspire for.

Inclusive Imaginaries Mindset

In developing the Inclusive Imaginaries, we chose to be led by a mindset of thinking and doing, rather than a singular method of design.

- *Favour* deliberative processes in civic participation and institutional self-reflection
- *Build* for long-term goals and aspirations, not just perceived needs
- *Elevate* the voices and contributions of people with lived experience
- *Encourage* inclusive methods and tools in engagement to decrease mediation in vision-building
- *Make Room* for curiosity, imagination, and the possibility of multiple futures
- *Reflect* on memories, rituals and lore to uncover inherited knowledge
- *Combine* multiple sources of knowledge - lived experience, observation and quantitative data for strategic decision-making

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Co-creating the Inclusive Imaginaries Toolkit

Co-creation lies at the heart of Inclusive Imaginaries. Keeping with the intention of building our futures to include perspectives of those that often remain at a distance from policy ideations, the process of developing the II tools itself has also been collaborative.

The Inclusive Imaginaries Toolkit has been developed in consultation with representatives from the UNDP Accelerator Labs and Youth Co-Labs in 6 country offices - Malaysia, Philippines, Fiji, Nepal, Laos, Samoa, between October-December 2021. In this pilot run, 12 representatives have been involved and trained as Imagination Facilitators, who seek to play the role of knowledge brokers, connecting the practices and expectations of citizen stakeholders with the needs and rationalities required from those developing policies intended to serve them.

A range of tools were presented to the Imagination Facilitators which were discussed, tested internally and iterated upon during the development period. These included processes of persona building, guided visualisations journeying from the past to the future, role playing exercises and foresight approaches such as backcasting.

Multiple iterations of the tools led to designing the final set for participants to be inspired by their own personal experiences, and sought to build visions that are representative of priorities that emerge within a group of participants. The time horizon for participants' imaginations was set to imagining 10 years into the future, in the year 2031.

During this process we presented four questions that became frames and lenses for participants' imagination to focus on when building out their future visions during the Inclusive Imaginaries workshops.

The questions were also proposed to be able to produce young citizen perspectives to the nudges of the foresight briefs that are part of the Reimagining Development Initiative. These were:

- How can we ensure that digital public goods do not amplify existing inequalities and lock in one vision of our digital development futures?

- What are the needs of future generations that we are obligated to meet and how can these be supported?

- What relationships would emerge from new forms of rights from human, ecological, and mechanistic perspectives?

- What role do indigenous knowledge systems play to support our imagination of sustainable development?

Inclusive Imaginaries Pilot Workshops

The pilot of Inclusive Imaginaries played a dual role - the first to introduce the process to country office representatives by co-developing the final set of tools with them, and the second was to simultaneously test the tools through workshops to produce the first set of insights and visions of the future.

While representatives from all 6 COs participated in online brainstorming sessions that led to iterating on the II tools, 5 country offices.hosted and facilitated Inclusive Imaginaries workshops during the pilot between October-December 2021.

Laos, Malaysia, and the Philippines engaged with students and youth community members in their respective countries. Nepal first hosted a test session with entrepreneurs who also supported the II workshops as facilitators for the workshop that followed with students. Fiji, tested the II tools with staff from the Effective Governance portfolio in order to gather inputs on how to contextualise them for the Pacific context. Thereafter, using the customised tools, conducted workshops with members of three village communities that included groups such as youths, the elderly, women, and the traditional village governing members.

The Inclusive Imaginaries workshops used tools of visualisation through vocal prompts and guidance, role play for sharing and storytelling, along with collective brainstorming to explore specific thematic interests of each CO. Participants were led through facilitated discussions and creative writing exercises, at the end of which groups of participants produced an artefact of building magazine cover stories depicting visions of the futures they want, or built a roadmap of an imagined future.

The discussions and iterations presented a valuable opportunity for us to document a range of possible use cases, learn from the process and embrace the diversity that is reflective of the region and its people. Each of the COs thus chose to integrate the Inclusive Imaginaries with either scheduled programmes or align with current themes in focus.

The Accelerator Lab in Nepal engaged with students and entrepreneurs working within the Plastic Waste Management ecosystem, while the Malaysian AccLab hosted the Inclusive Imaginaries workshops as part of a wider public programme (for the launch of the Cari Makan Report: Observations on Building Forward Better from COVID-19) engaging with Rural Entrepreneurship, Domestic Violence and Parenting.

The Youth Co:Lab in Laos engaged with a community of young volunteers to explore the future of volunteerism, while the UNDP Movers community and Interns became part of the workshop led by the Philippines Lab exploring the Climate Crisis and Digital Governance.

The Accelerator Lab in Fiji facilitated in-person workshops with farming village communities, while Samoa Acc Lab was not able to host a workshop during this pilot.

The workshops were hosted digitally by Malaysia and Laos, Nepal held its internal test workshop remotely while the one with students was held in person, and Philippines hosted a hybrid format with half the facilitators and participants joining in remotely while the other half met in person.

The diverse formats of engagement have also provided learning with regard to the duration, engagement process and impact of the II tools. The tools along with the facilitation guide for Inclusive Imaginaries has adopted these learnings, and thus proposes the possibility of engaging across either an in-person or remote engagement, but does not advise the use of a hybrid format.

Participants from the Inclusive Imaginaries Workshop hosted by the Accelerator Lab in Nepal

Inclusive Imaginaries Workshop with students, hosted by Accelerator Lab in Nepal

Inclusive Imaginaries Workshop with young changemakers, hosted by Accelerator Lab in the Philippines

(Top) Presentations of insights from group discussions during Inclusive Imaginaries workshops in Votua village, Ba, Fiji.
(Bottom) Participants being led through guided visualisations towards imagining their futures in Kadavu Island, Fiji during Inclusive Imaginaries Workshops hosted by the Accelerator Lab.

An artist's intepretation and visual documentation of the Inclusive Imaginaries workshop hosted by the Youth Co:Lab in Laos.
(Artist: Ms. Phanida Xayavong)

Documentation from Inclusive Imaginaries Workshop with young changemakers, hosted by Accelerator Lab in the Philippines

02 Visions of the Future from Citizens In Asia and the Pacific

> *"An imagination that is built on the perspectives of witnessing rather than experiencing, finds itself often narrow in its scope of possibility and much can be lost in interpretation."*

Consultations with stakeholders such as citizens is not uncommon practice when building on thought leadership within the UNDP context. What makes II different?

First and foremost, we focus on the future and not just the present. The outcomes from this engagement and others that are part of UNDPs flagship foresight report will lay the foundation for The Reimagining Development Initiative.

It's not traditional participatory development that we're rooting for, but a deeper engagement with citizen perspectives that are included at the stage of ideation and creation, and not post formulation.

This section shares insights generated from 5 country offices (namely, Fiji, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines) as part of the pilot stage of Inclusive Imaginaries. The following key questions have driven the design of the tools and our engagement within the pilot:

- What development challenges are prioritised ?
- What principles guide and influence the choices people make?
- What inherited relationships, beliefs and ideals do participants want to embrace and reject when imagining a future they want?
- What is required to support reimagining current ways of working in a given CO context?
- How can governance and development agendas become more inclusive and equitable?

While each of these questions have not necessarily been addressed by participants, the engagements have presented specific areas of interest and challenges that are a priority for young people from the region, along with broad directions for further probing into the specific knowledge disciplines, traditional practices and inherited beliefs.

Flourishing Futures for Asia and The Pacific

The Inclusive Imaginaries pilot was designed to explore and identify what flourishing might look like in our futures if imagined through democratisation and participation.

In the same way as how social design and innovation practices often focus on existing problems and current user needs rather than desires or dreams, policy design and development programmes many a times tend to reproduce the world as we know it, in all its faults and failures.

While our attempts in addressing 'needs' bid themselves as a pathway to reduce harm within communities, reducing the damage is not the same as creating opportunities for mutual flourishing.

▬ Flourishing futures in Asia Pacific is one where economic growth was balanced with governing the multi-faceted impacts of digital transformation, where the protection of natural resources and the environment is a right, and where access and equity to education and well-being is for all, not just a few.

▬ Flourishing futures in Asia Pacific is one where a more harmonious relationship between AI and humanity is prioritised that doesn't exacerbate inequality.

▬ Flourishing futures in Asia Pacific is one where futures are abundant with access to healthcare, learning, being debt free and having safeguards against emergent climate risks.

▬ Flourishing futures in Asia Pacific is one where local culture and egalitarian values continue to thrive, and be a guiding force in development plans and programmes.

▬ Flourishing futures in the Asia Pacific is one that embraces inclusivity, collaboration and tolerance as key values and is shaped by community-driven solutions, and democratic platforms for discourse.

▬ Flourishing futures in the Asia Pacific is one that understands change to be a constant, and the ability of people to adapt and innovate to drive processes and guide the choices for development.

These imaginations and desires are those that emerge from the lived experiences of people and built through processes of narrative research and reflection. The narrative model humanises knowledge and takes sociological discourse closer to reality, and can hold the capacity to change perceptions and practices that lead to transformation. (R. Indira, 2020)

Detailed imaginations and reflections from country offices that have been engaged in the Inclusive Imaginaries pilot in 2021, are shared in the following sections of this report.

Development Pathways

Four areas of interest have emerged as priorities from the country offices engaged in the pilot. These include,

- Discourse, access and wellbeing within digital transformation
- Equal access to quality education, well being and healthcare
- Inclusive governance and authentic engagement between those in power and those closest to the problem traditional knowledge
- Community and individual action to address the climate crises

The challenges presented by participants, while imagined within specific cultural and country-specific scenarios, demonstrate substantial intersections with current challenges related to digitisation, climate change, future of work and the rights of vulnerable populations.

Challenges that we found to be highlighted by participants across multiple COs are listed in the following table:

Transformative digital public goods	Equitable acces to learning & wellbeing	Rights for inclusive societies	Sustainable climate futures
Vulnerability of citizens (such as elders or those not comfortable with technology) to access technological solutions	Access to resources (information, training, funding and markets, human capital, roads and infrastructure) for those living and working in remote or rural areas	Corruption & nepotism in government preventing equal opportunities	Stopping the climate emergency by focusing on zero waste and sustainable production measures
Anarchy and unamiability in the discourse on digital transformation and the need for ethics	Quality education for all students, particularly focusing on the training and development of teachers & skills required for entrepreneurship and financial stability.	Tolerance of diverse opinions, equal rights for minorities and marginalised (LGBTQ)	Right to protect the environment
	Access to healthcare and indicators for wellbeing to include environmental factors	Access to government services for undocumented persons and those affected by forced migrations	Climate justice

KINAADMAN
En Route to Ambisyon 2040

Healthy communities which cater to the needs and sustain the well being of all Filipinos

Technology use adapted to the needs of the community (for example shared devices, tech literacy)

Lao Thongthin
ການພັດທະນາອັນລະບາກການບໍລິພາກ

What has been the impact of your vision?

"This year we could celebrate Boun That Luang festival with success. The resilience of the tradition, the solidarity of people and respect for the environment made it possible.

"I'm worried about the elders as they might be left behind and they are part of the vulnerable group that is not comfortable with technology."

Reject violence as 'normal' and the traditional idea of men as dominant and women as submissive.

Next Generation Governance that Filipinos trust and deserve

Hope for the future: Not just looking at grades or testing performance, but a more holistic view of who children are & their potential

Message to policy: Accessibility to digital infrastructure to showcase small businesses and transport them further than their physical location

Ability to purchase cars, houses, and tractors

Loans paid off and savings invested

TAKE THE MALAYSIAN ROAD

What perpetuates risk perceptions?

Education system does not encourage running small business as a good future- does not give enough prestige as being an engineer or doctor

Upgrade the hawkers, improve hygiene, efficiency but the connection between people to people is very important to keep.

"We lose our soul if there are no small businesses, hawkers on the street."

At International Indigenous Summit

Educated children who can run and expand family businesses

Empowered and progressive

Experiments more with "FLIPPED" classroom style; student takes accountability of learning and using digital to enhance their understanding
Access of info and different ways of doing things through technology like parenting apps

Parenting Weekly MAGAZINE

Sources of Influence

While on one hand the challenges presented by participants, imagined in their specific country-culture context, have many intersections, the beliefs and presumed root causes or origins for the challenges are seen to be quite different in some cases.

Take for instance the challenges associated with domestic violence in Malaysia, which participants shared have been perpetuated and exasperated by culturally inherited family structures and patriarchal mindsets. Malaysia is a multicultural society with different ethnicities, religions and languages, wherein people from each ethnicity have generally retained their ancestral cultural customs.

A study conducted by Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) to assess and explore Malaysian public attitudes and perceptions towards violence against women found that 53.3% of respondents believed that domestic violence is a 'normal reaction' in moments of stress or frustration. ((WAO), 2021). It is pertinent to note that while there are multiple influences (from Han Chinese, Indian Tamils to Indonesians and Nepalis) this particular root challenge of violence against women, and additionally violence towards children and the elderly, cuts across ethnic and religious lines. However, the cultural differences can emerge as a point of conflict when a singular or common approach or solution is sought.

> " Tradition is always talked about as something inherently good and assumed to be good. When we bring this to contexts where traditions are the problem, not the solution, particularly where there are multiple cultures, it introduces a conflict."
> Imagination Facilitator, Accelerator Lab, Malaysia

Participants from the Philippines, on the other hand, shared a deep desire to explore and re-imagine traditional Filipino culture to influence new ideas and action, in communities and for effective governance.

Insights from the Imagination Facilitators leading the workshop in the Philippines also directed our findings to a diverse set of ideas and norms that influenced participants' imaginations. They say, "The three groups also presented varied outcomes in terms of indigenous rootedness – one made a deliberate effort to make reference to these, while another had several references to Western thought, and the last made a light case that incorporates something in the cusp of mainstream and progressive thinking (e.g. climate justice).

The first point presents the potential for deeper exploration in order to refine linkages, while the second is emblematic of mainstream modern Filipino culture and education which heavily derives from over three centuries of Western colonisation."

The early Spanish colonisation of the Philippines has been recognised to have left a massive influence on Filipino culture, particularly on religion, while economic and cultural mannerisms are influenced by later American rule. (Masanga, 2021). The facilitators also share that, 'modern education in the country mostly draws from Western thought and philosophy. While there may be some reference to the ways of pre-colonial Filipino societies, there's little nuancing on indegenous philosophies and values.

When looking at wellbeing, communities are more rooted on the ground and everyone has a story of local ways of living that informs a healthy lifestyle. However, participant responses that focused on climate justice were admittedly more progressive for mainstream Filipino culture. Young Filipinos want to assert identities beyond the melting pot of 'Imperial Manila', which has brought forth a desire and need to look further back into indigenous sources of knowledge and cultural artefacts.

Some participants from the II workshops shared a similar aspiration to link actions for the future to the rich culture of the country and its people, while others were inspired by global modern thought.

> " We want to root all actions (for healthy communities) with cultural heritages, like Badjaos, (an indigenous ethnic group from the southern part of the Philippines, that follow a sea-based nomadic lifestyle) they have so much knowledge that we can use."
> Young Changemaker, Philippines

> " We want to see more experiments with a 'flipped' classroom style, wherein a student takes accountability of learning and using digital technologies to enhance their understanding."
> Citizen, Malaysia

At the same time, facilitators were also cognizant of the context and nature of their engagement as UNDP representatives and shared the imperative for widening the opportunities for acquiring diverse visions of the future from constituents that have the knowledge to dig out cultural opportunities from within the broader set of influences.

> " The quality of discussion outcomes also underscore the opportunity and necessity for the international development community to strengthen its engagement with representatives of communities deeply rooted in heritage (both traditional and modern) to allow for contextual grounding of discussions and surface cultural opportunities. Despite efforts to frame discussions in a post-colonial/ decolonization lens, without adequate provocation/inspiration participants may be instinctively subject to share from a worldview shaped by Western perspectives"
> Imagination Facilitator, Philippines

> " Changing the status quo is a big challenge here (Nepal). People are literate but not well informed. Bureaucrats are traditionally risk averse. Policies are made but not implemented effectively. Shifting these, firstly requires an optimistic vision, along with plans, involvement, interest, and consistent hard work to make our imagination into a reality."
> Entrepreneur from the Waste Sector, Nepal

> " I don't want to imagine a future where we do not celebrate festivals that are part of our culture and hope that there is solidarity within the community and willingness of the government to preserve our traditions."
> Youth Volunteer, Laos

Building the Imagination Muscle

It is evident from participant responses in the II workshops that there is a need felt to interrogate social and cultural histories in order to find the origins of certain attitudes and behaviours that have proven to be roadblocks in required change, be it the beliefs that lead to normalisation of violence, corruption at multiple levels of government, or perceptions around limited career paths for students.

However, with the introduction to futures through imagination, participants recognised the immense value of deconstructing their past and present for influences and actions they wish to leave behind, and identifying aspirations for all that they want to take along into their desired futures.

> " We wish and hope the horizon of imagination could be expanded further. It helped to join the dots and create links with expected futures that can be achieved."
> Facilitator, Head of Exploration, Nepal

Many participants and facilitators' responses veered towards wanting to share and utilise the tools with peers, and to drive their own personal futures. Facilitators witnessed a significant shift from problem talking to problem solving attitudes, and a general increase in optimism for their future.

Further reflection from facilitators shared the need for developing citizen agency through imagination to be more frequent, for participants to become more comfortable with the process of reflection, reasoning and their future being malleable.

> " Harmful traditions that are deeply rooted in families, such as violence as considered normal, or stereotypical ideas of men and women's roles, need to be discarded."
> Citizen, Malaysia

Inclusive Imaginaries was accepted to be able to build this capacity in participants for imaginative thinking that is rooted in existing realities, wile being able to utilise fact and fiction to work towards desired goals.

> "Being a part of Inclusive Imaginaries Workshop has led me to think of different ideas from my present thinking. I have been moved into a positive feeling and a kind of hope for the future."
> Student, Nepal

> "If we can have a framework for decision-makers to ask opinions from youth representatives, and then having the comments from the decision-makers shared back to young people that would be great. Why don't we have this framework of decision-makers asking opinions from youth representatives, not just experts?"
> Youth Volunteer, Laos

> "After participating in the workshop, I felt that the emerging ideas or actions that were constructively imagined are definitely different from my current approach. As a result, it has helped me personally to think positive and believe nothing is impossible, the future can be ever brighter if acted accordingly."
> Youth Volunteer, Nepal

Visions from the Inclusive Imaginaries Pilot (October - December 2021)

Transformative Digital Public Goods
Discourse, access and wellbeing within digital transformation

Workshop participants across Laos, Philippines and Malaysia shared a common interest in being active participants in the digital transformations taking place in their countries. Each of them recognised and voiced the immense potential of digital technologies and platforms, while being cognizant of the approach required to scale, and the imperative for equity in access and opportunities.

> "I'm anxious about the 'meta world', of jobs being replaced by AI, and finding a way to live in harmony with AI in the future."
> Youth Volunteer, Laos

The Laotian vision of a digital future included widespread access to technology as an information sharing platform and a world where humans and AI live in harmony.

At the same time, participants were anxious of the impact of the 'meta world' in long term futures, and concerned about not leaving behind elders or those vulnerable groups that are not comfortable with technology. Their visions also included the reduction in wide inequality between urban and rural learning, by providing digital access to quality education.

Malaysian entrepreneurs that were engaged in a short consultative version of the Inclusive Imaginaries session, shared concerns over the lack of digital infrastructure in rural Malaysia. They agreed on the benefits of digitisation for connecting urban and rural areas, access to wider markets for rural producers, remote working opportunities. However, presented the lack of infrastructure that can support rural populations to access these opportunities, to be the biggest challenge for the future.

In their vision of the future, Malaysian citizens imagine either the deployment of resources for developing rural digital infrastructure, or the improvement and innovation in digital technologies to be plugged into existing rural infrastructure.

Given the context of Covid-19 that pushed teachers to shift the classrooms to a digital environment, Malaysian teachers and parents envisioned the need for re-imagining the digitisation of educational systems. Beyond the impact of the pandemic, they shared the opportunity of remote learning to improve access to education and drive self learning.

Laos digital future

Prediction of laotian Lao expectation

A Laotian Vision of a Digital Future

"Everything is possible with advance digital technologies"

A conversation with Our Power
(Songkan ,Pavina, Chanthanom, Phetdala, Desia, Vannasone)

Our power: When everything in the future is gone, do you have any worries?
 I'm worried about the elders as they might be left behind and they are part of the vulnerable group that is not comfortable with technology.
ມ້ອງກັງວົນກ່ຽວກັບສິ່ງຄົມຂອງຜູ້ສູງອາຍຸ ເມື່ອງຈາກກະເຈົາອາດຈະຖືກລະເລີຍ ແລະ ເປັນຄົນກຸ່ມໜ້ອຍທີ່ອາດຈະນໍາບໍ່ທັນເທັກໂນໂລຊີ

Our power: How would you define success?
Readiness, to be ready accept and adapt myself with the digital transformation. To build the environment that allow to learn from virtual platform all the time

Our power: How do you think people mindset and lifestyle would be in the future?
 I think people will be more open-minded and will have more diversity with more modern things that will provide more opportunities

- *Progress come along with confidence*
- *Everything is possible if we take actions*
- *Success is also related to how we respect each others*

Magazine Cover Story Artefact from Laotian youth volunteers, at the Inclusive Imaginaries Workshop hosted by the UNDP Youth Co:Lab in Laos.

Young Filipino leaders raised the issue of digital ethics and wished to lead the world in building up a framework that can be adopted widely. The participants' observations of current trends in consumption of digital content with disregard to the reliable sources, had them build out visions of the future where digital platforms made space for amiable (political and social) discourse.

In the visions of digital development futures shared by participants from Laos, Malaysia and the Philippines, practises, beliefs and aspects that young citizens want to leave behind and those that they wish to take with them into their imagined futures are are outlined in the table below.

What should we take into the future...

- Access to digital infrastructure for marginalised groups
- Digital infrastructure that supports small businesses and rural entrepreneurship
- Digital infrastructure that works with existing physical infrastructure
- Digital public goods that support advocates to reach their intended audiences and business owners to reach customers
- Young people who are open-minded, critical of the sources of information and non-prejudicial to shape the future for digital ethics
- Cultivating civic unity/ cooperation with adequate spaces for meaningful discourse

What should we leave behind...

- Technologies that promote social isolation and negative mental health impact
- Digital use practises that infringe on privacy or decrease diversity and multiculturalism
- Digital divide and accessibility issues that further exacerbates statelessness
- Culture of mindless and jingoistic or prejudicial discourse with no room for conversation in digital

Equitable Access to Learning and Wellbeing

Equal access to quality education, wellbeing and healthcare

Young students and early-stage entrepreneurs today, are probing into how the future workplace and the nature of work itself will change. They see an urgent need to identify the skills and capabilities required for them to remain agile and be able to innovate to keep up with the drastic rate of change predicted.

As these young people shared their anxieties and desires, what we discovered in the process was just how prominently equitable access featured in their visions to build toward the future. Their shared vision for quality education is also entrenched with the universal right to equal opportunities for communities as well as individuals. We witness their desire for a decreased gap between public education in rural and urban areas, the right to education for migrant communities or undocumented persons, and for education to not be a roadblock to emerging opportunities for learning and work.

This focus on mutual flourishing is presented as obligatory for governments and policy makers across country contexts.

> "When we walk alone, we might walk fast but together we can walk farther."
> Student, Nepal

> "Kinaadman - means knowledge, (that can support) healthy communities. Being healthy is essentially having everything holistically."
> Young Changemaker, Philippines

> "Opportunity to access equality and quality education."
> Youth Volunteer, Laos

> "Divide may increase in the future if we don't provide access to vulnerable communities."
> Citizen, Malaysia

KINAADMAN
En Route to Ambisyon 2040

Healthy communities which cater to the needs and sustain the well being of all Filipinos

A conversation with 4theYouth

Editor (ED): What has been the impact of your vision?
Team 4theYouth: **Actualizing the Filipino Dream by developing programs through collaboration**

Editor (ED): What was your big breakthrough that made it a success?
Team 4theYouth: **Empower Filipinos across all regions with healthcare, education, and climate action**

Editor (ED): What is unique in your approach that has made all the difference?
Team 4theYouth: **Rooting all actions with cultural filipino experiences**

- *Empowered and progressive*

Magazine Cover Story Artefact from youth changemakers, at the Inclusive Imaginaries Workshop hosted by the Philippines

Laos and Malaysia in particular shared the need to move away from a 'one size fits all approach' to addressing the individual aspirations of future citizens, through equitable access to high quality education, learning models that can cultivate and harness the inherent potential of each student, and educational structures that are able to make way for diverse career paths, without discrimination on the basis of social, economic, cultural differences, geographical location or legal status.

> " Design solutions from the perspectives of the 'end users'. Moving away from one-size fits all approaches, (highlighting the importance of) local community, local decision-making. For instance, the island tourism community (should lead) decisions on who can visit, (and for) state level (governments) to manage and raise their own finances."
> Facilitator, Malaysia

> " Make online learning more attractive and train teachers to adapt teaching skills for online engagement."
> Youth Volunteer, Laos

While young Laotians want teaching methods to adapt to suit and enhance digital interactions, Malaysians want a 'flipped' classroom style, wherein a student takes accountability for their learning and can use digital media to enhance their understanding. Nevertheless, both highlighted the need for equitable access to education, and the freedom for students to choose their own career paths.

The discussions amongst participants in Nepal building out their visions, further delved into the potential root challenges of the existing learning processes. Participants recognised that traditional teaching methods and accountability of teachers in ensuring real learning are roadblocks to change. They further identified that learning processes devised and used by the majority of schools/ institutions are not equipped to instil a habit of learning, curiosity, reflection and critical thinking - those that are advised to be essential for the future. The last two years have laid bare the acute need to address this gap quickly.

Nepalese students, during the Inclusive Imaginaries workshops, shared their aspiration to establish a model public school to pilot their ideas - building human resources through diverse team building and teacher training; technical upgradation of curriculums, communication systems, and processes for data storage; and management of financial resources to exhibit impact in learning outcomes.

The Laotian dream also demands for 'the acceptance of young people's opinions to be seen as valuable resources and assets in the growth journeys of their countries, calls for more empathy and tolerance, and to develop educational competencies for dissemination and implementation of training programs.'
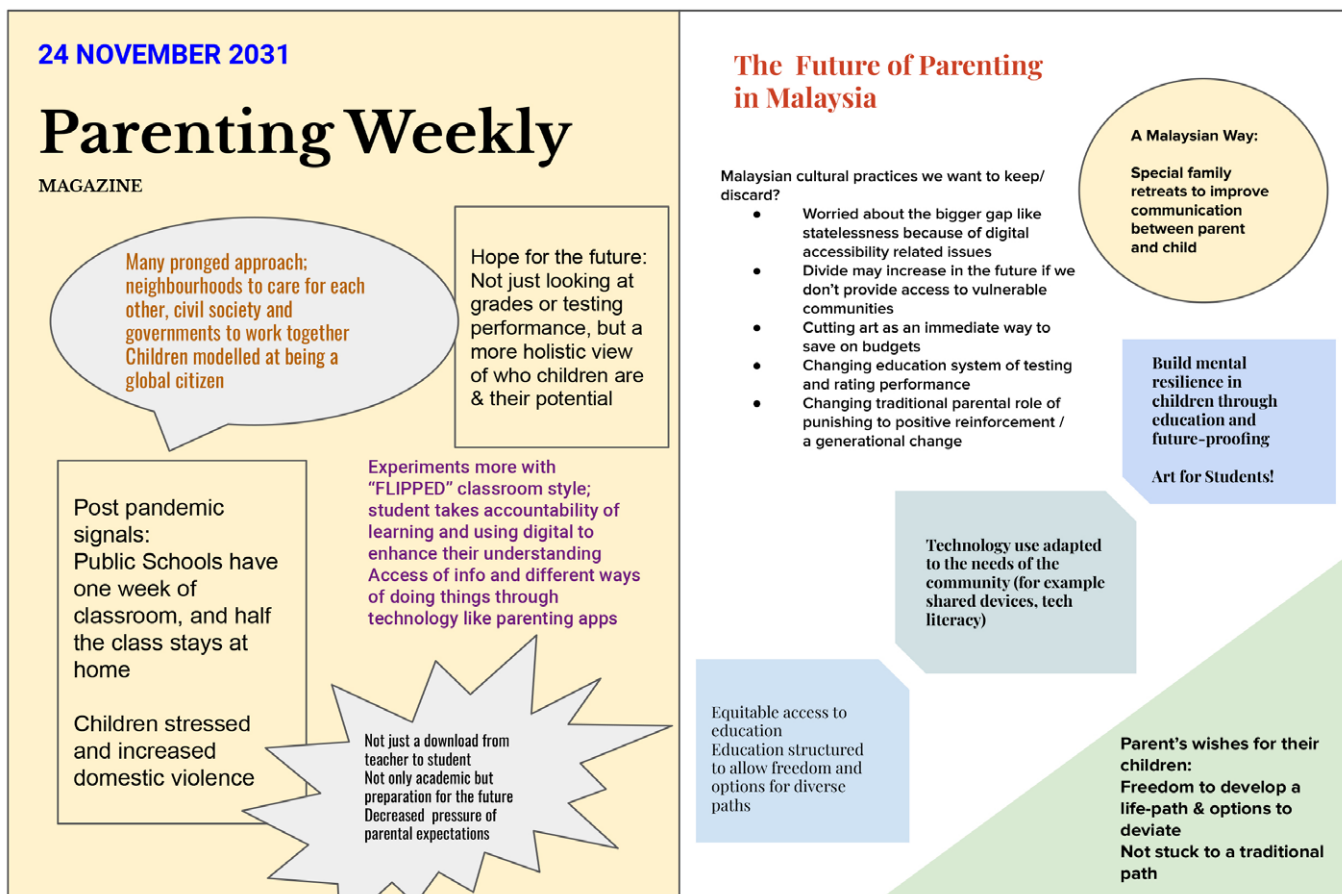
Responses from citizens participating in the Inclusive Imaginaries consultations in Malaysia, exploring the needs of future generations from the perspective of parents.

Participants composed of women, youth, and men from farming communities in Fiji shared their aspirations as parents — the ability to provide quality education for their children to rise up to higher levels of affluence. This ability is linked to the success of their farms, small businesses, being debt-free and capable of investing and owning property; resulting in financial stability. Participants also called out the need for training of youth and future generations in business and finance literacy. They believed in quality education and capacity-building together to ensure that future generations run and manage successful businesses.

Malaysia and Fiji in the case of young people pursuing entrepreneurship, present starkly different beliefs to gaining stability. Malaysian parents assume traditional careers such as engineering and medicine to be imperative to acquire a job which would lead to stability. On the other hand, Fijian parents look at entrepreneurship as a means to build capacity to earn and sustain.

This difference may be attributed to local, small and medium businesses as a major source of job creation in a small Pacific Island developing country like Fiji. In Fiji, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are a vital segment of the economy, if not the most vital, due to their potential to address major economic and social issues of the country. SMEs have long been significant in terms of generating income for many Fiji Islanders, with up to 60% earning an income from these categories of enterprise (Fiji Bureau of statistics 2002). The 2004 economic survey of Fiji by the Bureau of Statistics of 7,061 enterprises found that 48% were microenterprises and another 24% registered as small enterprises making the SME sector 72% of the total (Fiji Bureau of Statistics Economic Survey 2004). (Kumar, July 2017)

The primary challenge in Fiji is finding quality and well-paying jobs. The island country has historically struggled with low and volatile economic growth, owing to low investment that limits quality job opportunities. At the same time, a majority of those employed are within the informal sector without income security, social protection, and vulnerable to shocks, be it natural disasters or economic slowdowns. In such a volatile environment, citizens are compelled to build community-based social security systems often create

small business opportunities that can support them and their families. 'While younger workers are now more educated than their older counterparts, they are considered as having limited relevant job skills and the experience needed by business. This has led to a substantial share of the youth population who is neither educated nor employed.' (Asian Development Bank, International Labour Organisation, 2015).

According to an Employment Diagnostic Study by the Asian Development Bank, International Labour Organisation in Fiji, there have also been policy recommendations to facilitate small and medium enterprise (SME) development in Fiji.

The cultural acceptance of business as a means to earn, combined with increased government support for SMEs, can be credited for Fijians prioritising entrepreneurship, in contrast to an upper middle income country like Malaysia.

YOUR SUCCESS 2031:
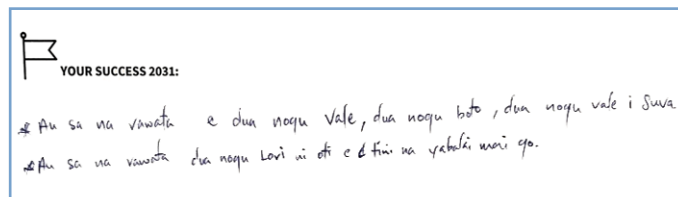
Response from a male, aged 25 at an Inclusive Imaginaries workshop in Muani, Kadavu Fiji. He writes, "Ten years from now, I will own a nice home, a boat, a house in Suva (Fiji's capital city), and a truck."
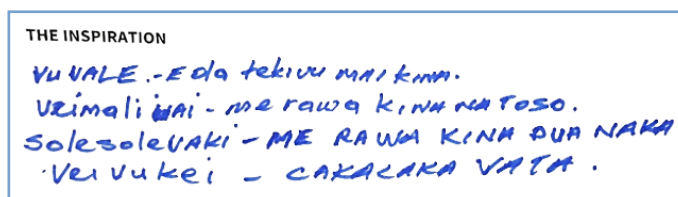
THE INSPIRATION

Response from a female participant, aged 52 at an Inclusive Imaginaries workshop in Votua, BA Fiji. She lists valuable principles for her; "Family is where inspiration starts, socializing also helps us to grow and move forward together, practicing community togetherness and working together so that we can all be successful, helping others who are in need."

Participants from across COs highlighted normative ideas that limit their aspirations and suggested those that they wish to embrace in their future visions. These are -

Dominant ideas we want to embrace...

- Equal access to education for undocumented persons
- Teaching methods to adapt technology and how children are being taught to learn.
- Responsible teachers in government schools to improve education system at local levels
- For individuals to identify a specific cause they really care about, something bigger than them, that their work can contribute to
- Educational practises that encourage self-actualisation, life-long learning and building of valuable skills toward resilience
- Cultural support and familial support for youth that want to pursue new kinds of careers or lifepaths

Normative ideas we want to reject...

- Educational systems that limit career path choices
- Traditional mindsets in education and familial systems that restrict innovation and discourage entrepreneurship (due to perceived instability in income and cultural taboo to not following a traditional career path that is respected)
- Traditional mindset on waste workers, and hesitation of local people to support young people (that want to be entrepreneurs in the waste management sector)

Domestic Violence Futures

It would be great for all of us to unpack what does Malaysian culture mean to us

Environment, work-life balance are stress factors patriarchal values & beliefs toxic masculinity

What we want to discard:

Rejecting violence as a "normal reaction"
Harmful traditions that are deeply rooted in families
Stereotypical ideas of women and men in reality don't hold water

Our cultures can nurture people to have a good values and say no violence.

Demystify the idea of men as dominant and women as submissive through examples

Important to educate women moving forward that domestic abuse doesn't occur in a vacuum

analyze the causes of violence .at start from the unstable and bad inner influence or mentality, and change the actions...

In DV cases a person you trust has betrayed you, this leads to all kinds of feelings, this reaction must be understood by us as a society

What we can learn from our elders to prioritise the safety and needs of children yet to be born?

Responses from citizens participating in the Inclusive Imaginaries consultations in Malaysia, with a focus on the challenges associated with violence against women.

Rights for Inclusive Societies

Inclusive governance and authentic engagement between those in power and those closest to the problem

Many challenges in the region, while similar in nature, have been approached by young participants in more ways than one. They recognize the complications and interconnectedness of the problems that we face, for which participants seek, explore and imagine solutions that reflect the specificities of their context (social, economic and cultural). They are also conscious of the interdependence between challenges - be it in the form of diverse teams, working with multiple departments and across different levels of governments, or identifying policy interventions that have unseen primary and secondary impacts.

" Policies should be driven by the local context, bring local visions of the future as a resource to the government to see how policy frameworks can be revised, reformulated or new ones could be made."
Entrepreneur, Nepal

Young citizens in Nepal spoke extensively on the need for bringing different levels of government together. They questioned current policy designs and imagined diverse ways to get policy development into local communities and at local levels of governance, in order to integrate academic and expert-led research with on-ground realities.

Young Nepalese also recognize that retaining the status quo plays a significant role for people that have found a strong footing in existing governance systems, and have long benefited from the lack of transparency and accountability.

" If the policy is at the top level, how do we bring it to local communities so that they can understand the policy and then can implement them? There is a strong opposition from policy makers/politicians who benefit from the current system."
Student, Nepal

In Malaysia, the need to identify and understand the impact of residual colonial values that manifest in present day governments and businesses in the region was voiced by facilitators.

During the consultations with citizens (held as part of the launch of the Cari Maken Report on post COVID-19 futures), the Malaysian identity was expressed not as a singular set of values, but as a multi-cultural collective of values, each contributed by the communities that call Malaysia their home. This complexity of cultures while being acknowledged within government policies was shared to not necessarily reflect in the visions for development.

The II engagement was integrated with deep listening activities in Fiji, to support the UNDP Social Innovation Platform pilot in the country. Representatives from farming communities voiced the need for collaboration and attention from government bodies (like Fiji Agromarketing, Ministry of Waterways and Environment, and Ministry of Agriculture) to support farms, market access and improvement of infrastructure like roads and climate resilient approaches— as this would be instrumental in facilitating the overall development of farm areas.

Young Laotians underscored the need for well-being to be included as an indicator for human development, and shared

their visions that upheld the rights of citizens that identify as different from the norm. They attributed success to 'how we respect each other' and advocated for the right to access the resources and an approach of 'leave no one behind'.

> " We want to uphold the right to be who we want to be or who we are, the right to be different and diverse."
> Youth Volunteer, Laos

The right to universal access to healthcare was also echoed by young changemakers in the Philippines. In building out their visions as "Yuventos" - Latin word for Youth, they imagine 'actualising the Filipino dream of healthy societies', one that represents not just access to care, but to encourage holistic living influenced by ways of living of indigenous communities.

Participants from Philippines, Laos and Nepal and Malaysia shared important values and considerations to embrace in order to build inclusive societies, as outlined in the table below:

What we want to embrace...	What we want to challenge..
■ The Filipino "Bayanihan" or the spirit of civic unity and cooperation	■ Policies that are a barrier for climate action, youth development and equal access to healthcare
■ Progressive leaders, empowered youth CSOs (civil society organisations)	■ The inequality between high and low income families, and between rural and urban areas in their visions of development
■ Uphold the rights of citizens across gender, religious, economic and legal statuses	■ Extractive models of governance and the economy
■ Greater acceptance and tolerance of minority communities, such as LGBTQI, and efforts for the inclusion of marginalised indigenous communities	
■ Well-being of people and the planet	
■ Global cooperation to make government services accessible to undocumented citizens or communities subjected to forced migration	

ວິໄສທັດຂອງຄົນລາວ
ກ່ຽວກັບອະນາຄົດທີ່ຍຸດຕິທຳ
Lao way of rightful Future

ຄວາມຍຸດຕິທຳຄືສິ່ງທີ່ເຈົ້າເລືອກກະທັດໄດ້!

November 2031

A conversation with ນ້ອງເລ

Editor (ED): What has been the impact of your vision?
ນ້ອງເລ: We have equal opportunities in life and to share opinion.

Editor (ED): What was your big breakthrough that made it a success?
ນ້ອງເຈ່ນນີ້: The ability to be ourselves and have different point of view to build a sustainable society.

Editor (ED): What is unique in your approach that has made all the difference?
ນ້ອງເຈ່ນນີ້: Combat injustice, inequality and corruption. Change the mindset to be more tolerant

Magazine Cover Story Artefact from students at the Inclusive Imaginaries Workshop hosted by the Youth Co:Lab in Laos

Sustainable Climate Futures

Traditional knowledge, community & individual action to address climate crises

A deep awareness of the impact of our past and current actions on the natural environment and the imperative for undoing the climate crisis has been shared as a significant priority for the youth across all country offices. There is a keen understanding amongst young people today, that they will disproportionately bear the effects of climate change in the coming decades. The ways in which these impacts will be felt may vary across country contexts, nevertheless participants' visions across COs reflect that current action remains inadequate.

Visions from Nepal aspire for a 100% circular economy, supported by a shift in mindsets and behaviours of citizens, along with transfer of knowledge and skills. Sustainability efforts in urban Nepal included the promotion and adoption of electric vehicles while development of road infrastructure was prioritised. Young entrepreneurs envision their role as leaders in Nepal becoming a zero waste country utilising modern technologies, but through a community-based approach, in order to counter dated perspectives on working with waste and build sustainability and resilience in the system.

The Laotian imagination to build a sustainable ecology is rooted in an approach that is respectful of traditional knowledge, while inducing new ways of thinking to reimagine practises. Young Lao volunteers advocate for the right to protect their natural assets - environment, ecological beings and resources.

An estimated 61 per cent of the population in the Lao People's Democratic Republic lives in rural areas and the majority depend on agriculture and natural resources for survival. (IFAD, 2018). Policy objectives include building resilience to climate-related risks and improving capacity to adapt to climate change in order to safeguard access of the rural population to vital sources of sustenance. (IFAD, 2018) However, historical agricultural land reforms have adopted a static approach that does not take into account thetrends in agricultural development of Laos, nor its future dynamics. In the Lao PDR, there is a wide gap between formal rights and social practices in the villages. Land laws, although seeking to serve the best interests of the community, contain loopholes and contradictions that make widely varying interpretations possible, depending on local social relationships. (Ducourtieux & Sacklokham, 2018)

Participants from the II workshops in Laos chimed similar concerns and the need for agriculture and farming practises to adopt modern technologies, and local specificities of land

They shared the desire to induce new ways of thinking to bring back traditions such as Buddha Duong (the Budhhist horoscope and calendar commonly used to set the dates of important events- wedding, travel, celebration of milestones in life) in an environmentally friendly way in their imaginations for the year 2031.

Additionally, they shared a willingness to retain and embrace rituals like 'hib 12 khong 14' (traditional lifestyle practice) to guide Lao people to live in harmony with the environment and tradition. 'Hib 12' refers to 12 ceremonial days (one in each month of a calendar year) for customs passed down through generations. 'Khong' is representative of 14 rules defined to be followed as a practice towards respecting the Laos traditions within the community, in a marriage, duties towards the family and home, within the temple and public spaces.

According to a report issued in 2019 by the Institute for Economics and Peace, the Philippines is the country most vulnerable to climate change. Sea level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and heavy rainfall, along with reliance on climate sensitive natural resources and its extensive coastline which are home to the country's main cities, all pose a great threat. (FutureLearn, 2021)

In order to adapt to and mitigate climate change, the Philippines passed the Climate Change Act in 2009, requiring local governments to develop a local climate change action plan. A selection of the participants from the II workshops in their visions, underscored the need to boost efforts to combat the climate crisis. They presented the desire to preserve indigenous knowledge of the environment towards incorporating aspects of climate justice for the most vulnerable FIlipino populations, in addition to the efforts in reduction of emissions and the promotion of renewable energy sources.

> "The impact of climate change is deeply felt by Filipinos (with the poor being disproportionately affected), but I'm not sure if the awareness of its driving factors (e.g. GHG emissions, oil dependence, etc.) is recognised by the majority. Accountability is mostly viewed from the lens of disaster response and preparedness, without much on climate mitigation."
> Imagination Facilitator, Head of Exploration, Philippines

Lao Thongthin

ການພັດທະນາຈິນຕະນາການວິໄສທັດ

AN INDIGENOUS LAOTIAN VISION FOR RESILIENT FUTURES

Volunteers innovating indigenous knowledge in International Stage

Published On:
23/11/2031
Published By: CURASO

One volunteer from Lao PDR is sharing about the indigenous innovation at the International Indigenious Summit.

A conversation with Ms. Soudachinh Sotthida from Lao Thongthin

Editor (ED): What has been the impact of your vision during Boun That Luang this year?
Volunteer: This year we could celebrate Boun That Luang festival with success and smile of the local from all around the country

Editor (ED): What was your big breakthrough that made it a success and different?
Volunteer: The resiliency of the tradition, the solidarity of the people and the respect of the environment

Editor (ED): What is unique in your approach that has made all the difference?
Volunteer: Policy and willingness of the government that allow Lao people from all horizon to celebrate this festival

Magazine Cover Story Artefact from young volunteers at the Inclusive Imaginaries Workshop hosted by YoutCo:Lab in Laos

Few destinations better epitomise the meteoric rise of tourism in Southeast Asia, or the challenges that coastal resorts face in coping with unprecedented visitation than in Malaysia (particularly in the case of the Langkawi archipelago). The increase in visitor demand that has led to rapid unplanned development has fragmented forests, threatening biodiversity and resulted in fragile environments. Better stewardship is needed to mitigate the environmental impacts in search of the oftentimes elusive goal of 'sustainable tourism' (Jones, 2020).

Malaysians that were part of the II consultative workshops echoed this with a vision for a revised model of tourism that respects culture and needs of local community and building forward from that, rather than imposing popular models of mass tourism.

Additionally, some Malaysians are also reflecting on whether higher income and busier work lives, results in what we may consider to be a 'better life'. The idea that the future must be only digital or hi-tech in nature is being contested to explore more diverse and hybrid forms of development.

Reflections and follow-on conversations from the Inclusive Imaginaries workshops have strengthened young Asian imaginations that yearn for a future that is rooted in localised solutions to the diverse needs of communities, while continuing to embrace progressive thinking models and technologies.

Increased challenges, caused by climate change like droughts, riverbank erosion, flooding and the frequency of hurricanes and cyclones, loom as a major fear over Fijian farming community members and their futures. To strengthen resilience to these natural hazards, construction of better drainage systems, and disaster management training for communities were reflected as essential by participants.
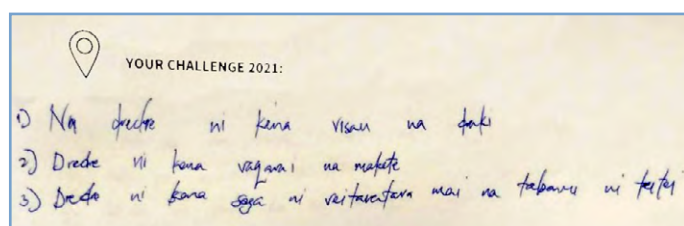
Response from a young male, aged 27, on challenges in the year 2021, during an Inclusive Imaginaries workshop in Kadavu Fiji. He writes: "The change in weather patterns, Difficulty in finding markets, Difficulty in ploughing the land for farming."

Applications of Inclusive Imaginaries (II)

Our engagement with young citizens in this pilot intended to make the case for a deeper and more deliberate citizen participation in policy making. As a first step, the outcomes from these engagements (outcomes from which are highlighted in section 2the following section of this report) will be complemented with rigorous academic research and analysis (i.e. foresight briefs) to present points of intersection and tension between citizen perspectives and those led by experts that often become the core of policy ideation.

Feedback from participants and facilitators of the II workshops have established the positive impact of using the tools to broaden mindsets to new and unique ideas, and for imagination to act as a catalyst for learning. Participants have recognised the immense value of deconstructing their past and present for influences and actions they wish to leave behind, as well as identifying aspirations for all that they want to take along into their desired futures.

> " It broadened their (workshop participant) visions, they could see things better. It makes the community proactive…to better understand how to deal with challenges and bottlenecks to their development. We want to use this as a deep listening activity in the maritime zones."
> Imagination Facilitator, Head of Solutions Mapping, Fiji

> " This framework can be used in different contexts. It is interesting that this can be adapted to a lot of challenges as well."
> Imagination Facilitator, Head of Experimentation, Laos

Facilitators through this engagement have also begun to identify where the tools of Inclusive Imaginaries can be implemented within the current UNDP policy and programme development processes.

They find a natural integration of the tools in building Country Programme Documents (CPDs), and for them to become part of designing deep listening activities.

While we envision these to further be refined in expanding the pilot to diverse country contexts and needs, the following have emerged as areas where the use of II tools can be beneficial:

- To bring forth community perspectives towards the change they want;
- To highlight ideas for localised development agendas that are rooted in and value local culture;
- To Identify priority areas for planning policy, programmes and project visions that speak of not just current needs but future aspirations;
- To bring forth youth perspectives into CO planning agendas for long term policy planning by including in the Movers programme and the World We Want consultations;
- In collaboration with government counterparts, COs can utilise the tools for deep listening and to identify priority areas for intervention;
- For communities, the tools expand on their thinking, and are useful in foreseeing possible challenges and roadblocks in their endeavours, as communities and as individuals;
- To reflect on what beliefs, actions and aspirations can help us create more equitable, sustainable, resilient and just communities.

" Policies should be driven by the local context, so if we include local citizens and local governments and make them see the future for their local contexts - then bring that resource to the government then I think it would be helpful in understanding how policy frameworks can be revised, reformulated or new ones could be made. Inclusive Imaginaries workshops can link the policy and implementation aspects moving forward."
Imagination Facilitator, Head of Exploration, Nepal
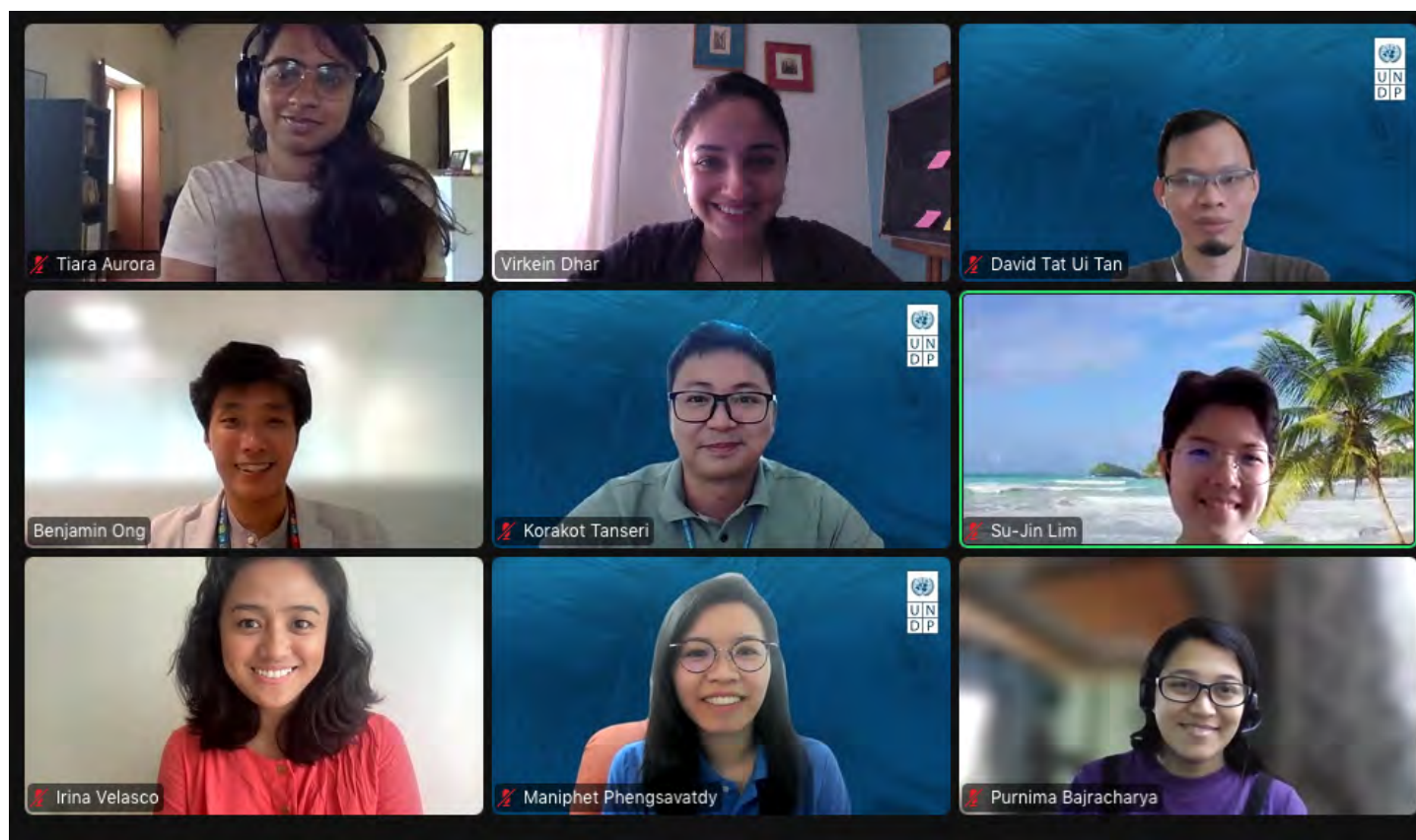
A snapshot of the Imagination Facilitators from the participating country offices.

> *The purpose of utopia is not a destination, it is to give us direction so we can progress.*" *Steve Lambert*

Imaginaries Going Forward

Imagination is powerful, but for it to influence change, imagination must be coupled with action. While tapping into our imaginations can help expand our scope of possibilities or uncover new perspectives and points of view, it becomes imperative to bring those ideas forth to share with those that are in positions of power. In order for the practices, language, incentives and expectations of communities to find ground for discussion that can create alternate possibilities of action, their voices need to be documented. This is what the Inclusive Imaginaries tools intend to facilitate.

The Inclusive Imaginaries Toolkit shares the methodologies, templates and tools that can be adapted to suit a diverse set of applications. These are not exhaustive of the range of possibilities where II can be beneficial, but are demonstrative of use cases that emerged from the pilot workshops carried out in 5 country offices.

The rich diversity of the perspectives we've witnessed and the visions we've acquired from communities across country offices in Nepal, Malaysia, Philippines, Laos and Fiji, have confirmed and strengthened our resolve to bring forth more contextually relevant and grassroots imaginations of the future. Nevertheless, our interactions have also demonstrated the need to simultaneously build the imagination muscle in citizens to be able to channelise their ability to think intuitively and with creativity. If we are to co-create more participatory futures, we must also build a safe space for imagination that can counter inherited bias and power structures.

At the same time, a tool like the Inclusive Imaginaries is not designed to play out in a silo. It is recommended for this to be coupled with rigorous quantitative research in order to provide a more holistic view of development priorities and challenges. The use of foresight methods such as horizon scanning in tandem with Inclusive Imaginaries, can support the creation of development agendas that can nudge governments to think longer term, and find ways to adapt to the changing needs of the people it intends to serve.

We hope the Inclusive Imaginaries, and the larger Reimagining Development Initiative, will spark dialogue on the ways diverse citizens truly want development to unfold in Asia and the Pacific, and inspire us to utilise imagination as a tool to support peers, communities and policy makers in cultivating more locally driven, culturally contextual imaginations of the future- those that are driven by the lived experiences of citizens.

We also wish for you to be inspired by all the beings you encounter and the spaces you inhabit, to build your practice of imagination.

Let's allow ourselves to dream.

03 Annexures

Annexure 1: Iterative Methodology for Development of II Tools

6 country offices participated in brainstorming and reflection sessions online to co-design the Inclusive Imaginaries approach. 5 COs out of the 6 namely; Nepal, Malaysia, Nepal, Malaysia, Philippines, Fiji and Laos went on to host and facilitate workshops with the resulting Inclusive Imaginaries tools and small groups of students, and youth community members, in their respective countries.

The paragraphs following contain descriptions of how the approach, and consequently the tools were discussed, tested internally and iterated upon during the co-design period.

Iteration 1: Persona Creation, Role-Play And Building Out A Day In The Life Of A Policymaker

The core purpose of the Inclusive Imaginaries approach is to be a bridge between the perspectives of citizens and those at the policy table. We sought to maintain the balance between — imagination as a tool to break free from current thinking, and a tool to imagine the myriad complexities of our times that policy and programmes seek to address.

The very first iteration proposed a three part vision- building process, for which Imagination Facilitator's from each CO could set their own future time horizon. The first part was a persona-building exercise for a "development protagonist in 2031" inspired by the Inclusive Imaginaries design precepts. The aim was to create a compendium of traits, habits and histories from workshop participants as they created a protagonist reflective of the design precepts. Additionally, participants could choose a fictional role to give their protagonist from the following options (inspired by the foresight briefs): Director, Data Stewardship Council; Chair, Next Generation Citizen Assembly; Commissioner, United World Environment Organisation; Minister for Indigenous Entrepreneurship of roles for their protagonist persona.

The second part was a role-playing and "day in the life" activity, where participants were to step into the shoes of one of the fictional roles above. Building off of the persona traits and history defined in the previous part; participants were to map possible actions, relationships, challenges, beliefs, influences from local culture and memories that shaped the work and life of the persona — onto a timeline matrix.

The intent behind this iteration of the tool was to use role-play to step into the shoes of a policymaker and build out a vision influenced by lived experiences and deep-rooted hopes. The outcome would then be an imagined map of a day in the life of a policymaker, situated within a city or neighbourhood. The map would feature actions, artefacts and influences specific to the cultural context of each CO region.

Discussions with facilitator's on the first iteration led to an understanding that the activity might remain far removed from reality, or overly fictional, as it would be challenging for young participants to imagine the life of a policymaker without knowing or having experienced what being a policymaker is really like. Along with this, a varied time horizon across COs would be a challenge for subsequent analyses.

As a result, the tools were iterated upon to make space for participants to represent themselves and their own personal experiences in order to build out a vision that speaks to issues they prioritise. The time horizon for imagination was fixed to looking ahead 10 years in the future, the year 2031.

Iteration 2: Vision-Building And Back-Casting

In the process of designing the second iteration of the tools, we presented four questions to be the frames and lenses for participants' imagination when building out their future visions in Inclusive Imaginaries workshops. The following questions were also proposed to be able to produce young citizen perspectives on the nudges of the foresight briefs that are part of the Initiative:

- How can we ensure that digital public goods do not amplify existing inequalities and lock in one vision of our digital development futures?
- What are the needs of future generations that we are obligated to meet and how can these be supported?
- What relationships would emerge from new forms of rights from human, ecological, and mechanistic perspectives?
- What role do indigenous knowledge systems play to support our imagination of sustainable development?

In the discussion with the Imagination Facilitators, the questions on digital goods and the needs of future generations took precedence, considering the participants who they had in mind for the workshops; youth leaders, young entrepreneurs and volunteers. There was also a need felt by some to support the future vision-building process with exercises to look into the past. Facilitators from the Philippines proposed the use of an existing life map exercise that prompts participants' to articulate their personal histories, created as part of the World We Want consultations. The discussions also prompted the need to give participants tools that they could take back with them from the workshop that could be used in their own work. It was recognized that active participants of programmes led by the UNDP Accelerator labs and Youth Co-labs shared apprehensions of citizen engagement projects becoming extractive without giving back to the communities.

While the visions to be created from the Inclusive Imaginaries workshops were at the core of our engagements and intended to complement academic futures analysis, as a result of these discussions, the second iteration of the Inclusive Imaginaries

tools included a backcasting exercise in addition to the vision-building activities. This backcasting tool would help participant groups to use imagination and co-creation to think through the processes, challenges and actions that could lead them 10 years into the future, in 2031, at the point of success of their imagined futures.

Internal test workshops of these tools concluded that, while such an exercise was beneficial and greatly valued by participants, the time required for engagement was substantially higher than the time scheduled by the facilitators. For the purpose of this specific pilot run of Inclusive Imaginaries, it was required that the limited time available be utilised to bring forth participants' visions which are essential to complement the academic research outcomes that are part of the Reimagining Development Initiative. Additionally, discussions with Imagination Facilitators also highlighted each CO representative's desire to align with their existing programmes and to begin to explore connections where the use of a tool such as Inclusive Imaginaries would be beneficial.

Iteration 3: Guided Visualisation, Role-Play, Creative Writing

In our third and final iteration, the Inclusive Imaginaries workshop used tools of visualisation through vocal prompts and guidance, role play for sharing and storytelling, along with collective brainstorming, to explore theme-based imaginations of the future. Participants were led through a series of facilitated discussions and creative writing exercises, at the end of which participant groups produced magazine cover stories depicting visions of the futures they want.

Annexure 2: Participation in the Pilot II Workshops

Country Office	Thematic Focus Area	Profile of Participants	Number of Participants	Engagement Format
LAOS	Volunteerism for our Shared Futures • Digital Futures • Sustainability for future generations • Indigenous knowledge for resilient futures • A rightful future	Youth volunteers and young changemakers. 18 to 30 years old from different part of Laos (Vientiane Capital, Sayaboury Province, Luang Prabang province)	21 youth volunteers	Online
MALAYSIA	• Domestic violence • Small businesses • Future of parenting	Civil society members and audiences of Cari Makan event.		Online
NEPAL	Workshop 1: Zero-Waste Workshop 2 Emerging Themes: • Promotion of Electric Vehicles • Quality Public School Education • Inclusive Governance	Entrepreneurs working in Waste Management (Workshop 1) Volunteers and Students (Workshop 2)	(Workshop I) 1 female, 5 male (Workshop 2) 5 male, 12 female	Workshop 1: Online Workshop 2: In-person
PACIFIC- FIJI	Farming Futures in the Communities of Votua, Muani and Natamua. • Votua: Sugarcane Farming and Aquaculture • Natamua, Muani: Kadavu Kava Farming Cooperatives	Farmers - Youth, men, women and elderly between 15-74 years	19 youth, 6 women, 24 men, 19 elders	In-person
PHILIPPINES	• Stopping the climate emergency • Healthy Communities • Digital Governance	Movers community and Interns	5 women, 4 men, 2 non-binary	Hybrid (some joined online, others in-person)

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Laos

Participants:
Pavina Inthachak, Phetdala Xayachak , Chanthanom Keo Ounkham, Vannasone Saleumsi , Malaysone Vannalath, Annie Sinthavong, Thepthida Keomeuangkhoun, Souphatsone Phonemanivanh, Sakhone Douangphachanh, Souneevang Ouamoua, Manivang Yongsa, Vilavone Chanthavong, Alisa Chanthapanya, Ngeunpanith Ariyabandith, Soudachin Soutthida, Le Va, Sengmany Somchit, Padee Va, Vilanda Boulommavong, Oudomsack Bounmanivanh, Phonpanomsouk Baivongsa, Innalad Luexay, Phoutthidaphone Phanthavone, Bounkham Keodalasy, Chidtaphone Lorvankham, Miksouda Philaphone, Sulaphy Phangsuvanh, Duangpasert Vatnoy, Natthita Xayaseng, Soudaphone Chanthavong

Facilitators:
Maniphet Phengsavatdy, Korakot Tanseri, Chanthone Khounthapan, Thipsavanh Sengphachanh, Phetsalinh Mounivong

Nepal

Workshop 1: Waste Enterprises
Bimal Bastola, Nirajan Ghimire, Sushil Dhungana (Green Roads Waste Management Private Limited)
Shilshila Acharya (Avni Ventures Private Limited)
Krishna Raj Shrestha, Deepesh Raj Sharma (Centre for Energy and Environment Nepal)

Workshop 2: Youth Volunteers
Shreeyashi Keshary Bhandari, Palpasa Suwal, Nerabung Kulung, Manoj Budha, Rachana Kharel, Luna Thapa, Binita Pokharel, Mina Acharya, Samir Thapa, Kiran Chand, Suchana Baniya, Maiya Pahari

Pacific Office in Fiji

Collaborators:
Accelerator Lab Pacific- Fiji
Ministry of iTaukei Affairs- Fijian Affairs Board
Kadavu Provincial Council
Ba Provincial Council
Local village community of Votua in Ba Province, and Natamua & Muani in the Kadavu Province

Facilitators:
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Philippines

Facilitators:
Dinh Long Pham, Irina Velasco, Johanna Erroba

Participants:
Afnan Abukhair, Alex Reyes, Alfredo Lorenzo Sablay, Cherrie Rose Ang, Enrique Lozari, Jeff Rante, Jezreel Punzalan, Kate Garcia, Kelvin Cabildo, Maria Pellosis, Miguel Santos, Thea Espidol

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