



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024

**Inventive Minds, Shaping Futures:**  
Advancing the Pact for the Future through Transformative Pathways

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### 제주평화헌장

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평화  
 새 희망을  
 쬐어





# Message



**Byung Hwa CHUNG**  
Director of UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC

## ***Inventive Minds, Sustainable Solutions: Driving SDG Achievements in Asia-Pacific***

As we reflect on the year 2024, I am proud to share that the UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/Jeju International Training Center has continued to shine as a beacon of capacity-building and knowledge exchange in the Asia-Pacific region. Since our establishment in 2010 through a unique partnership between the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, and the International Peace Foundation, we have been an integral part of the CIFAL Network, steadfastly committed to advancing sustainable development.

Our theme for 2024, *“Inventive Minds, Shaping Futures: Advancing the Pact for the Future through Transformative Pathways,”* reflects our dedication to contributing to the global agenda set during the Summit of the Future at the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly. This theme underscores our commitment to pioneering innovative and transformative approaches that empower communities, drive sustainable progress, and shape a more inclusive and resilient future for all.

In this context, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju successfully hosted and organized 19 Workshops that addressed critical themes such as economic development, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and peace, embodying our holistic approach to sustainable development. With a total of 6622 beneficiaries, our reach and impact continue to expand, demonstrating our growing contribution to the region.

This year, our inventive efforts have taken center stage, exploring new frontiers across the sectors. We delved into the use of AI in peacebuilding initiatives and the prevention of transnational organized crimes, leveraging cutting-edge technology to enhance security and stability. We also introduced Design Thinking methodologies to foster creativity and problem-solving in sustainable development initiatives. Additionally, community mapping emerged as a powerful tool to engage local actors in the co-creation of sustainable futures, ensuring that development strategies are informed by those who know their communities best.

This year also marked our strengthened commitment to the future generation in alignment with our guiding theme. We continued our efforts on global citizenship education, as well as Jeju International Future Generation Forum (JIFF) with the main topic of “Youth at the Mainstream: the Shaper of the Better World.” We also hosted a Youth Workshop on sustainable future-oriented energy, empowering the next generation to lead in the transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy solutions.

As we look to the future, our resolve remains unshaken. We are dedicated to continuing our support for international and local stakeholders in pursuing Sustainable Development Goals. By developing and delivering enhanced, well-crafted capacity-building programs, we aim to help them navigate transformative pathways toward their goals. We are deeply grateful for your continued interest and contributions, which make this journey possible.

Thank you for being part of our shared mission.







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# I. ABOUT UNITAR CIFAL JEJU

## UNITAR CIFAL JEJU/JITC

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/Jeju International Training Center was established in 2010 through an agreement between the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, and the International Peace Foundation (IPF). Along with the Jeju Peace Institute, CIFAL Jeju serves as one of the subsidiary organizations of the IPF, which itself was established in 2005. Together, CIFAL Jeju helps support Jeju Province in its effort to enhance peace and security in East Asia.

### Mission

As one of the leading global CIFAL Centers affiliated with the UN Institute for Training and Research, CIFAL Jeju's main mission is to provide government authorities and civil society leaders in the Asia-Pacific region with a platform to exchange strategies, tools, and best practices, various capacity-building training programs organized by CIFAL Jeju help local governments achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Achievement

Since our first training Workshop in 2010, CIFAL Jeju has implemented a wide range of domestic and international programs. These include international capacity-building Workshops on social inclusion, economic development, environmental sustainability, and cross-cutting issues along with expert seminars, youth engagement, and global citizenship education programs. Over the years, we have developed and touched upon a wide range of thematic areas such as a social protection system for vulnerable groups, smart mobility, green transition, disaster risk reduction (DRR), digital transformation, circular economy, participatory governance, good health and decent jobs, conflict management, and a results-based Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system.



# II. 2024 ACTIVITIES

## February

### February 23, 2024

Outcome of COP28 UAE and Its Implications for Asia-Pacific Developing Countries with a Focus on Climate Change Adaptation)



## March

### March 25, 2024

Insights into SDGs, Challenges of Implementation, and Tasks Ahead



## March–December

### March–December 2024

2024 Global Citizenship Education (GCED)



## April

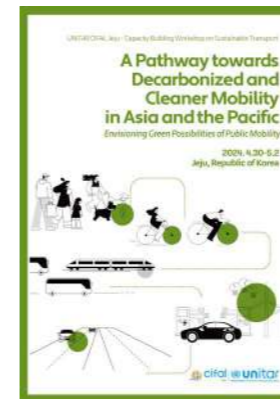
### April 11-12, 2024

Enabling Peace through the Promotion of Decent Work and Employment for All



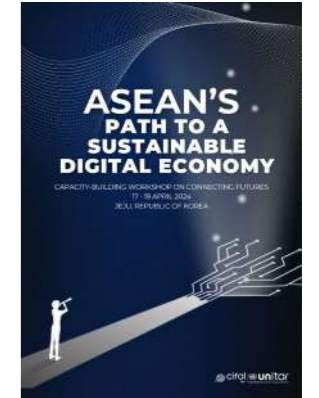
### April 30-May 2, 2024

A Pathway towards Decarbonized and Cleaner Mobility in Asia and the Pacific – Envisioning Green Possibilities of Public Mobility



### April 17-19, 2024

Connecting Futures: ASEAN's Path to a Sustainable Digital Economy



## May

### May 31, 2024

2024 Jeju Forum UN Session: Harmony in the Digital Age: Exploring AI-Powered Paths to Peace Building



## June

### June 20, 2024

Design Thinking: Creative Problem-Solving Process for Innovation and Sustainability





# July

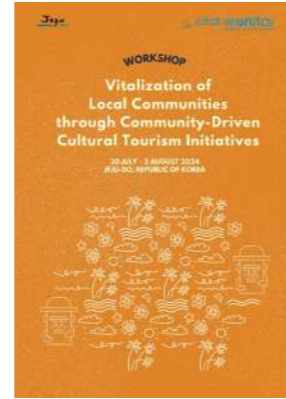
## July 23-25, 2024

Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems for All through Effective Gender-Responsive Planning, Digital Government Transformation and Financing



## July 31-August 2, 2024

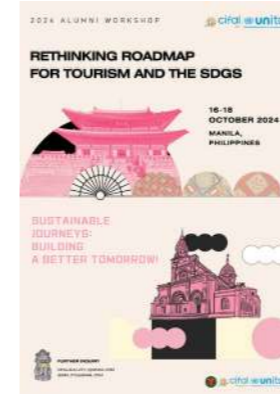
Vitalization of Local Communities through Community-Driven Cultural Tourism Initiatives



# October

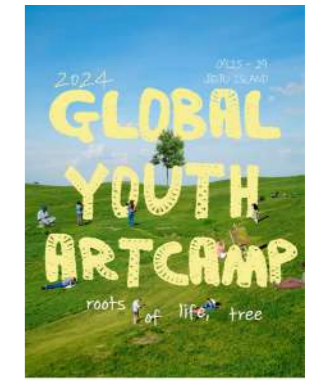
## October 16-18, 2024

2024 Alumni Workshop: Rethinking Roadmap for Tourism and the SDGs



## September 25-29, 2024

2024 Global Youth Art Camp: Rooted, Growing Island



# August

## August 6-7, 2024

2024 Youth Workshop: Shaping Sustainable Future-Oriented Energy Landscape for Next-Gen Leaders from Developing Countries



## August 21-23, 2024

Navigating Participatory Governance for Effective Public Policy Implementation



# November

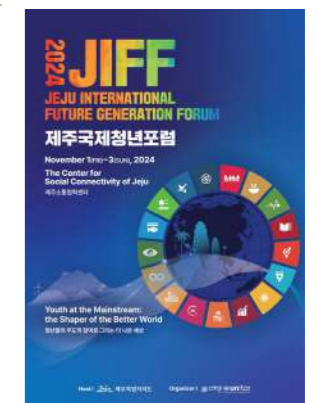
## November 13-15, 2024

Education Without Borders: Shaping Quality Education for Refugees from Pre-Primary to Tertiary



## November 1-3, 2024

2024 Jeju International Future generation Forum (JIFF): Youth at the Mainstream: the Shaper of the Better World



# September

## September 5-6, 2024

Inclusive Pathways for Co-Creating Solutions to Empower People with Disabilities



## September 23, 2024

Unlocking Circular Economy: A Journey into Sustainable Economic Resilience and Practices for Developing Countries



## November 21, 2024

2024 Expert Seminar Sustainable Energy: Expanding Jeju's Global Horizons – Case Study Seminar on Discovering Jeju as a Blueprint for Green Energy Island Transformation





# III. HIGHLIGHTS







# International Workshops



## Social Inclusion

### Insights into SDGs, Challenges of Implementation, and Tasks Ahead

#### Background

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, numerous governments, UN entities, and stakeholders have dedicated substantial efforts to enhance their knowledge of the SDGs. Also, they have actively encouraged actions within the thematic areas outlined in the 17 goals and their associated 169 targets.

The findings of a survey conducted in 2023 suggest that these efforts are evidently impeded, highlighting a widespread deficiency in global awareness regarding the SDGs. Even in mostly developing countries where awareness is comparatively high, the awareness still hovers around or below the 60 percent mark. The situation is worse in the advanced Global North, where awareness is notably deficient. The Netherlands (25%) scored the lowest, following Canada (34%),

UK (34%), France (37%), and the USA (39%).

Furthermore, progress towards the attainment of several SDGs is notably inadequate, and in certain instances, regressive, as observed in 2023, marking the midway point towards the 2030 targets. Even Secretary-General António Guterres expressed concern at the 2023 SDG Summit that only 15% of the targets were on track to be achieved by 2030. This indicates that 45% of the targets are either stagnating or regressing, suggesting that we are significantly distant from meeting the 2030 SDGs.

In particular, as highlighted in the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report, specific goals such as zero hunger (Goal 2), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), climate action (Goal 13), peace, justice, and strong institutions (Goal

16), and partnerships for the goals (Goal 17) are significantly distant from achieving their objectives. Additionally, objectives such as achieving food security (2.1.2), reducing global greenhouse gas emissions (13.2.2), and preventing the extinction of species (15.5.1) are experiencing regression, further exacerbating the challenges faced.

It is indeed true that various endeavors have been undertaken to address the challenges and foster effective implementation of the SDGs. These efforts include the annual convening of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the SDG Summit, held every four years at the level of Heads of States and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly. These Forums collectively serve as the primary United Nations platforms for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs on a global scale.

Moreover, at both national and local levels, nations worldwide have engaged in comprehensive assessments of progress and obstacles in SDG implementation through Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). These reviews aim to facilitate the exchange of experiences for the smooth implementation of the SDGs by the UN member countries, enhance the availability of evidence and data pertaining to the SDGs, bolster governmental policies and institutions for monitoring sustainable development progress, and catalyze multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for SDG implementation.

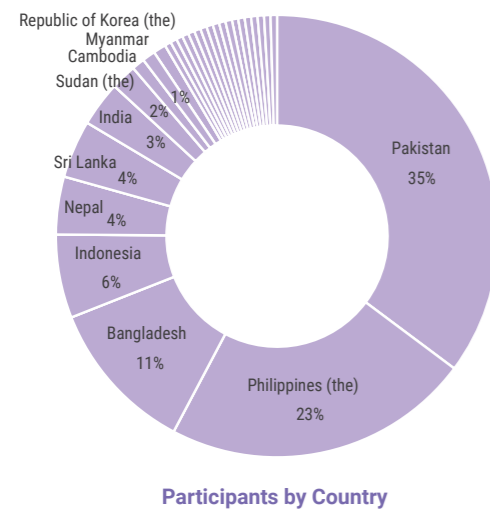
However, given the remaining impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing global crises from

protracted conflicts worldwide, and the increasing exacerbation of poverty due to climate change, the collective endeavor toward SDG implementation is continuously experiencing significant setbacks as we approach the year 2030. Against this backdrop, the Summit of the Future is scheduled to convene in September 2024, building upon the foundation laid by the 2023 SDG Summit, with the aim of establishing an “inter-governmentally negotiated, action-oriented Pact for the Future” focused on sustainable development and financing for development. The Summit is expected to empower us to respond effectively to emerging threats and opportunities for both present and future generations, thereby accelerating progress in the implementation efforts that have stagnated.

With an appreciation for the urgent imperative, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online capacity-building Workshop on “Insights into SDGs, Challenges of Implementation, and Tasks Ahead.” The Workshop targeted the global public in all sectors, with the primary goal of augmenting awareness regarding the implementation and achievement of the SDGs and encouraging them to take future actions. The Workshop sought to offer participants with backgrounds about the SDGs, explored the 17 goals and 169 targets, reviewed the current SDGs implementation, analyzed the challenges hindering goal attainment, and discussed strategies to facilitate the achievement of the 2030 goals.



## Overview

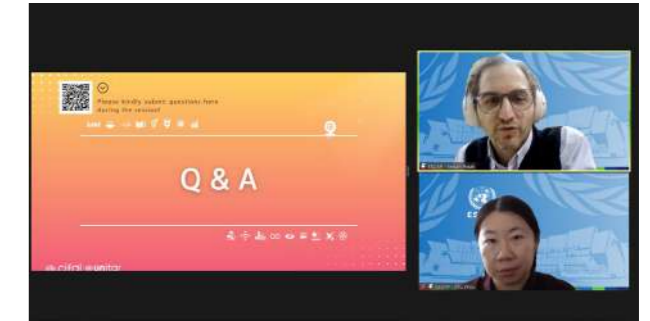


## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online capacity-building Workshop on “Insights into SDGs, Challenges of Implementation, and Tasks Ahead,” on March 25, 2024. The Workshop was attended by 213 participants from government sector, NGOs, academia, and the private sector, spanning from 29 countries. The Workshop was arranged to motivate the international community to work harder to achieve the faithful implementation of the UN SDGs and recognize again its significance, given its sluggish lack of prog-

ress despite the approaching deadline for the UN SDGs by 2030.

The Workshop covered topics such as the background of the SDGs, comparison with the MDGs, its 17 goals, and 169 specific targets. Participants also learned about how to prepare Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), which are keys to facilitating the implementation of the SDGs, as well as the evaluation mechanism of the implementation



degree run by the UN ESCAP. They also discussed factors constraining their full implementation and explored strategies to overcome them.

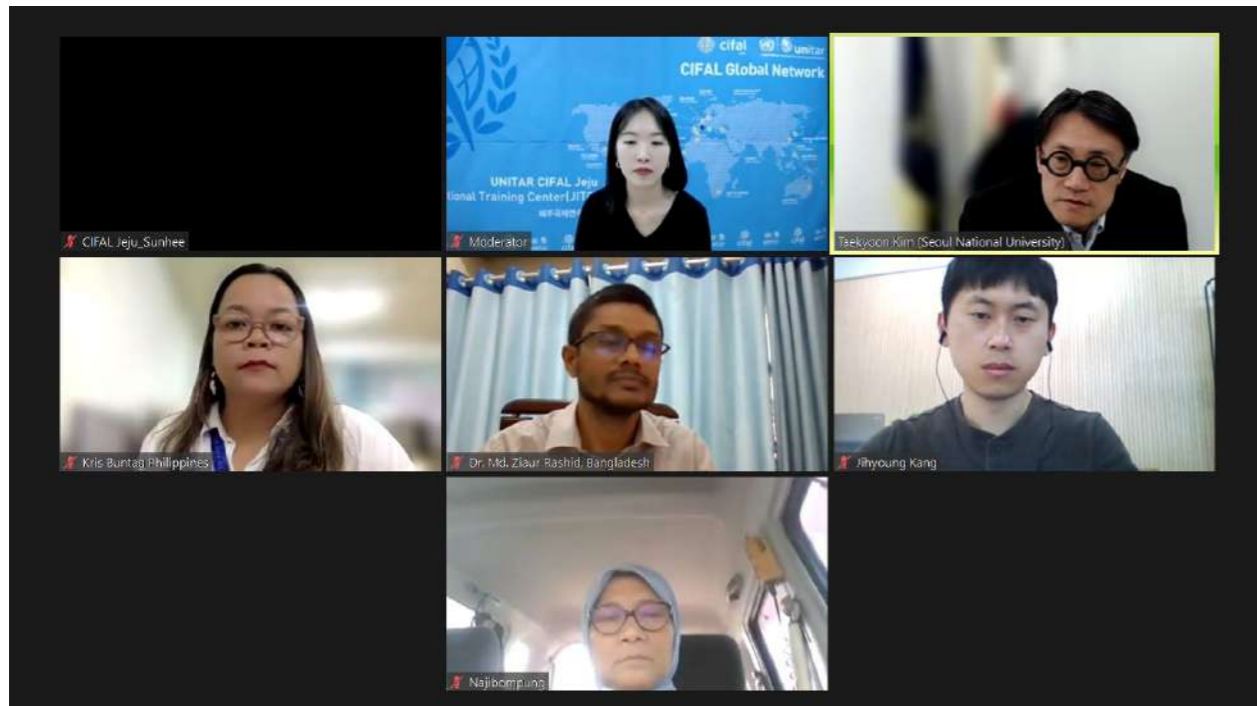
In Session 1, titled “Understanding the UN SDGs,” Simon Gilby from the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) explored the background of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a comparison between the SDGs and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and a detailed examination of the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets. A key point of emphasis was the shift from the MDGs to the more comprehensive approach of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs adopted in 2015. For instance, Unlike the MDGs which set specific targets such as improving maternal health (Goal 5) and combating HIV/AIDS and malaria (Goal 6), Goal 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, addressing a wide range of issues to enhance overall quality of life. Additionally, the structure of types (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3) was introduced to measure the status of implementation, facilitating effective monitoring and achievement of the goals.

In Session 2, titled “International Community Efforts to Achieve the SDGs,” Selahattin Selsah Pasali and Zilu Zhou from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) navigated the UN’s 2024

report analyzing the implementation status of the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region. The session provided a detailed examination of each SDG type using quantified data and covered the procedures and timelines for submitting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). According to the report, based on the current pace of implementation, an additional 32 years beyond the initial target would be required to achieve the goals by 2030, with notable regression in the implementation of Goal 13, which focuses on climate action. The session also highlighted efforts to expand the existing principles of VNRs and VLRs, emphasizing continuous and accurate data analysis, alignment with national strategies, and integration with national budgets, aiming to establish concrete and realistic implementation principles for UN member states.

In Session 3, titled “Analysis of UN SDGs Implementation Trends and Future Challenges,” Taekyoon Kim from Seoul National University focused on an in-depth examination of the current status of SDGs implementation and the strategies needed by the international community. The OECD indicators presented revealed widespread delays and regressions, particularly among middle and low-income countries, which rank lower in implementation progress. The session underscored the significant disparity





between developed and developing countries, a gap that has widened dramatically since the pandemic. To address these trends, the session emphasized the need to establish a Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus to efficiently utilize limited resources across sectors, citing successful examples from Laos and Cambodia. Additionally, the importance of expanding from a government-centric approach to a more inclusive societal approach, involving multilateral develop-

ment banks, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations, to raise funds for advancing low-income countries was highlighted. Furthermore, it was noted that approximately KRW 2,640 trillion (USD 2.2 trillion) was spent globally on military expenditures in 2022 alone, posing a significant obstacle to funding for SDGs and climate change initiatives.

III. HIGHLIGHTS

International Workshops

Social Inclusion

Inclusive Pathways for Co-Creating Solutions to Empower People with Disabilities

Background

It has been said that people with disabilities are often more likely to be exposed to risks than people without in various aspects. Economically, they often face high unemployment rates, leading to higher poverty rates, poorer living conditions, less access to nutritious food, and fewer opportunities for education and skill development. In terms of healthcare, individuals with disabilities may encounter barriers due to physical communication, and systemic obstacles, with their higher likelihood of chronic health conditions being exacerbated by poor access to appropriate care. Socially, stigma and discrimination can lead to isolation, limiting crucial social support networks during crises. Additionally, environmental barriers such as inaccessible infrastructure in public spaces, housing, and emergency services can increase their life-threatening risks during emergencies like natural disasters.

Numerous surveys illustrate these challenges where 80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries, while 20% of the world's poorest people have some kind of disability, tending to be regarded in their own communities as the most disadvantaged. Some persons with disabilities die up to 20 years earlier than those without disabilities, and persons with disabilities have twice the risk of developing conditions such as depression, asthma, diabetes, stroke, obesity, or poor oral health.

In particular, certain groups with disabilities including women and girls, refugees, and internally displaced persons are more susceptible to exclusion from mainstream society and deprived of their basic rights. The WHO has thus called for greater attention to violence against women with disabilities, highlighting the current indifference



to this issue. Also, the UN analyzed that less than 5% of children and young persons with disabilities have access to education and training.

Thus, it is imperative for both government and private sectors to offer need-based support to vulnerable populations to facilitate their integration into society. For example, the concept of Universal Design—entailing the creation of products that are accessible to individuals with a wide range of abilities, disabilities, and other characteristics—has been adopted in the construction of public infrastructure.

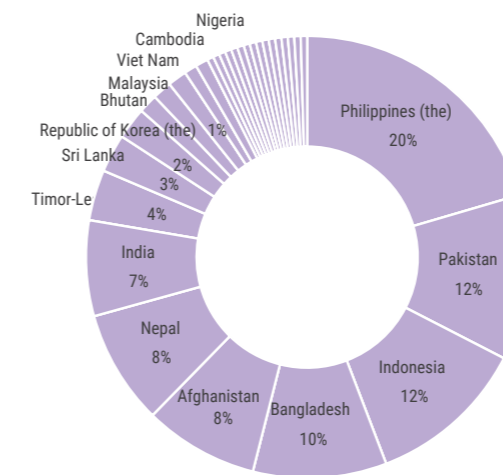
As we approach the targeted deadline of 2030 for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have come to realize that inequality faced by people with disabilities is a significant concern among overlooked areas. According to the WHO, an estimated 1.3 billion people experience disability, which represents 16% of the world's population.

Korea is actively implementing various policies to enhance income security and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Plans for 2024 include an increase in disability pensions, the creation of 2,000 new jobs for persons with disabilities, and expanded support for children with developmental disabilities. Additionally, there are efforts to improve accessibility to public facilities and raise public awareness through events such as "Accessibility Improvement Day".

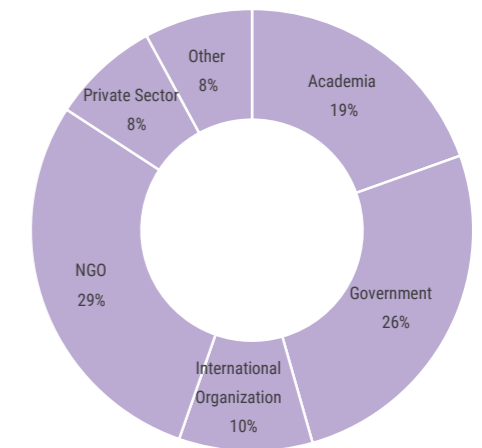
In this context, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online capacity-building Workshop on "Inclusive Pathways for Co-Creating Solutions to Empower People with Disabilities." The Workshop aimed to highlight the difficulties faced by people with dis-

abilities and find ways to address their vulnerabilities. The Workshop was comprised of expert lectures by domestic and international speakers and best practice sharing with participants. The Workshop also explored how to include vulnerable groups with disabilities into our society through efforts to protect women and girls with disabilities from violence, improve inclusion in education for children with disabilities, and improve living conditions for refugees and internally displaced persons with disabilities. Policies and best practices implemented in Korea targeting people with disabilities were shared. The Workshop also explored the current efforts through policies, infrastructure, systems, and institutions in Korea to support people with disabilities and look for insights related to universal design. The Workshop targeted an audience across all sectors, with the primary goal of increasing awareness regarding the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups with disabilities into society and discussing tasks ahead to provide solutions to these issues.

## Overview



Participants by Country



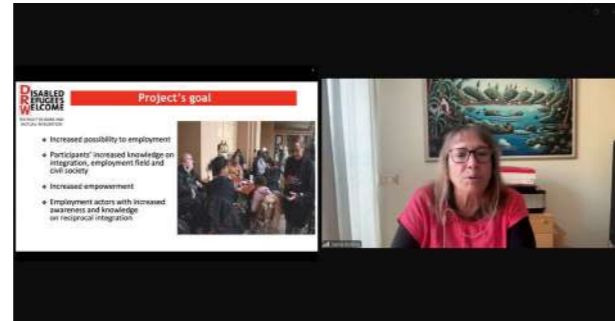
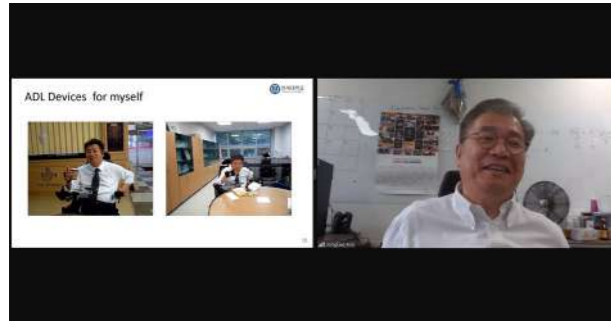
Participants by Organization

## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online capacity-building Workshop on "Inclusive Pathways for Co-Creating Solutions to Empower People with Disabilities," on September 5–6, 2024. The Workshop was attended by 215 participants from 31 countries. The Workshop aimed to address the challenges faced by people with disabilities and explore solutions to integrate them into our society.

In Session 1, titled "(Overview) Global Advocacy and Action: An Introduction to International Efforts Supporting Individuals with Disabilities and Challenges Worldwide," Jongbae Kim from Yonsei University emphasized the importance of assistive technologies in empowering persons with disabilities by enabling daily activities such as mobility and dining. In line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), he highlighted the obli-





gation of state parties to enhance access to these technologies (Articles 4 and 20). Examples included robotic arms for eating, bicycles operated by hands instead of legs, and painting robots controlled by individuals with severe mobility impairments.

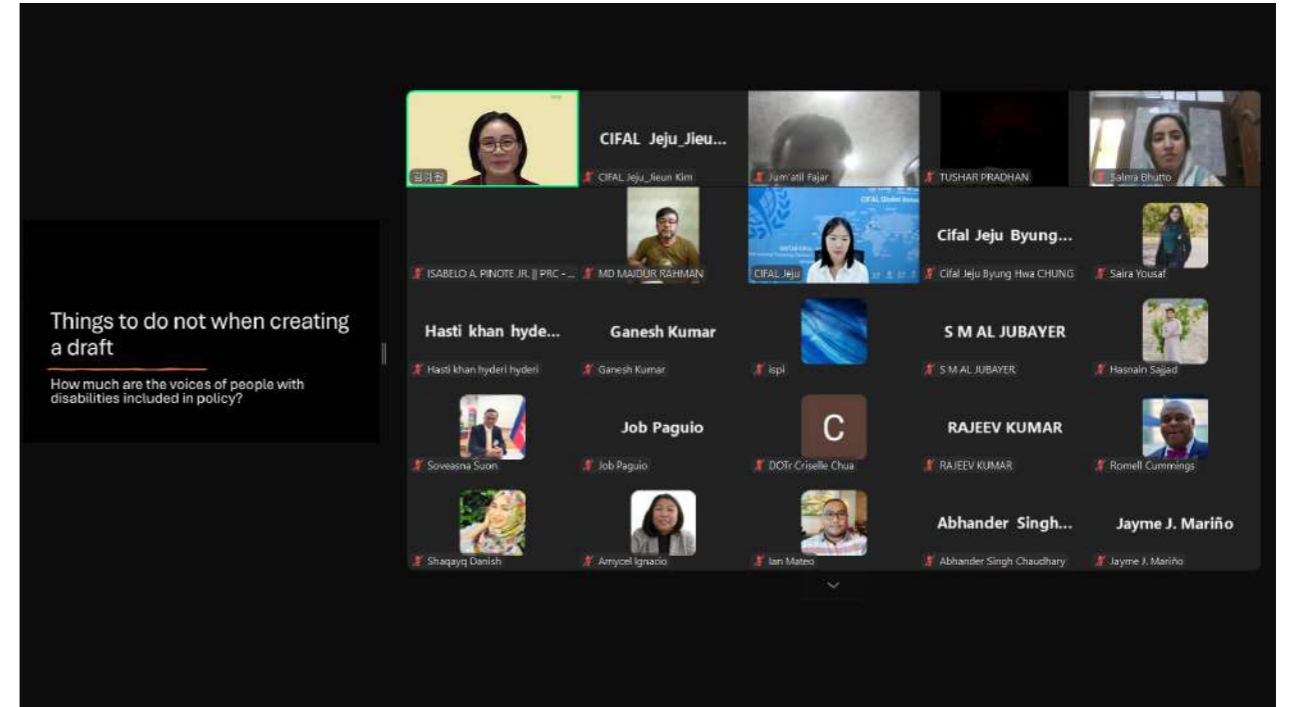
In Session 2, titled “(Women and Girls) Violence against Women with Disabilities,” Yewon Kim from the Disability Rights Advocate Center discussed critical considerations when drafting legislation to prevent violence against women and girls with disabilities, particularly in the context of developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. She emphasized the need to assess existing legal frameworks, identify impartial implementing agencies, and build systems to support ongoing capacity development and public awareness. She also cautioned against legislation shaped solely by public opinion, citing a case where heightened sentencing requirements made prosecutions more challenging.

In Session 3, titled “(Children) Inclusive Education for Children with Disability,” Ana Mantilla from Monash University addressed the challenges faced by children with disabilities in accessing education and underscored the significance of inclusive education. She highlighted findings from a UNICEF report showing high rates of educational exclusion among children with disabili-

ties. She emphasized that inclusive education goes beyond school attendance, fostering active participation, a sense of belonging, and personal achievement. An example from Australia showcased the importance of incorporating feedback from students, parents, and educators to continuously improve educational quality and build trust.

In Session 4, titled “(Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons) Dire Living Environment for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with Disabilities,” Jamie Bolling from Independent Living Institute explored the environmental and social difficulties faced by refugees with disabilities and introduced Sweden’s Disabled Refugee Welcome (DRW) project. The project conducted field studies, interviews, and counseling to understand the needs of refugees with disabilities and connected them with support organizations. These efforts aimed to improve accessibility to housing, education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for refugees with disabilities.

In Session 5, titled “Navigating Disabilities Support in Korea: Policies, Infrastructure, and Institutional Insights,” Woonyoung Kim from the Korean Disability Forum evaluated Korea’s policies on deinstitutionalization and their alignment with international human rights standards. While the transition from institutional care to communi-



ty-based support has progressed since the Korean War era, he noted significant gaps in funding and support, particularly in local governments such as Seoul. He emphasized the need for stronger community-based services to enable people with disabilities to live independently, as recommended by the UN CRPD Committee in 2022. He also highlighted the importance of addressing the gap between policy intentions and practical implementation.

In Session 6, titled “Solutions for Inclusion of People with Disabilities Universal Design,” Hyegyung Yoon from Yonsei University focused on the concept and evolution of universal design, which aims to create products and environments usable by all individuals, regardless of age, ability, or physical condition. Unlike traditional barrier-free designs for people with disabilities, universal design considers diverse users, including parents with strollers, older adults, and individuals carrying heavy loads. She shared examples

from countries like Norway and Singapore and demonstrated how universal design improves accessibility and contributes to building inclusive societies. She underscored the importance of equity, flexibility, and simplicity in design to prevent social exclusion and ensure usability for all.



## Social Inclusion

### Education Without Borders: Shaping Quality Education for Refugees from Pre-Primary to Tertiary

#### Background

Armed conflicts have persisted for what feels like an eternity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Ukraine, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan. Amid frequent humanitarian crises, climate-induced emergencies, crippling insecurity, and economic instability, the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people was estimated to have exceeded 130.8 million in 2024. The school-aged refugee population is estimated to stand at 14.8 million this year.

This is particularly devastating for refugee children, who are at a critical stage of education. For girls, the lack of education is linked to a higher likelihood of adolescent pregnancy and early marriage, depriving them of the opportunity to shape their own futures. For boys, it results in an increased risk of engaging in dangerous behaviors and reduced access to the labor market,

which can lead to a cycle of endemic poverty.

Recognizing the severity of the situation, UNHCR has prioritized establishing equitable and sustainable inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless children in national education systems, as outlined in its Refugee Education 2030 strategy, in alignment with the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Despite improvements in the capacity of national education systems through ongoing efforts, many challenges remain. The number of refugee children who remain out of school is still high. According to UNHCR data, during the 2022-2023 academic year, the average gross enrolment rates for refugees were 37% for pre-primary education, 65% for primary, 42% for secondary, and only 7% for tertiary education. Additionally, the



shortage of teachers, insufficient and poorly equipped classrooms, lack of food resources, inadequate school supplies, and negative cultural perceptions of education all contribute to the lack of quality education.

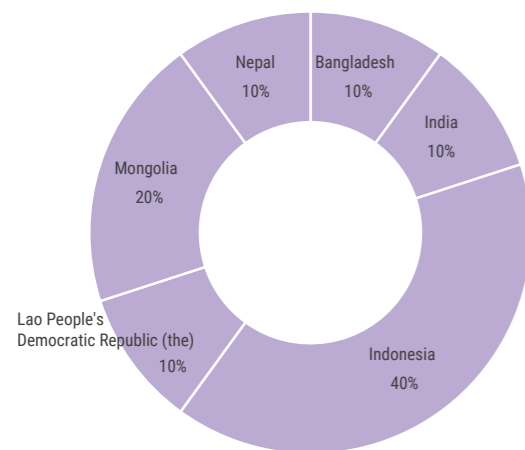
To tackle these challenges, UNHCR has implemented the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) program since 1992 to provide scholarships for refugee students pursuing higher education. Additionally, UNESCO's Bridge Program serves as a model for supporting the educational needs of refugees and displaced youth, taking into account the specific contexts of each country.

In this context, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop titled "Education without Borders: Shaping Quality Education for Refugees from Pre-Primary to Tertiary." The Workshop targeted public officials in the educa-

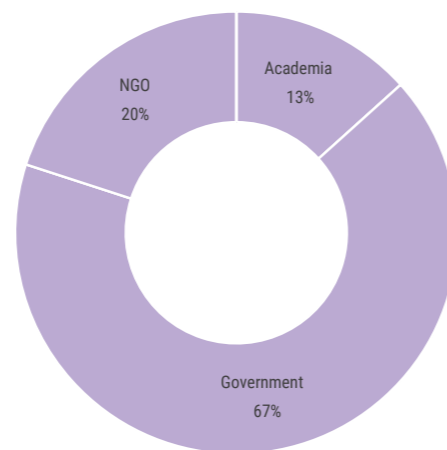
tion sector from the Asia-Pacific region, with the primary objective of raising awareness about the significance of a quality education system for forcibly displaced and stateless children, as well as enhancing capacity for drafting related legislation. The Workshop examined the current status of out-of-school children at the pre-primary, primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, key considerations for drafting legislation aimed at ensuring quality education for refugee children, best practices for empowering these children, and personal stories from refugee students and their teachers highlighting the impact of inclusive education.



## Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization

## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop on “Education Without Borders: Shaping Quality Education for Refugees from Pre-Primary to Tertiary,” on November 13-15, 2024, in Jeju Island. The Workshop brought together 15 participants from diverse sectors including public officials, professors, and NGO personnel spanning from 9 Asia-Pacific developing countries, aiming to raise awareness about the significance of a quality education system for forced and stateless children from edu-

cation level from primary to higher education in alignment with UN Global Compact on Refugees.

The Workshop featured nine lectures and two inspiring stories: one from a teacher who educated refugee children and another from a refugee graduate who received a UN scholarship. Following this, participants presented pre-assigned fact sheets on the state of refugee education in various countries. Based on the feedback from job-specific evaluations, they developed con-

structive proposals. The field trip included a visit to Naomi Center, where participants learned about exemplary practices in supporting Yemeni refugees.

In Session 1, titled “(Pre-Primary and Primary) The Current Status of Out-of-School Refugee Children in the Asia-Pacific Region,” Jihye Heo from World Vision Korea provided an analysis of the current status of refugee hosting and education in the Asia-Pacific region, with a tailored focus on countries such as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, and Nepal. She highlighted that, as of late 2023, the top refugee-hosting countries in the region were Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, and Malaysia. Based on her research, she alarmed that the current refugee school enrollment rates remain low: 42% for pre-school, 68% for primary school, 37% for secondary school, and only 6% for higher education.

In Session 2, titled “(Pre-Primary and Primary) Key Considerations in Drafting a Bill for Inclusive Education for Refugees,” Mahub Alam Prodip from Acknowledge Education analyzed South Asia’s refugee education policies, focusing on Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. He emphasized that refugee education in these countries remains limited to humanitarian approaches and underscored the need for strengthened legal and policy frameworks.

In Session 3, titled “(Pre-Primary and Primary) UNESCO’s initiatives to address the educational gap in the Asia-Pacific region through the ‘Bridge’ program,” Grace Kim from the Korean National Commission for UNESCO shared successful cases from the Bridge Project, which aims to enhance education quality in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Examples includ-

ed initiatives to improve educational facilities and expand information management systems to support non-formal education.

In Session 4, titled “(Pre-Primary and Primary) Success Stories that Empower Refugee Children,” Enrique Menendez from Responsible Citizens in Ukraine presented initiatives for children affected by the ongoing conflict, particularly in eastern Ukraine and among internally displaced populations. These included formal and non-formal education programs, teacher training, and psychological support to address the needs of children during wartime.

In Story Session 1, titled “(Pre-Primary and Primary) Stories from Teachers of Refugee Children: A Story from Baraka Little Library,” Soowon Yeom from Baraka Little Library in Seoul shared her experiences of working with refugee children and youth. She emphasized the importance of creating programs to mitigate cultural identity confusion and providing continuous education on discipline to help refugee students navigate their new environments effectively.

In Session 5, titled “(Secondary and Tertiary) The current state of limited access to higher education for refugee teenagers and young adults: Considerations for drafting a bill,” Manal Stulgaitis from UNHCR in Denmark highlighted efforts to increase refugee access to higher education, focusing on the DAFI Scholarship Program. She detailed the goal of achieving a 15% higher education enrollment rate for refugees by 2030 and emphasized fostering self-reliance, social integration, and peacebuilding through education.

In Session 6, titled “(Secondary and Tertiary) UNHCR’s efforts to assist refugee students in pursuing higher education through DAFI scholar-



ships,” Jael Shisanya Mararu from UNHCR Pakistan discussed how the DAFI Scholarship Program supports refugee youth by improving access to higher education. The program contributed to promoting self-reliance, social cohesion, and reconstruction efforts, with a focus on building sustainable educational pathways.

In Session 7, titled “(Secondary and Tertiary) Success Stories that Empower Refugee Children,” Youngah Kim from Migration to Asia Peace (MAP) in Seoul shared best practices, including scholarship programs to encourage vocational education for refugees. These initiatives encouraged refugees to equip themselves with skills for employment and integration into their host communities.

In Story Session 2, titled “My story as a refugee student,” Ken Asaee who is a DAFI Scholarship beneficiary refugee from Iran shared his journey of pursuing higher education as a refugee. He highlighted how the opportunity enabled him to access diverse career paths and achieve personal and professional empowerment, illustrating the transformative impact of education on refugee lives.

In Session 8, titled “(Secondary and Tertiary) Success Stories that Empower Refugee Children: Pathways Japan,” Hiroaki Ishii from Pathways Japan introduced a program inviting refugee high school students from overseas to pursue higher education in Japan. Supported by the Japanese government and UNHCR, he introduced how the program bypasses traditional asylum procedures and provides students with language training, cultural education, employment assistance, and financial aid to ensure their success.





## Economic Development

### Connecting Futures: ASEAN's Path to a Sustainable Digital Economy

#### Background

Due to the spread of COVID-19 and the development of information and communication technology, the digital economy has rapidly expanded worldwide. Even before the outbreak of COVID-19, ASEAN had promoted digital transition and integration, and the outbreak of COVID-19 has further increased its importance in terms of economic recovery and the creation of growth engines. Within this strategy, ASEAN identifies three key strategic priorities for digital economy policy: 1) Digital trade, 2) the Fourth Industrial Revolution (advanced manufacturing), and 3) the services sector. According to the "e-Conomy SEA 2022" report, the digital economy in ASEAN is expected to maintain an average annual growth rate of 20% from 2022 to 2025. This robust growth reflects the dynamic and expanding nature of the digital landscape in the ASEAN region. However, ASEAN's digital transitions and

digital competitiveness vary greatly by country. Some have world-class digital competitiveness and infrastructure, while others have low digital competitiveness and poor related infrastructure.

According to the KIEP, to promote digital transition effectively and improve ASEAN economies, there are four potential directions. Firstly, there is a need to support the expansion of ASEAN's digital infrastructure. While the physical accessibility of digital infrastructure in the ASEAN region has improved, there are still significant disparities among countries. To sustain cooperation with ASEAN and address regional development disparities, first, it is crucial to support the enhancement of digital infrastructure, leveraging the strengths of countries with robust capabilities in this area. Collaboration in fostering digital talent is also crucial. Some countries, despite having

limited natural resources, have achieved economic growth through the cultivation of skilled human resources. Nurturing digital-related talents including local efforts to train developers through programming education and collaboration with companies from various countries with strengths in this field can lead to the development of competitive programs. Thirdly, with the enhancement of two previous factors including infrastructure and talent, strengthening cooperation in e-government should come up. Learning from countries or cases with excellent e-government capabilities could be essential. Lastly, enhancing digital trade cooperation through market-opening trade agreements is necessary. To expand digital trade further, it is important to lower digital trade barriers, such as technological standards, competition policies, and regulations on data movement. The high Digital Trade Restrictiveness Index in the ASEAN region signals the need for collaborative efforts in relevant trade norms.

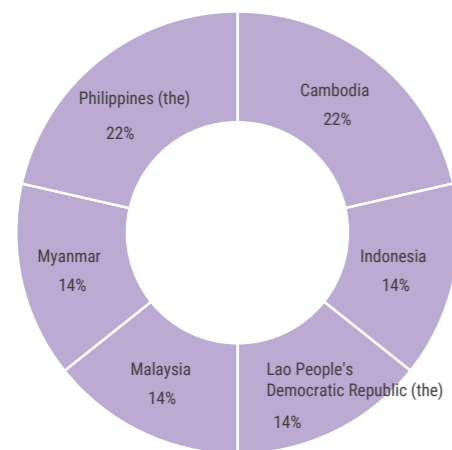
The proposed key directions for cooperation emphasize mutually co-beneficial collaboration. The KIEP suggests the importance of identifying cooperation initiatives that benefit both regions. Rather than fostering a one-sided relationship, the emphasis is on developing collaboration projects that benefit countries with existing strengths and contribute to the growth of the ASEAN region, where appropriate development is needed. In this context, there is a need to establish a platform for sharing and coordinating the outcomes of bilateral cooperation between individual ASEAN countries with the entire ASEAN community. To effectively pursue various projects like this, experts with a deep understanding of each country and field, gathering in one place, can prioritize projects and synergistically collab-

orate for their implementation. Similarly, coordination at the level of individual ministries is crucial. Handling projects at the individual ministry level may make it challenging to package projects and create synergies. This underscores the need for an organization that facilitates coordination and information-sharing among experts and ministries for the successful implementation of the envisioned policies in each ASEAN country.

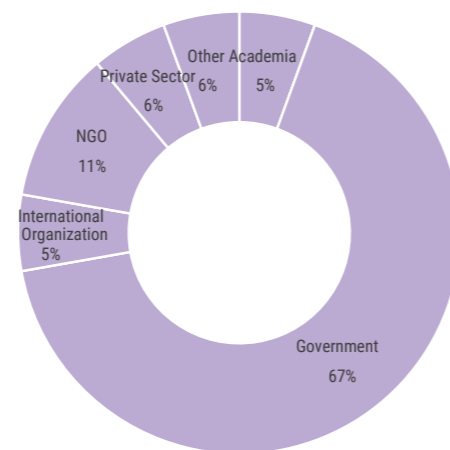
On this occasion, the UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop on connecting futures, emphasizing inclusive collaboration and strategies to promote a sustainable ASEAN digital economy. Scheduled from April 17 to 19, 2024, at the Jeju International Training Center, this offline Workshop was a significant initiative in response to the expanding digital transition and economy and the evolving landscape in the ASEAN region. Recognizing the diverse conditions and competitiveness levels among member countries, the Workshop aimed to bridge the digital divide among ASEAN member countries by focusing on critical aspects such as digital infrastructure enhancement, digital talent development, capacity-building in e-government, and the promotion of digital trade cooperation. The Workshop served as a platform for diverse stakeholders to gain valuable insights, strategies, and collaborative opportunities in navigating the complexities of the digital era.



## Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization

## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop on “Connecting Futures: ASEAN’s Path to a Sustainable Digital Economy,” on April 17-19, 2024, in Jeju Island. The Workshop was attended by 18 participants from the 9 ASEAN Member States from the government sector, NGOs, academia, and private sector, spanning from the ASEAN Member States. The Workshop aimed to help participants learn effective strategies for promoting digital economy capacities and for driving digital transformation

in their home countries.

The Workshop addressed various aspects of the current global and ASEAN digital transition and economy, including digital infrastructure, talent development, trade cooperation, and e-government governance. Through expert-led lectures, participant-led case-study presentations, and problem-solving group activities, participants gained the skills and strategies needed to drive digital transformation and economic develop-

ment in their respective countries and the ASEAN region. Additionally, the Workshop explored success stories from Korea’s private sector in the digital economy.

In Session 1-1, titled “Navigating Global Digital Transition & Economy Trends,” Hyeokki Min from the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET) presented on global digital transformation and economic trends, highlighting significant economic changes resulting from digital transformation in the manufacturing and service industries.

In Session 1-2, titled “Navigating ASEAN’s Digital Transition & Economy Trends,” Jowil Plecerda of the ASEAN Secretariat discussed digital transformation and economic development in the ASEAN region. While efforts to accelerate digital transformation are ongoing, the significant gap in digital competitiveness among member countries needs careful consideration. Key ASEAN policies, including the ‘ASEAN Digital Trade Agreement’ and the ‘Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA),’ were also introduced.

In Session 2, titled “Enhancing Digital Infrastructure: A Pillar for Digital Shift,” Seonghoon Yoo from the Korea Information Society Development Institute (KISDI) emphasized the necessity of enhancing digital infrastructure, the role of digital innovation in achieving the SDGs, the impact of international development cooperation through Official Development Assistance (ODA), and the need to strengthen digital infrastructure and its value chain.

In Session 3, titled “Fostering Digital Talent for Sustainable Economic Growth,” Yoo from KISDI discussed cultivating digital talent in ASEAN for

sustainable economic growth. The session underscored the importance of digital capacity building, the necessity of fostering creative talent in the digital transformation era, the roles of various stakeholders in this effort, and strategies for implementing digital education and enhancing education through data standardization and utilization.

In Session 4, titled “Strengthening Cooperation in E-Government and its Economic Impact,” Yoonseok Ko from the Intelligent Data Department at the National Information Society Agency (NIA) covered the history of South Korea’s digital public infrastructure development from 1987 to the launch of the Digital Platform Government in 2022 and explained public-private cooperation for e-government establishment. The importance of an integrated approach to AI and big data for effective digital transformation was emphasized.

In Session 5, titled “Mitigating Digital Trade Barriers in the Digital Era,” Lurong Chen from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia introduced various approaches to defining ‘digital trade,’ changes in the trade industry due to digitalization, and specific strategies, tools, and regulations for reducing trade barriers in the digital era.

In Session 6, titled “Korea’s Digital Transition and Economy Case-study,” Hyeokki Min from the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade reviewed the digital economic policies of South Korea and ASEAN countries, emphasizing that digital economic cooperation between South Korea and ASEAN aims to enhance growth and competitiveness in the digital sector, benefiting both parties.





In Session 7, titled “Digital-related SME Companies & Associations,” Jura Chung and Hyun seok Oh from South Korean SMEs in the digital field presented successful digital transformation cases. OKESTRO achieved sustainable transformation in the public and financial sectors using an open-source cloud platform, while ONDA helped hotel operators maximize revenue through digital solutions.

In Session 8-1, titled “Action Planning for ASEAN’s Sustainable Digital Economy,” Kwayguan Tan from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore led a session on developing action plans for sustainable digital economic development in ASEAN. Participants formed teams based on their countries to create and present outcomes on topics such as ‘Training Digital Specialists in the Public Sector’ and ‘Uncovering Digital Potential in ASEAN SMEs,’ based on their national digital environments.

In Session 8-2, under the same title as the previous session, Tan from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore led a session on developing action plans for sustainable digital economic development in ASEAN. Participants formed teams based on their countries to create and present outcomes on topics such as ‘Training Digital Specialists in the Public Sector’ and ‘Uncovering Digital Potential in ASEAN SMEs,’ based on their national digital environments.

Lastly, participants visited the headquarters of Kakao, where they learned about Kakao’s digital transformation initiatives and the company’s relocation to Jeju, followed by discussions and an exchange of opinions.



## Economic Development

### Unlocking Circular Economy: A Journey into Sustainable Economic Resilience and Practices for Developing Countries

#### Background

The Earth's ecosystem's long-term viability is the paramount concern in the concept of sustainability, taking precedence over all other considerations. The underlying economic and social systems can and should be modified to ensure the sustainability of the global ecosystem. From this perspective, post-SDG initiatives should prioritize global sustainability, aiming for a major transformation from the current high-carbon, resource-wasteful linear economic system to a low-carbon circular economic system. This closely aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12, "Responsible Consumption and Production." SDG 12 aims for efficient use of resources and energy, sustainable infrastructure development, and providing basic services and better quality of life for all. It encompasses specific targets including sustainable management of natural resources, reduction of food waste, environmentally sound management

of chemicals and waste, promotion of sustainable corporate practices, and expansion of sustainable public procurement.

As global interest in sustainable economic models intensifies, the 'circular economy' has emerged as a new paradigm. This approach goes beyond mere economic efficiency, integrating environmental protection, social responsibility, and resource conservation for future generations. Global supply chains can no longer operate solely on cost efficiency; instead, they must consider political factors, cultural differences, and environmental impacts, embracing the concept of 'value chains'. In this context, the circular economy pursues sustainable development through resource reuse and recycling, minimizing environmental damage and preventing resource depletion. The circular economy model has risen as an alternative to the traditional 'linear economy', showing

particularly notable effects in sectors such as metal resources. The core of the circular economy lies in carbon neutrality and reducing environmental impact, with ambitious goals set for zero greenhouse gas emissions in major industries like cement, plastics, steel, and food by 2050.

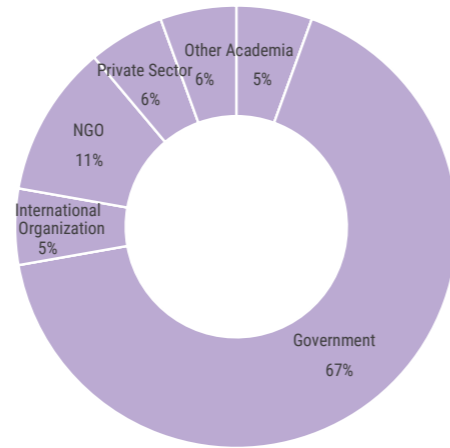
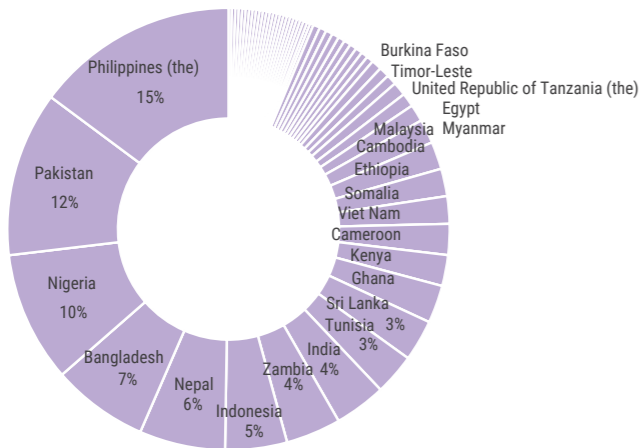
Indeed, investments in the circular economy are rapidly expanding worldwide, serving as a crucial driver for solving plastic pollution problems and increasing corporate sustainability. It has been said that stock investments related to the circular economy surged from \$300 million at the end of 2019 to \$9.5 billion by the end of 2021. Also, global mega companies like Adidas and L'Oreal have successfully transitioned to circular economies by expanding their use of recycled materials. Discussions are also underway on the international standardization of recycled materials and the introduction of plastic credits, emerging as important tasks to promote the plastic circular economy. In addition, under its Climate Promise, UNDP has assisted developing countries like Gambia, Lao PDR, South Sudan, Uganda, and Vanuatu in conducting circular economy assessments for their climate commitments. The organization also supports planning, budgeting, and stakeholder engagement at multiple levels to build capacity and accelerate the shift towards more sustainable, circular economic models. Thanks to these efforts, many countries are making progress including Kosovo's support for innovative startups, Ghana's initiatives in recycling plastic waste for housing, Jordan's efforts in creating employment opportunities for women through circular economy transitions, and the Philippines' legislation on plastic packaging. Notably, Vanuatu leads in circularity estimates at 59%, followed by the Netherlands at 24.5% and Austria at 9.7%, while global circularity has decreased from 8.6% in 2020 to 7.2% in 2023.

However, transitioning to a circular economy faces several challenges, despite its potential benefits. These include limited knowledge and understanding of circular economy strategies, particularly in developing countries; difficulties in accessing adequate finance for businesses, especially SMEs, to shift from linear to circular models; and complexities in assessing and tracking the impact of circular economy practices, such as measuring reductions in indirect emissions along value chains.

Against this backdrop, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online capacity-building Workshop on "Unlocking Circular Economy: A Journey into Sustainable Economic Resilience and Practices for Developing Countries," on September 23, 2024. The Workshop served as a platform to explore the potential of the circular economy and seek sustainable economic resilience and practical solutions from the perspectives of developing countries. The Workshop aimed to present the possibilities of a new economic model that simultaneously achieves economic growth, environmental protection, and social responsibility while exploring avenues for global cooperation. The Workshop discussed specific measures to achieve these goals and explored ways to enhance the scientific and technological capabilities necessary for building sustainable consumption and production patterns. Additionally, the Workshop discussed case-studies of some countries and Korea by looking at the strategies for changing consumption and production patterns for a more sustainable future in post-COVID-19 recovery plans. Lastly, the Workshop observed challenges and implications from the perspective of developing countries followed by financing and investment mechanisms for enabling a circular economy.



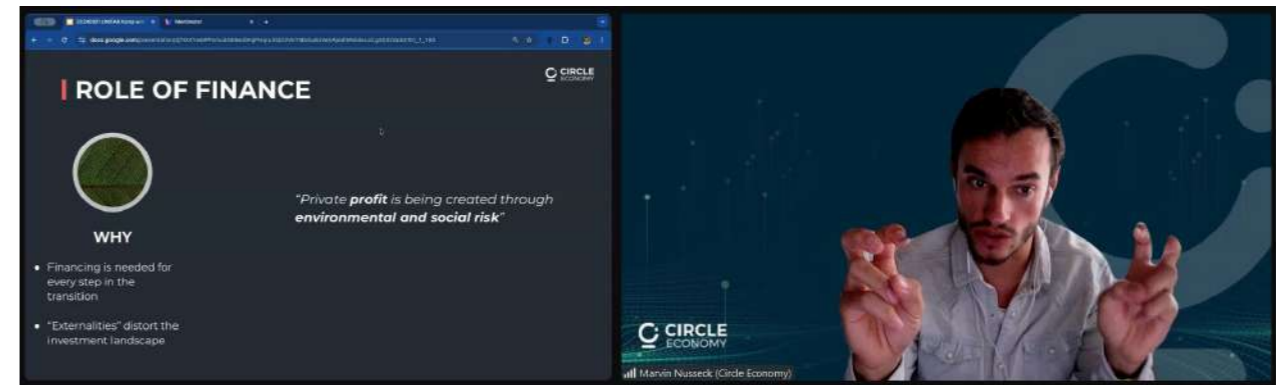
# Overview



## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online capacity-building Workshop on “Unlocking Circular Economy: A Journey into Sustainable Economic Resilience and Practices for Developing Countries,” on September 23, 2024. The Workshop concluded with remarkable success, attracting 398 participants from diverse backgrounds. The event effectively achieved its objectives by providing comprehensive insights into circular economy principles, global trends, and best practices, with a particular focus on developing countries.

Through four expert-led sessions, participants gained valuable knowledge on global circular economy adoption, Korea’s circular economy journey, challenges and opportunities for developing nations, and crucial financing mechanisms. The interactive Q&A sessions facilitated engaging discussions, allowing attendees to deepen their understanding of circular economy dynamics and explore potential applications in their respective fields.



In Session 1, titled “Unveiling the Circular Economy: Global Trends, Best Practices, and Challenges,” Eunah Kim from the National Assembly Futures Institute delivered a presentation on the overall status, examples, and implications of the global circular economy. She particularly emphasized the globalization of the circular economy, the expanded 10R strategy, and the necessity of adopting a circular economy in developing countries, based on policy examples from the European Union.

In Session 2, titled “Exploring Korea’s Journey Towards a Circular Economy,” Jihye Jo from the Korea Environment Institute (KEI) focused on the conditions required to establish a circular economic system, particularly using the cases of plastics and EV batteries. It also highlighted the importance of strengthening international cooperation.

In Session 3, titled “The Circular Economy in Developing Countries: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies,” Jimyong Suh from GDC Consulting Co., Ltd. introduced strategic directions and solutions, drawing from real-life examples, such as the case of the Cusco region in Peru.

In Session 4, titled “Financing the Future: PPPs, Investments, and Multilateral Cooperation,” Marvin Nusseck from Circle Economy Foundation stressed the importance of financing and investment mechanisms for the circular economy, focusing on various investment frameworks and active multilateral cooperation cases involving resource management organizations such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank.



### III. HIGHLIGHTS

#### International Workshops

## Environmental Sustainability

### A Pathway towards Decarbonized and Cleaner Mobility in Asia and the Pacific – Envisioning Green Possibilities of Public Mobility

#### Background

The gravity of climate change and its tangible impacts have become increasingly evident, touching our lives in profound and deeply personal ways. In light of this, it is imperative that nations and private sectors expedite their efforts toward low-carbon transformations. According to UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Emission Gap Report 2023, aligning with a 1.5°C pathway necessitates a 42 percent reduction in 2030 global greenhouse gas (GHG) and achieving net zero emissions around 2050. However, recent data from the report indicates a 1.2 percent increase in GHG emissions, resulting in a record-setting 57.4 Gigatons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent. Regrettably, the report warns that in the most hopeful scenario, the probability of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is only 14 percent.

Furthermore, as highlighted in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report published in 2022, the transport sector is responsible for 15% of global emissions (road transport 10%) and 1.8% of annual emission growth during the period 2010-2019, which is the highest among sectors. Despite the urgent need for system transformation, the latest data from the International Energy Agency (IEA) World Energy Balances (2023) indicates that the sector continues to heavily rely on fossil fuels for approximately 91% of its final energy consumption.

Recognizing the transportation sector's substantial contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, experts and global communities underscore the imperative for accelerated decarbonization efforts. Particularly concerning is the fact that more than two-thirds of transport-induced GHG



emissions originate from road transport. With respect to this, the IPCC and UNEP strongly advocate for decreasing the demand for road transport services that are reliant on fossil fuels and prioritizing the transition to low-emission modes.

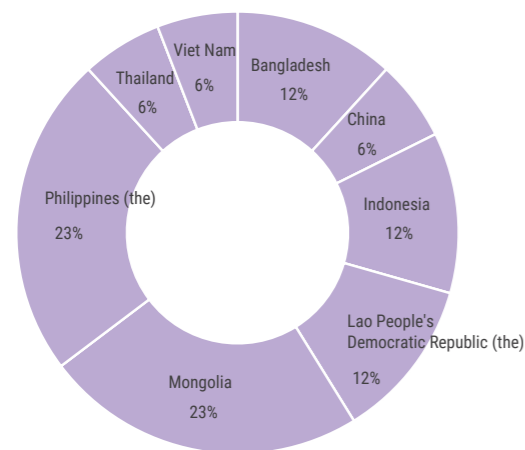
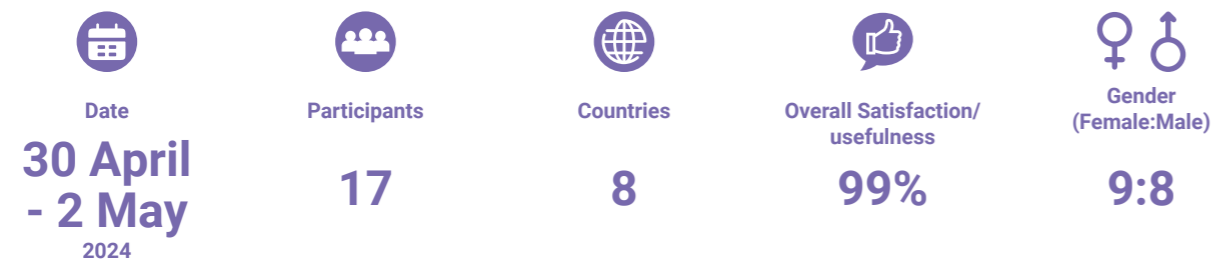
Government officials from the Asia-Pacific, convened at the sustainable transport Workshop in 2023 titled "A Pathway towards Decarbonized and Cleaner Mobility in Asia and the Pacific – Starting from the region's key priorities," identified carbon-intensive and inadequately serviced public transport as priority areas for action. Similarly, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has emphasized the pivotal role of public mobility and the transition to low-emission public transport as one of their paradigms shifting pathways for the low-emission transport sector.

In response to the growing imperative to envision green possibilities for public mobility, UNITAR

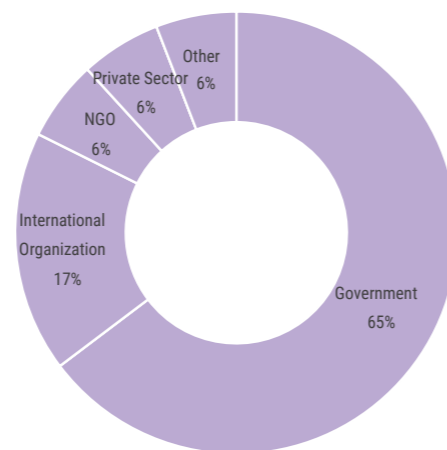
CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop on decarbonized and cleaner public transportation in Asia and the Pacific on April 30 ~ May 2, 2024. This Workshop, held in conjunction with the 11th International E-Mobility Expo\* aimed to enhance the capacity of central and local government authorities from the Asia-Pacific region in adopting, improving, or transitioning to green public mobility within the broader context of transport system transformation, energy systems, and urban structures. This intensive three-day Workshop facilitated knowledge acquisition and skill enhancement, involving participants in assessing the current status of public mobility, identifying challenges, and developing solution-oriented projects and action plans aligned with methodologies commonly utilized in international climate fund proposal procedures. In pursuit of constructive proceedings, the Workshop's lecture sessions during and following the 11th International E-Mobility Expo were designed to provide valuable insights into a range of topics.



## Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization

## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop on “A Pathway towards Decarbonized and Cleaner Mobility in Asia and the Pacific – Envisioning Green Possibilities of Public Mobility,” on April 30 ~ May 2, 2024, in Jeju Island. The Workshop, attended by 17 participants from 8 Asia-Pacific developing countries including the Philippines, Mongolia, and Indonesia, aimed at helping promote low-carbon and cleaner public mobility solutions in the region.

Throughout the Workshop, participants in the Workshop attended expert lectures covering UNESCAP’s cleaner transportation policy, locally tailored strategies for public mobility, and funding opportunities from GGGI. They learned methodologies for drafting climate fund proposals, explored pedestrian-friendly urban planning, and studied successful initiatives like Korea’s public mobility financing, Seoul’s transport renovation, and Jeju’s 15-minute city concept. They also developed green mobility projects tailored to

their countries, drawing on session insights. The program included visits to the 11th e-mobility Expo and CFI Future Energy Center to enhance understanding of Jeju’s sustainable energy policies.

In Session 1, titled “Envisioning green possibilities of public mobility in Asia Pacific,” Madan B. Regmi from UNESCAP emphasized the urgent need for eco-friendly, low-carbon public transportation in the Asia-Pacific region, where transport-related carbon emissions rose by 36% from 2010 to 2021. Heavy reliance on informal transport and low usage of public transportation have been key concerns in the region. He pointed out that addressing these issues requires integrated low-carbon transport solutions that consider urban planning, energy systems, and social integration. Policies based on the A (Avoid) - S (Shift) - I (Improve) framework, such as developing low-carbon and high-density cities, promoting telecommuting, reducing private car use, and enhancing public transport with alternative fuels, are vital for achieving carbon neutrality in the region’s transport sector.

In Session 2, titled “Integrated green and energy-efficient public mobility planning and programming strategies,” Joachim Bergerhoff from GFA Consulting Group underscored the importance of customizing environmentally friendly public transportation to suit the regional context. He advocates moving beyond mere electrification as the sole solution for eco-friendly transport. Instead, he emphasized adopting solutions that suit local conditions and minimize environmental impact for achieving carbon-neutral mobility. He further introduced the A(Avoid) S(Shift) I(Improve) - SUM (Sustainable Urban Mobility) integrated theory, stressing the dynam-

ic nature of eco-friendly urban transport planning. In developing countries with inadequate transportation infrastructure, he prioritized improving user access (Improve element) over reducing transport demand (Avoid element). He outlined a structured approach involving setting objectives, evaluating institutional roles and means, establishing action plans, implementing strategies, and continuous measurement and evaluation to refine these plans iteratively.

In Session 4, titled “From Problem Discovery to Project Development: Methodologies to Approach a Climate Fund Proposal,” Byung-il Jang from Green Idea Lab identified the increasing availability of international environmental and climate funds for developing countries as a key opportunity to fund low-carbon, eco-friendly public transportation in the Asia-Pacific region. He emphasized the significance of utilizing the Theory of Change and Logical Framework in drafting effective funding proposals. The Theory of Change involves setting long-term objectives, deriving specific goals, and identifying necessary activities in a top-down manner, illustrated through a diagram of outcomes, outputs, activities, risks, and assumptions. The Logical Framework further refines this into specific monitoring and evaluation elements needed for project implementation, such as verification methods and target values. To aid understanding, he presented examples of approved public transportation-related projects that have been funded by green climate initiatives.

In Session 6, titled “Urban Planning Approach to Effectively Manage Demand for Transport and Promote Public Mobility and Non-Motorized Transport,” Jihee Namgung from the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements





addressed challenges in promoting eco-friendly mobility amidst car-centric urban planning. She advocated urban policies that prioritize reducing traffic through enhanced public transport and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. Drawing on examples like Gwanghwamun Square and Seoul Station overpass (Seoullo 7017), She highlighted a shift towards pedestrian-centered urban design. She suggested practical solutions such as pedestrian-friendly streets and integrating bicycles and scooters to enhance connectivity to public transport. She also emphasized the need for urban planning insights, securing public spaces, and leveraging research to implement effective green transportation strategies.

In Session 7, titled “Funding and Financing Domestic and International Opportunities for Implementing Green and Energy-Efficient Public Mobility,” Hun-Ki Lee from the Korea Transport Institute focused on funding strategies for eco-friendly public transportation in Asia-Pacific. He emphasized government-led financing using taxes and general revenue, highlighting South Korea’s approach. He introduced Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) like Build-Transfer-Operate (BTO) and Build-Transfer-Lease (BTL) models to complement government funds, citing Taiwan’s Kaohsiung Metro as a successful example. He emphasized the role and availability of Official Development Assistance (ODA), which has been allocated for public and digital infrastructure, in supporting transport infrastructure in developing nations. He called for establishing a dedicated think tank for overseeing comprehensive planning and financial management in transport infrastructure development to ensure sustainability and effective implementation.

In Session 8, titled “Energy and Technology Para-

digm Shifting Trends and Options for Enabling Integrated Green and Energy-Efficient Public Mobility,” Changsun Jang from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) outlined strategies to achieve global carbon neutrality in transportation by 2050. He emphasized regulatory policies, vehicle electrification, and the adoption of eco-friendly fuels as essential. He highlighted the growing markets for battery electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cells, and other sustainable alternatives critical to the sector’s green transformation. He predicted a shift towards electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles across vehicle types. He also advocated for a comprehensive approach in the Asia-Pacific region, including national policy frameworks, capacity building, pilot projects, partnerships, and scaling-up efforts. He underscored GGGI’s role in supporting developing countries with policy guidance, projects, and resource mobilization toward carbon neutrality.

In Session 9, titled “Public Mobility Case of Seoul Metropolitan City Government,” Su Jin Kim from the Seoul International Development Cooperation Agency discussed Seoul’s efforts to improve public transportation and combat climate change. Measures include a private-public mix bus management system, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), a hub-and-spoke bus network, smart card fare integration, transfer discounts, climate companion cards, bus information systems, express bus services, electric bus adoption, and leveraging big data for efficient routing. He stressed stakeholder considerations and ensured a fair transition during transportation system transformations. He highlighted the need for substantial government funding to expand eco-friendly public transport, citing related benefits including economic advantages, reduced carbon emis-





## Environmental Sustainability

### Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems for All through Effective Gender-Responsive Planning, Digital Government Transformation and Financing

#### Background

“Today, one-third of the world’s people, mainly in least developed countries and small island developing states, are still not covered by early warning systems... This is unacceptable, particularly with climate impacts sure to get even worse. Early warnings and action save lives. To that end, today I announce the United Nations will spearhead new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years.”

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres on World Meteorological Day 23 March 2022

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places great importance on disaster risk reduction (DRR) as a cross-cutting element in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

proposes concrete commitments to reduce risk, and vulnerability, build capacity, and promote resilience to disasters. Reducing disaster risk and building resilience are interrelated thrusts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Sendai Framework calls on governments to move towards risk-informed governance arrangements that include broader hazard and risk scope and incorporate the concept of systemic risk. Priorities of the Sendai Framework expressly call for strengthening disaster risk reduction planning, governance, and financing to reduce existing and prevent new disaster risks. The Sendai Framework also calls for people-centered, multi-hazard, multi-sectoral early warning systems (MHEWS) for improved disaster preparedness for effective response and recovery. In particular, Target G of the Sendai

sions, and anticipated congestion alleviation in Seoul.

In Session 10, titled “Public Mobility and Walking – Friendly City Case of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province,” Hae Moon Ra from the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province conveyed the urban crisis to the climate crisis and emphasized the need for carbon-neutral cities. He also highlighted the necessity for green changes and alternatives in transportation, which is central to urban infrastructure by introducing one of the major green initiatives, Jeju’s innovative 15-Minute City initiative, which focuses on transforming urban transportation and enhancing accessibility through public transport and pedestrian-friendly planning. The project aims to create “happy living zones” where essential services are within a 15-minute reach, promoting walking, cycling, personal mobility devices, and public transport for intra-zone and inter-zone mobility. Currently pilot-

ed in four zones—two urban and two rural—the plan envisions expanding to 30 zones across Jeju by 2035. Citizen engagement is crucial, ensuring values of human-centricity, spatial inclusivity, carbon neutrality, and community activation are upheld throughout the initiative.

Besides, participants gained knowledge from expert lectures and their involvement in the 11th International e-Mobility Expo to seek solutions for addressing issues on green mobilities in their own countries or cities, under the guidance of experts. Also, participants, organized into 8 teams, planned projects based on the ‘Theory of Change’ and ‘Logical Framework’ for the introduction, expansion, and transition (or transformation) of eco-friendly, low-carbon public transportation. After developing action plans, they presented their proposals.



Framework advocates for a substantial increase in the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by the year 2030.

Nine years to the day after the adoption of the global blueprint for disaster risk reduction by the United Nations Member States, the Gender Action Plan to Support Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was launched on 18 March 2024. It aims to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework by substantially increasing resource allocations, activities, and impacts of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and substantially decreasing gender-related disaster risk by 2030. It identifies nine key objectives related to the four priorities of the Sendai Framework and recommends 33 actions that promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in disaster risk reduction.

The 2023 Report of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review, adopted by the UN General Assembly in May 2023, highlighted the current gaps in coverage and accessibility to multi-hazard warning systems globally. The Political Declaration recognized the need to develop further, invest in, and strengthen people-centered multi-hazard early warning systems in all countries, including through enhanced quality of and access to multi-hazard risk data. In 2022, the UN Secretary-General launched the Early Warnings for All initiative to ensure universal coverage of early warning systems by 2027.

In a rapidly evolving world facing multiple, unprecedented crises of post-pandemic economic downturn, climate change, and wars, the world is also undergoing technological progress that it has not experienced before. With these backdrops, the importance of digital government transformation and its adaptation to inform, engage, and protect communities through Early Warning Systems (EWS), is more crucial than ever. The transformation from the traditional disaster risk management approaches with a focus on relief and rehabilitation towards inclusive, participatory, prevention-oriented planning and innovative financing mechanisms aimed at building resilient communities against disasters has been steadily progressing over the past decade. Multi-hazard early warning systems and anticipatory action are central to saving lives and preventing injuries and losses. Multiple studies have shown that women and girls are hit hardest during disasters. EWS systems that overlook gender considerations persist in weakening disaster mitigation and response efforts, compromising sustainability, accessibility, timeliness, reliability, and effectiveness. This contributes to greater loss of lives, livelihoods, heightened health risks, and sanitation vulnerabilities among women during disasters, consequently prolonging and intensifying the recovery process. The gender-mainstreamed EWS remains at the margins of the major disaster relief frameworks.

The UN Global Early Warnings for All Initiative's Executive Action Plan 2023-2027 aims to establish life-saving early warning systems for all by 2027, protecting everyone from hazardous weather, water, or climate events. This cost-effective tool saves lives and reduces economic losses, providing a significant return on investment. Despite progress, gaps persist, particularly

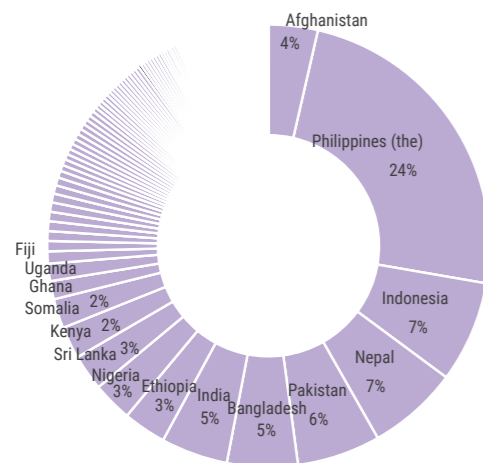
in small island developing states (SIDS) and least-developed countries (LDCs) and their vulnerable groups. Aligned with the UN Secretary-General's Acceleration Agenda, the initiative advances climate justice and supports the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction priorities, notably Target G on accessible early warning systems. It also contributes to the 2030 Agenda's goals on poverty, hunger, health, water, clean energy, climate action, and sustainable cities. Ensuring early warning systems work for everyone is essential. The blend of digital innovation and risk management provides an unprecedented opportunity to transform how governments predict, mitigate, and respond to emerging and ongoing risks. Integrating gender perspectives into policies and utilizing digital solutions also for the customization of early warning systems to meet the particular needs and vulnerabilities of various demographic groups, such as women, children, and persons with disabilities (PWDs), is essential for comprehensive DRR efforts.

In alignment with the global call to strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR) and early warning systems (EWS), UNITAR CIFAL Jeju, in collaboration with UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG, UNDRR ONEA & GETI, and UN Women, organized an online capacity-building Workshop on "Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems for All through Effective Gender-Responsive Planning, Digital Government Transformation, and Financing," on July 23-25, 2024. This intensive three-day Workshop facilitated knowledge sharing and skill development by introducing key concepts, tools, approaches, and limitations to designing and implementing multi-hazard early warning systems at the national, local, and regional levels. Moreover, participants gained specific guidance

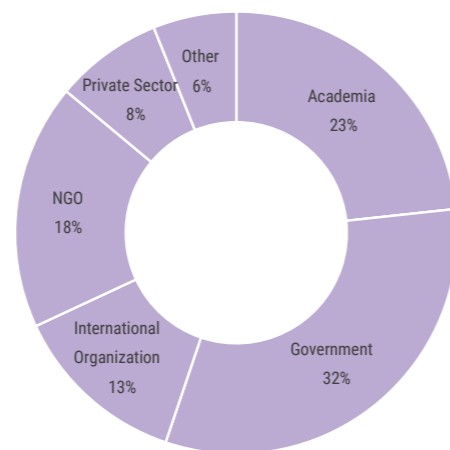
on leveraging innovative technologies for DRR, fostering resilience through risk-informed governance, and advancing digital government transformation. In addition, the program addressed financial readiness, including strategies to harness global financing mechanisms to overcome challenges in implementing EWS. Recognizing the critical importance of integrating a gender perspective into EWS to enhance its sustainability and effectiveness, UN Women joined as an esteemed partner this year. Their involvement ensured the mainstreaming of gender responsiveness throughout the program, reflecting a holistic and inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction.



## Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization

## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online capacity-building Workshop on “Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems for All through Effective Gender-Responsive Planning, Digital Government Transformation and Financing,” on July 23-25, 2024. This Workshop was organized in collaboration with UN partners, such as UNPOG, UNDRR ONEA & GETI, and UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality. The Workshop, registered by approximately 3,000 participants from 149 Asia-Pacific developing countries, was

aimed at enhancing disaster response capacity with a special focus on strengthening protection through Early Warning Systems (EWS).

Throughout the Workshop, participants engaged in a series of lectures and case study presentations by experts, including UNDRR-led assessment and tools for enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) at the local or national levels, UNPOG-led EWS through innovative digital government and technological means, UNI-

TAR CIFAL Jeju led financing frameworks for DRR and EWS, and UN Women-led gender-responsive planning and tools for DRR and EWS. Participants were also actively engaged in interactive quizzes and exercises to apply what they had learned in future actions.

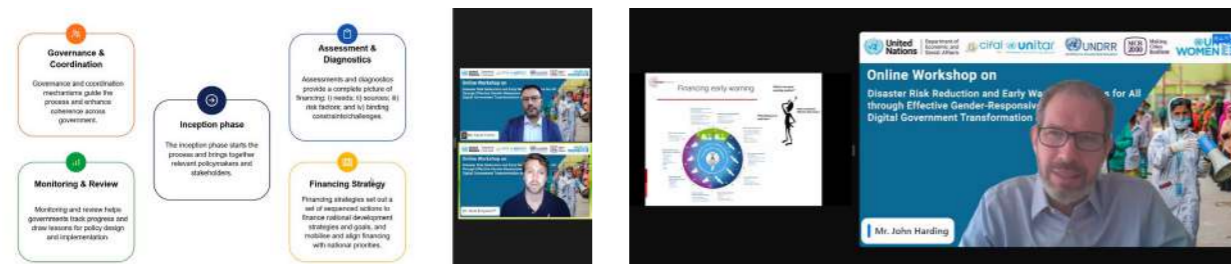
In Session 1, titled “Setting the Scene: Disaster Risk Reduction and Gender-responsive Early Warning and Early Action,” Daria Mokhnacheva and Sanjaya Bhatia from UNDRR ONEA & GETI emphasized the need for a people-centered, multi-hazard, and multi-sectoral early warning system (MHEWS) to ensure disaster preparedness, effective response, and recovery, as outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly on May 15, 2015 (Target G). They introduced UNDRR’s “EW4All Checklist” and “Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities,” developed as part of the “Early Warnings for All” (EW4All) initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2022. These tools aim to assist stakeholders in improving awareness, monitoring, communication, preparedness, and governance at the local level to strengthen regional disaster management based on assessments of MHEWS implementation.

In Session 2, titled “Digital Government Transformation and AI for Early Warning Systems: Accelerating Resilience and Gender-Responsive Sustainable Development,” Samuel Danaa from the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) of the Republic of Korea urged governments worldwide to implement governance systems that consider risk factors. He emphasized that the adoption of advanced technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, and robotics, holds significant potential for enhancing resilience and pro-

moting sustainable development, provided their negative potential impacts can be controlled. Following this, a session on relevant case studies featured presentations from Jaewoong Cho from the National Disaster Management Research Institute, Republic of Korea, Tomonori Hiroike from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Japan, and Rocela Angelica B. Gorospe from the Department of Science and Technology in the Philippines. They shared innovative examples related to disaster risk reduction and early warning systems using advanced technologies in their respective countries and cities. A common message conveyed was that utilizing AI and other innovative technologies to strengthen disaster prevention is crucial for protecting economic benefits and, most importantly, saving lives. They particularly emphasized the importance of technologies related to data collection, monitoring, analysis, and prediction through sensors.

In Session 3, titled “Financing Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems,” Yanis Kühn von Burgsdorff from UN DESA Financing for Sustainable Development Office and Sayel Cortes from UNDRR highlighted that the role of national financing in disaster risk reduction (DRR) is critical. They emphasized the need to establish Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)—a country-owned and country-led approach designed to align all financing with sustainable development objectives. This framework aims to ensure effective support for disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities while successfully integrating financing policy areas, stakeholder perspectives, DRR considerations, and national-level frameworks and plans. John Harding from the World Meteorological Organization discussed financing strategies for achieving the “Early Warning Systems for All” target. He





noted that funding for early warning systems typically comes from public funds, official development assistance, global funds, and private sector investments. Harding emphasized analyzing costs across the system’s lifecycle and ensuring sustained financial support for its effective implementation.

Throughout Sessions 1 to 3, UN Women delivered tailored presentations each day to mainstream a gender perspective in DRR activities and the implementation of EWS. Vu Phuong Ly and Eunkoo Lee from the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality highlighted the importance of integrating gender perspectives into the activities to address the disproportionate vulnerability of women during disasters and the acceleration of existing gender inequalities and further emphasized the need to incorporate gender-aware, gender-sensitive, and gender-transformative approaches in designing and implementing EWS, aligning with global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework and the Gender Equality Action Plan. Also, they discussed the critical role of gender-disaggregated data in creating evidence-based policies for gender equality, stressing the need to leverage non-traditional data sources like big data and geospatial data, alongside innovative methods such as machine learning. As a specific form of gender-disaggregated data, Sama Shrestha from the UN Women Nepal Country Office further underscored the importance of collecting Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) to develop effective DRR policies and programs that consider diverse population groups. In terms of financing, the importance of gender-responsive funding strategies for DRR initiatives were emphasized, urging stakeholders to enhance financial support and ensure greater accessibility for gender-sensitive

multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster preparedness efforts. In addition, Makereta Konrote from UN Women Fiji introduced UN Women’s “Women’s Resilience to Disasters” (WRD) program, aimed at enhancing women’s safety and livelihoods to contribute to sustainable and resilient Pacific communities. The program, implemented from 2022 to 2025 in Pacific Island nations, has made significant achievements, supporting over 810 million people through gender-responsive initiatives.



## Peace and Cross-Cutting

### Enabling Peace through the Promotion of Decent Work and Employment for All

#### Background

Reflecting on the events of 2023, the international community witnessed ongoing struggles among vulnerable populations amidst conflicts such as wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel. Concurrently, there were continuous heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, and floods. Many countries also grappled with societal discontent, marked by polarization, violent protests, riots, and strikes. The Global Risks Report 2024 by the World Economic Forum underscores an increasingly precarious landscape of economic, geopolitical, and societal vulnerabilities. According to the Global Risks Perception Survey 2023-2024 featured in the report, respondents anticipate a negative outlook over the next decade, with 63% foreseeing turbulent conditions and less than 10% expecting stability.

Within the complex array of global risks identified so far, a notable pattern emerges: the vicious cycle of crisis, conflict, climate change, unemploy-

ment, and gaps in decent work. This interconnectedness reveals that violent conflict, climate-related risks, and disasters are intertwined with unemployment and lack of decent work opportunities. As highlighted by the ILO, these risks can significantly impede and reverse sustainable economic progress, affecting the availability and quality of employment opportunities, which in turn leads to a rise in informal, non-contractual, and unregistered employment particularly among youth and women. This can inadvertently sustain the informal economy which is linked to significant deficiencies in decent work opportunities. Moreover, unemployment and decent work deficits can themselves act as primary causes for conflict. For instance, violations of fundamental labor rights, unequal economic opportunities, or the absence of social dialogue can fuel grievances and precipitate conflict.

Despite efforts and progress towards leaving no one behind, the global community grapples with significant challenges: nearly 2 billion people still reside in fragile and conflict-affected environments while sustainable livelihoods continue to be disrupted and harmed by various crises. This exacerbates vulnerability, inequality, and social exclusion in these areas. The ILO stressed in its Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work adopted in 2019 that decent work is essential for sustainable development, addressing income inequality, and eradicating poverty, especially in areas affected by conflict, disaster, and other humanitarian crises.

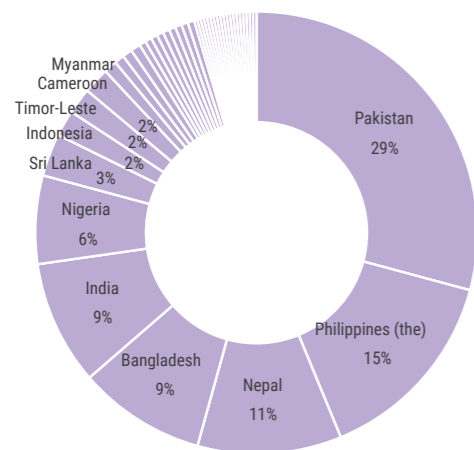
In low- and middle-income countries, a significant portion of individuals and small enterprises operate beyond the reach of government oversight, leaving them with scant assistance during emergencies such as pandemics, climate-related disasters, and armed conflicts. This lack of support makes it increasingly challenging to ensure decent work for all, particularly placing those in the informal sector in even more precarious positions and complicating the transition to formality. The informal sector, which accounts for over 70 percent of total employment and roughly one-third of output in these less developed countries, heavily relies on family members and moneylenders for working capital, leaving them susceptible to sudden income disruptions. This inevitably exposes informal workers, who are predominantly women and often young and low-skilled, to heightened vulnerabilities. Specific attention is also necessary for populations affected by conflict, climate change, and disasters, commonly referred to as 'forcibly displaced persons,' as humanitarian crises have become more protracted. Policymakers have long been concerned about these at-risk demographics since they are already vulnerable even under normal circumstances.

The varied roles, responsibilities, needs, and activities of these vulnerable groups lead to different experiences of crisis impacts, necessitating approaches tailored to specific contexts to ensure fair employment and stable work opportunities. It is also important to empower women for their sustainable economic activities, allow youth to be part of governance systems to make their voices heard, and develop market-based livelihood strategies for peace and prosperity among both displaced persons and local host communities.

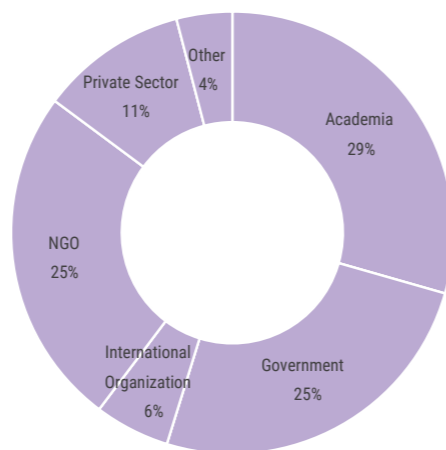
Against this backdrop, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online capacity-building Workshop aimed at rethinking the concept of decent work and employment in sustaining peace. The Workshop explored proactive and strategic approaches to employment planning for peace and resilience. It began by examining the dynamics of peace and conflict and their interaction with issues of decent work. The Workshop delved into context-specific theories of change regarding how employment and decent work can contribute to peacebuilding. It discussed aspects such as fostering an enabling inclusive business environment, empowering women-led small and medium-sized enterprises, and facilitating the transition from the informal to the formal economy. Additionally, the Workshop featured country experiences in job creation for peace and resilience. The Workshop also aimed to enable participants to deepen their understanding of how decent work and employment can sustain peace. Furthermore, it aimed to equip them to contribute to policymaking by drawing insights from local cases specific to their contexts regarding job creation for peace and resilience.



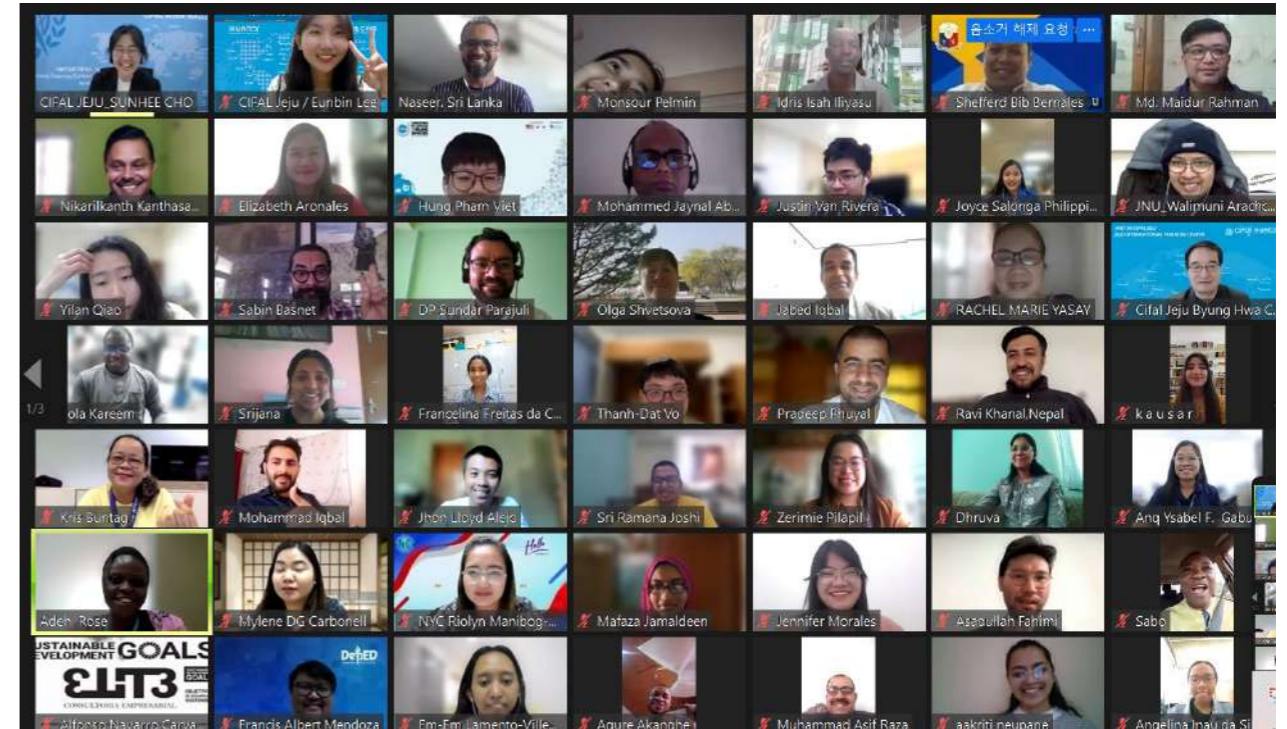
## Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization



## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online capacity-building Workshop on “Enabling Peace through the Promotion of Decent Work and Employment for All,” on April 11-12, 2024. The Workshop, attended by 418 participants from 42 countries, aimed to enhance understanding of the contribution of decent work and employment to peace-building and conflict resolution. In particular, participants explored how employment and decent work as well as the transition from informal to formal economy could sustain peace with the

examples of forcibly displaced persons and refugees who can contribute to economic development both as workers and consumers. In addition, the Workshop shared a successful program run by the Department of Business Administration of one University which has been enabling refugees to find decent job opportunities through their access to higher education.

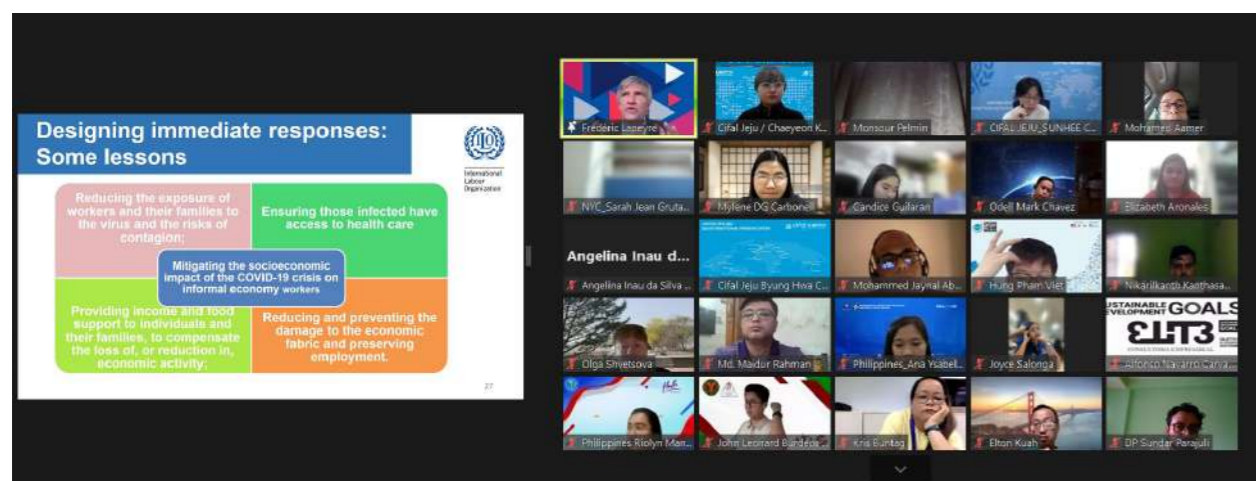
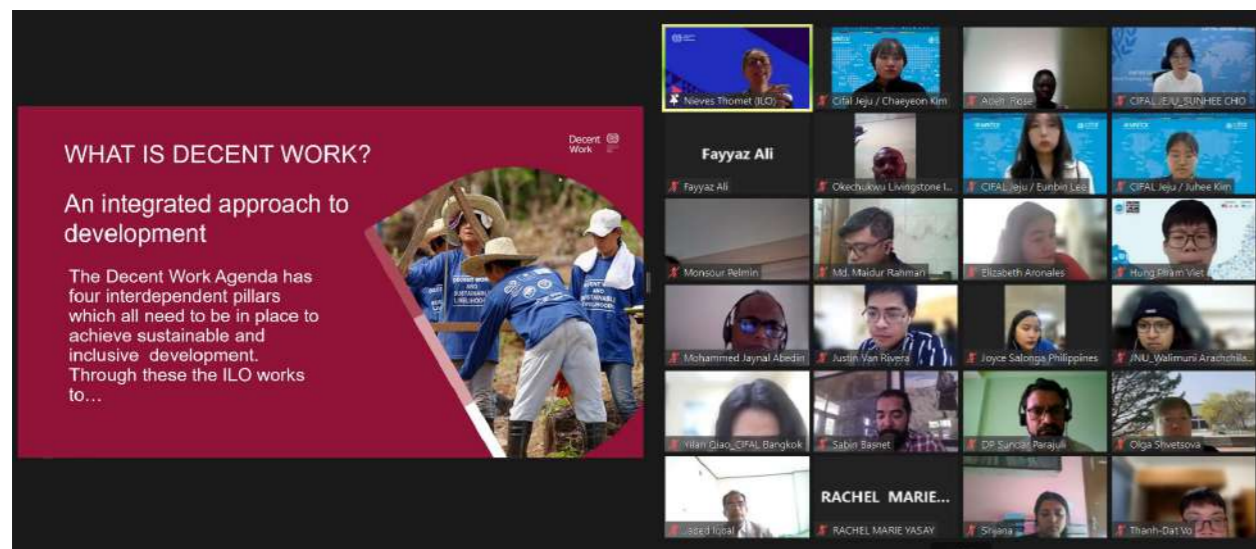
In Sessions 1, 2, and 3, Nieves Thomet and Frédéric Lapeyre from the International Labor

Organization (ILO) explored the connection between the ILO’s job policies and the establishment of social justice, peace, and development. In particular, they emphasized the importance of quality jobs for sustainable and inclusive development, suggesting the ideas of (1) designing, setting, and monitoring labor standards that consider workers’ rights and economic growth, (2) enhancing job and income opportunities through job creation, (3) ensuring universal access to social protection services, and (4) promoting tripartism and social dialogue to represent everyone’s needs. Also, they emphasized, in the context of maintaining peace and resilience, the importance of (1) maintaining employment and quality jobs, (2) designing and implementing policies to address key conflict factors, (3) promoting high-quality green jobs and generating livelihood opportunities for youth and women within the framework of humanitarian response, and (4) collecting data in the process of building peace through the implementation of quality job pro-

grams, employment, and livelihood support.

In Session 4, titled “Decent Work Strategies for Peace and Resilience: Inclusive Business Environment for Forcibly Displaced Persons,” Douglas John DiSalvo from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) explained the importance of economic inclusion for refugees not only for their self-reliance through livelihood activities but also for enabling them to contribute to economic development as consumers, workers, and entrepreneurs. In recent years, support for refugee’s economic activities has been increasing despite challenges such as limited access to financial and public services, labor and human rights exploitation, language barriers, and xenophobia. In this context, Mr. DiSalvo introduced the UNHCR’s various initiatives, including providing quality job opportunities through startups and government subsidies, enabling mobility for refugee workers, and systematically providing information to support refugees’ economic participation.





In Session 5, titled “Decent Work Strategies for Peace and Resilience: Promoting Women-led Business Environment,” Channe Lindstrom Ogu-zhan from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) introduced efforts to activate women’s entrepreneurship programs in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on creating supportive policy and governance environments, strengthening ICT and business capabilities, and improving access to financial services.

In Session 6, titled “Pathways to Peace: Fostering Stability through Refugee Empowerment via Edu-

cation, Training, and Sustainable Employment,” Priya Sharma from Monash University Malaysia shared the best practices of programs such as ‘Social Protection Fund Program for Refugees (SPF Program)’, ‘Higher Education Program for Refugees (CERTe)’, and the ‘Online Education Program for Employment and Enterprise Activation (3Ev Program)’, which provide higher education to young refugees to achieve stable employment and income generation in the host country.

## Peace and Cross-Cutting

### Navigating Participatory Governance for Effective Public Policy Implementation

#### Background

We are currently facing a growing array of complex challenges in public policymaking to meet the diverse interests and needs of citizens. Among models that seek to deepen citizen participation in the public policymaking process, participatory governance is referred to as a democratic mechanism for collecting the inputs of diverse stakeholders when crafting public policies to address various pressing issues to the satisfaction of involved parties. The top-down decision-making process may be efficient at the early stage of the process but is likely to fail to adequately reflect various demands and opinions of society. This, in turn, may give rise to conflicts among stakeholders, thereby undermining effective policy implementation.

In order to realize public policies centered around the needs of citizens and minimize grievances

that may arise during policy implementation, the participatory process needs to be guaranteed by providing meaningful opportunities for public service users to play a part in the policy design process. It is important to establish mechanisms for their voices to be heard. In other words, enabling an environment for participatory governance across various sectors is crucial for meeting the growing expectations of diverse stakeholders to participate in the policy design and decision-making process. Various stakeholders, public or private, could offer innovative solutions to the problems societies are faced with. In particular, senior citizens, women, and youth are the important elements and engines of society in ensuring a sustainable and resilient community. Therefore, their views need to be duly addressed in the policymaking stage.



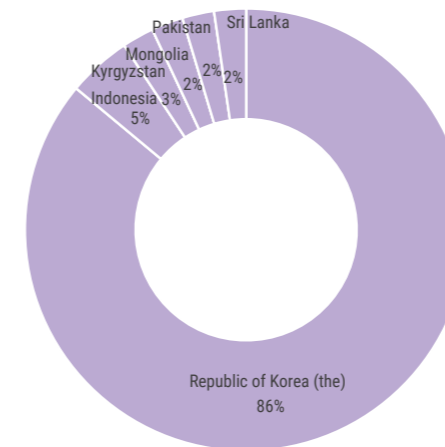


SDG 16, one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, promotes inclusive and participatory decision-making in public institutions through enhanced transparency of the processes. In this regard, participatory governance is a subject of ongoing discussion, and various forms of participatory governance are being explored: participatory budgeting, community and social enterprise-led governance, citizen assemblies, and digital platform-based participatory governance. To make all these participatory models work, it is worthwhile to consider some aspects of the collaborative process for public policymaking such as promoting inclusivity and diversity, identifying applicable service fields along with policy impacts and targets, resource sharing, and ensuring sustainability.

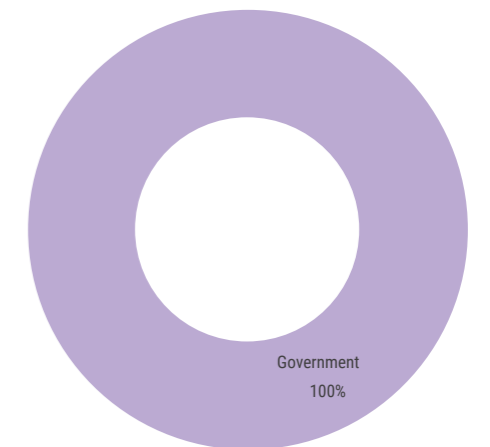
Against this backdrop, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop to share strategies and methodologies for enhancing participatory governance. The Workshop focused on identifying the needs of stakeholders,

particularly demand-side stakeholders who are the recipients of public policies. It explored approaches and case studies of participatory governance implementation in various contexts. The Workshop targeted civil servants from the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, as well as overseas civil servants from developing countries who are involved in public policymaking and governance processes. It aimed to provide participants with practical knowledge and best practices on participatory governance. Additionally, there was a session on tools for facilitating participatory governance using digital platforms, stakeholder mapping, and community mapping. They had the opportunity to learn about the perspectives of key community members, including senior citizens, women, and youth. Participants also engaged in group work on either stakeholder mapping or community mapping to share the results of their work.

## Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization

## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop on “Navigating Participatory Governance for Effective Public Policy Implementation,” on August 21-23, 2024, in Jeju Island. The Workshop brought together 43 civil servants both from the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and developing countries, aiming to provide practical knowledge and best practices in public policymaking through participatory governance. Participatory governance is a democratic mechanism that involves gathering input from diverse

stakeholders when crafting public policies to address pressing issues, ensuring that the needs of all parties are considered.

In Session 1, titled “Understanding and Designing Participatory Governance,” examined global and local governance challenges arising from neoliberal trends, digital transformation, algocracy, and specific issues in Korea, such as the platform economy, social inclusion, and the climate crisis. It emphasized the importance of citizen partici-





pation in governance through transparency, dialogue, and collaboration, and introduced participatory models like public hearings and citizen juries to enhance accountability and decision-making processes.

In Session 2, titled “Designing Participatory Processes from Diverse Perspectives,” highlighted tailored approaches to participatory governance, including addressing older adults’ needs, enhancing women’s leadership and representation, and overcoming barriers to youth engagement in policymaking. It underscored co-creation models, gender-responsive budgeting, and fostering global networks to promote inclusive and sustainable governance.

Session 3 focused on approaches to enhancing participatory governance, including community mapping and stakeholder mapping, which are tools for engaging communities in problem-solving and policymaking. Participants explored how to apply these methods to foster collaboration in policymaking and enhance the effectiveness of its implementation. The session also examined the transformative potential of digital platforms in public governance, highlighting innovative strategies for building a participatory digital future.

## Culture

### Vitalization of Local Communities through Community-Driven Cultural Tourism Initiatives

#### Background

“Culture is key to what makes cities attractive, creative, and sustainable. History shows that culture is at the heart of urban development, evidenced by cultural landmarks, heritage, and traditions. Without culture, cities as vibrant life spaces do not exist; they are merely concrete and steel constructions, prone to social degradation and fracture. It is culture that makes the difference.” Culture which widely refers to values, beliefs, knowledge, and wisdom has become recognized as a powerful source and the fourth pillar of sustainable development. Considerations for culture in sustainable development, in particular at a local level, are indispensable for respecting and satisfying people before and after policy development and implementation processes.

Among the crucial roles that culture plays in sustainable development, it can complementarily

interact with tourism as tourist destinations invariably showcase their rich and diverse heritage, art, religion, and other aspects reflecting their distinctive essence. Culture-based tourism not only holds significant potential to draw visitors intrigued by the culturally distinctive features of each local community but also fosters economic development by reducing barriers for local communities. Utilizing the unique culture of a community, which is a great resource of tourism, can be a cost-effective measure of economic development with its less invested infrastructure compared to other industries.

Despite the economic benefits brought by leveraging culture and its related tourism, however, many countries have been experiencing the negative consequences of reckless development, including the degradation of cultural and natural



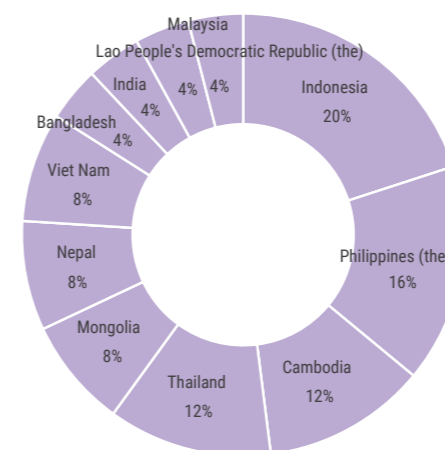
heritage, loss of cultural features, and unequal distributions of economic gains. The COVID-19 pandemic further aggravated the existing challenges faced especially by tourism-dependent countries or communities, with increased reports of illegal activities and vandalism taking place at World Heritage properties due to the reduction of monitoring and decrease in managed visitation as well as the raised between- and within-country inequality due to the plummeting tourism revenues. This has led to the shift in the paradigm of tourism away from economic profit priority towards resiliency, sustainability, and interconnectedness among diverse stakeholders in the sector.

Well-designed plans for sustainable tourism based on local culture are crucial for ensuring long-term economic, environmental, and social benefits. In the face of considerable changes brought about by global urbanization, local communities should preserve their distinctiveness, making culture the focal point of sustainable development efforts for balanced, long-term progress. Inconsiderate and unsustainable policy planning pushing local residents out of the driver's seat for community vitalization will inevitably lead to the failure of the policy implementation. To prevent the negative impacts of inadequate community vitalization policies, countries, and local governments need to understand how to effectively incorporate residents' needs and aspirations into their policies while facilitating an enabling environment for the local stakeholders to be fully engaged in community vitalization through the preservation and utilization of their culture.

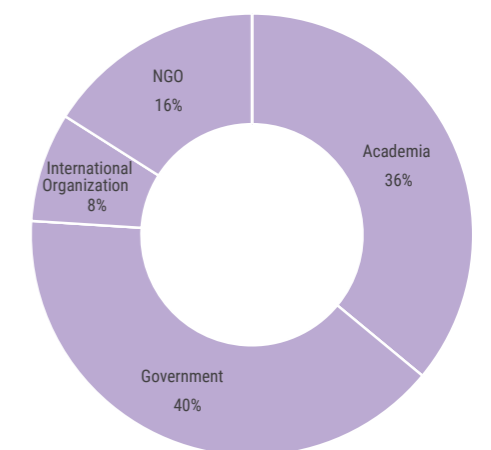
Against this backdrop, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop

aimed at delivering technical knowledge on utilizing cultural resources for local community vitalization and generating effective and actionable solutions. The Workshop explored the framework and institutional mechanisms necessary for successful implementation and the strategies for collaboration with local stakeholders and residents to ensure their active participation and engagement. The Workshop invited experts and practitioners from Korea and around the world to disseminate knowledge and experience relevant to the topic of each Technical Deep Dive. Participants were encouraged to actively engage in the discussion to figure out the specific challenges they are currently facing and develop solutions to tackle those issues. There was a site-visit session led by local experts that allowed the participants to learn from the best practices of Jeju. Since this program focused on problem-solving, there was a session for the establishment of the implementation-ready action plans on the last day of the Workshop.

## Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization

## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline capacity-building Workshop on "Vitalization of Local Communities through Community-driven Tourism Initiatives," on July 30-August 2, 2024, in Jeju Island, which was sponsored by Jeju Special Self-Governing Province. The Workshop was attended by 25 participants spanning from 11 Asia-Pacific developing countries, all of whom are professionals in the tourism sector, gathered to gain valuable insights into community-participatory cultural tourism policies and practices.

Participants learned about how the COVID-19 pandemic and global digitalization trends have transformed the entire tourism paradigm and about three key aspects of strategies to revitalize local communities through cultural factors in the context of the post-pandemic tourism landscape. For example, they gained insights into the importance of establishing relevant legal and institutional frameworks along with monitoring and evaluation systems for cultural tourism promotion and understood, in detail, how to enact laws,





build administrative structures, and assessment mechanisms that ensure the effective implementation of tourism policy. In addition, they explored the positive role participatory governance can play with the enhancement of local identity and ensuring tourism revenue benefits to residents, for the purpose of promoting inclusive and sustainable tourism in the local community. Finally, they delved into how technical elements such as ICT means, and local branding strategies could contribute to enriching local cultural tourism.

As part of the Workshop, participants also had the opportunity to visit some tourist attractions in Jeju such as Jeju Stone Park and Haeyeo Museum to observe successful examples of community-based tourism in practice. Additionally, they discussed their context-specific challenges and developed actionable plans for the promotion of tourism in their respective home countries.

The Workshop provided a platform to showcase Jeju's achievements as a leading city in cultural policy and practices, while fostering collaboration and solidarity among participants from countries such as Bangladesh, the Philippines, Laos, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Participants gained insights into creating cultural policies for sustainable urban development and were guided to develop actionable plans for implementation in their home countries. These plans, based on the knowledge shared during the workshop, aim to facilitate follow-up actions and foster ongoing networking opportunities among peers, promoting inclusive and sustainable growth.







Expert Lecture Series



## Outcome of COP28 UAE and Its Implications for Asia-Pacific Developing Countries with a Focus on Climate Change Adaptation

### Background

After 13 years of countless encounters with Asian-Pacific government officials and civil society leaders, CIFAL Jeju has learned the importance of becoming and being the front runner in sustainability issues to serve as an effective and helpful platform for our beneficiaries. This is due to our global sustainability challenges risking our future becoming ever intertwined and complex and we need impactful and prompt actions from local actors of societies. In line with this, our center recognizes that we are more mandated to connect the local leaders with global issues and related knowledge effectively and timely.

CIFAL Jeju's 'SDGs Webinar Series' is to serve this mission. With the aim of empowering Asian Pacific government authorities and local actors by synchronizing them with the recent global sustainability issues, the series would like to cor-

dially invite renowned experts from the areas of environmental sustainability, social security, economic development, peace, and gender. We believe these cutting-edge insights will help participants stay competent in the issue they have been keen on and step forward as important focal points to disseminate SDG values in a timely manner.

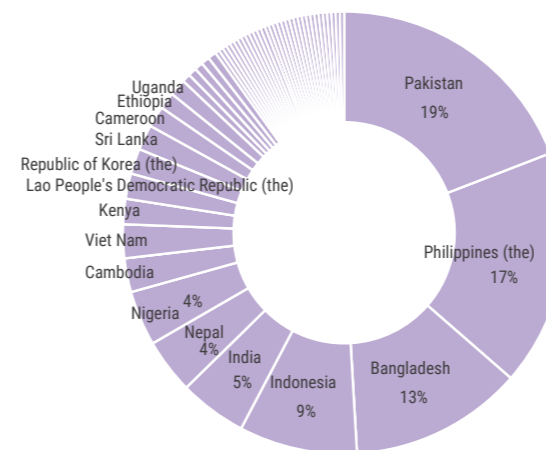
Our first webinar of the series is to take stock of the most recent international collective climatic response and discourse: the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) taking place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates convened from 30 November to 12 December 2023 (or COP 28 UAE). UN Climate Change conferences (or COPs) are organized every year to bring the world together to figure out ways to address the climate crisis.

With the unprecedented attention on COP 28 and its decision, the conference is evaluated to be meaningful in the international climatic discourse in terms of becoming the first COP to have drawn the decision to "transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems" and explicitly mentioned 'fossil fuel reduction' and successfully reaching the agreement to the establishment of the loss and damage fund to support vulnerable countries and communities which have been experiencing the adverse effects of the climate crisis.

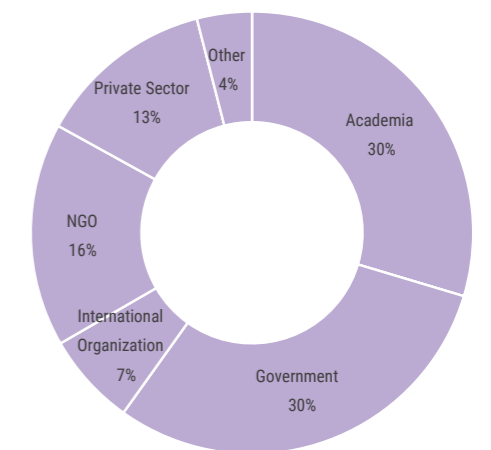
To help our global leaders stand on the frontline for further response and collective actions to cli-

matic risks in earnest, the Webinar shared the outcome of COP 28 UAE and implications for Asia-Pacific developing countries with a focus on climate change adaptation. For this, the Center cordially invited Juyeon Kang from the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change of Korea Environment Institute who is a renowned expert with 20 years of climate change professional experience, working as a vital member of the Korean delegation to UNFCCC and IPCC. Being a direct witness to COP 28, Kang successfully walked us through the event and its implications on developing and vulnerable countries in our region.

### Overview

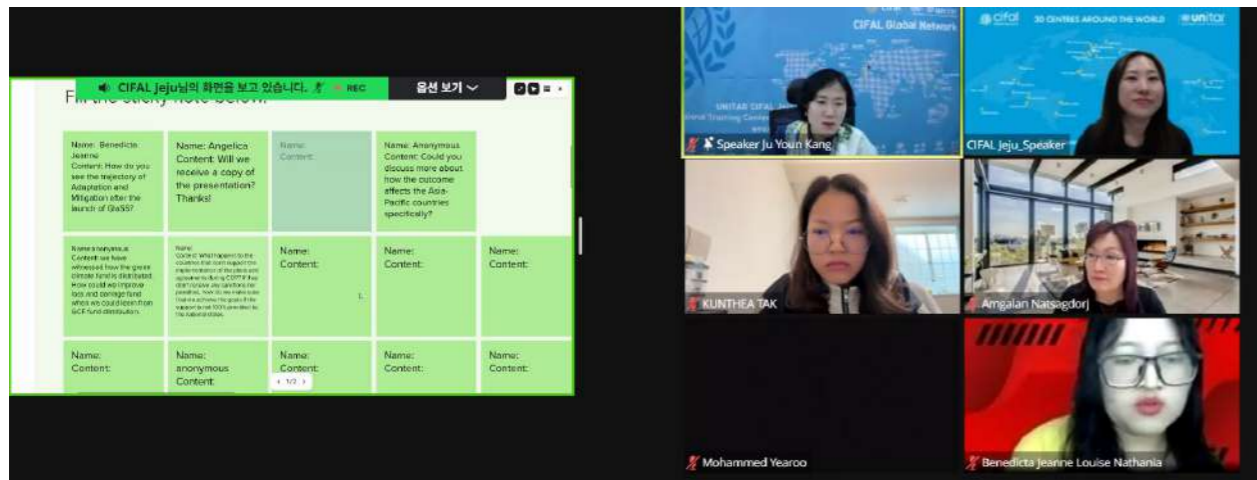
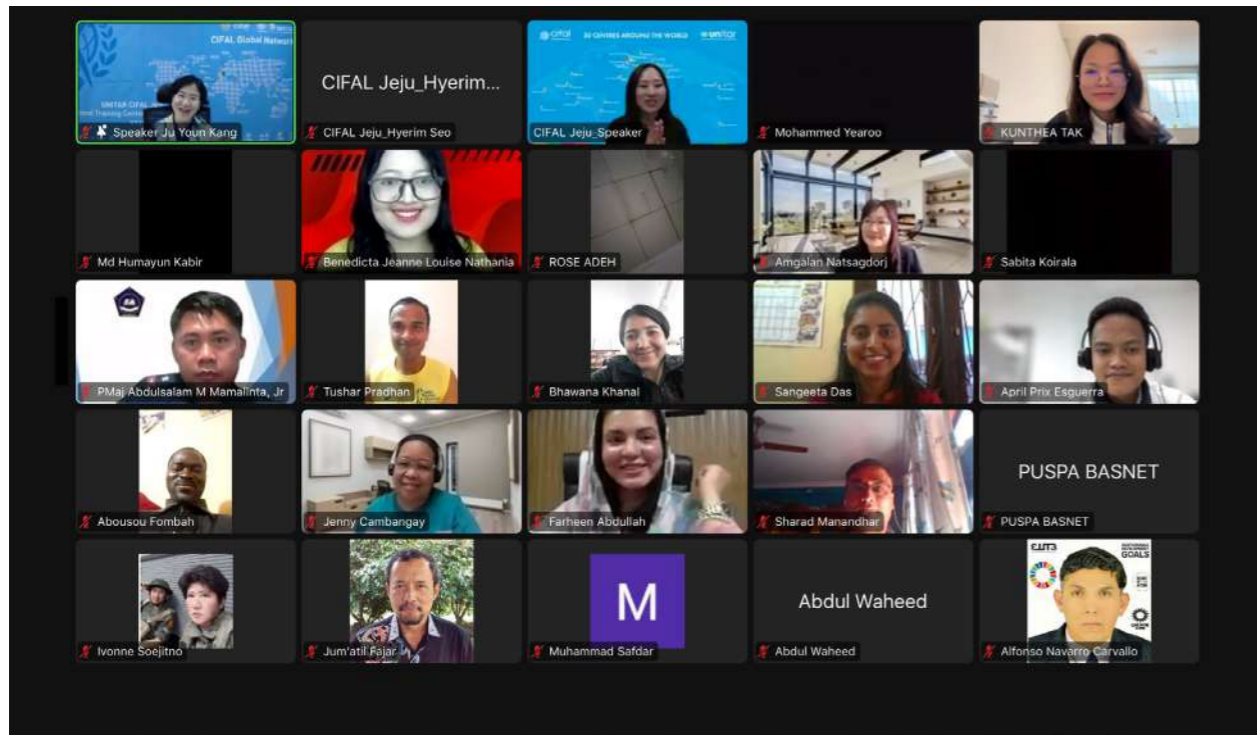


Participants by Country



Participants by Organization





## Lecture Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an online Expert Lecture on "Outcomes of COP 28 UAE and Its Implications for Asia-Pacific Developing Countries with a Focus on Climate Change Adaptation," on February 23, 2024. The lecture, led by Ju Youn Kang from the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change (KACCC), was attended by 324 participants from 53 countries. This lecture focused on the key results of COP 28, which took place in Dubai in December 2023, particularly drawing attention to climate adaptation. The lecture aimed to raise awareness of the significant impacts of the decisions by the global community such as COP28 on everybody's lives, particularly those from developing countries.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is an annual international climate summit addressing climate change. Since the launch of the UNFCCC in 1992, COP has been the highest decision-making body setting international goals and implementing actions to combat climate change. At COP21 in 2015, the Paris Agreement was adopted, aiming to limit the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C, above pre-industrial levels by 2100.

She shared the key agreements of COP28. At COP28, the first Global Stocktake (GST) revealed that more efforts are needed to meet the Paris Agreement goals, as current targets would result in a 2.1°C to 2.8°C temperature rise by 2100. An agreement was made to transition away from fossil fuels over the next decade and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Additionally, agreements were made to enhance climate change adaptation measures and establish the 'Just Transition Work Programme' to address the

impacts of decarbonization on various sectors from 2024 to 2026. A new climate finance goal for post-2025 will be set by the end of 2024, and operational modalities for a fund to address loss and damage due to climate change were adopted, with developed countries committing to financial support.

In particular, regarding climate adaptation, she explained the importance of improving adaptive capacity, building resilience, reducing climate vulnerability, and implementing the plans on the national level. Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement aims to contribute to sustainable development by enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening climate resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change. Following a two-year work program from COP26, COP28 established the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, which includes non-binding adaptation targets across various sectors (such as water, food, health, ecosystems, infrastructure, and livelihoods). Plans to establish performance indicators will facilitate the review of global climate adaptation progress. National adaptation frameworks, which include evaluation, planning, implementation, monitoring, and learning, will be introduced with increasing frequency. The implementation status of adaptation efforts will be reviewed in the Global Stocktake, emphasizing the increased importance of adaptation within the UNFCCC. Consequently, the setting, implementation, and monitoring of National Adaptation Plans will accelerate, with enhanced support for developing countries.



## Design Thinking: Creative Problem-Solving Process for Innovation and Sustainability

### Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with their core value of “leaving no one behind,” are driving discussions on sustainability across diverse domains—economy, society, environment, peace, and culture—at various levels, from global to local. Central to these discussions are methods for achieving sustainability, with concepts like the social economy, carbon neutrality, ESG management, and digital transformation emerging as key strategies. A growing trend is the use of innovative business approaches to address complex social, economic, and environmental challenges. Among these, Design Thinking has gained prominence as a creative, human-centered problem-solving methodology. Popularized by Stanford University’s d.School, Design Thinking focuses on user-centric innovation through observation, empathy, and iterative prototyping. It has been successfully adopted by

companies like Airbnb, Apple, and Samsung to redefine problems and develop impactful solutions.

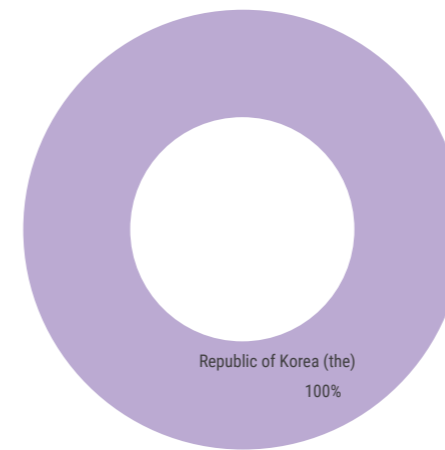
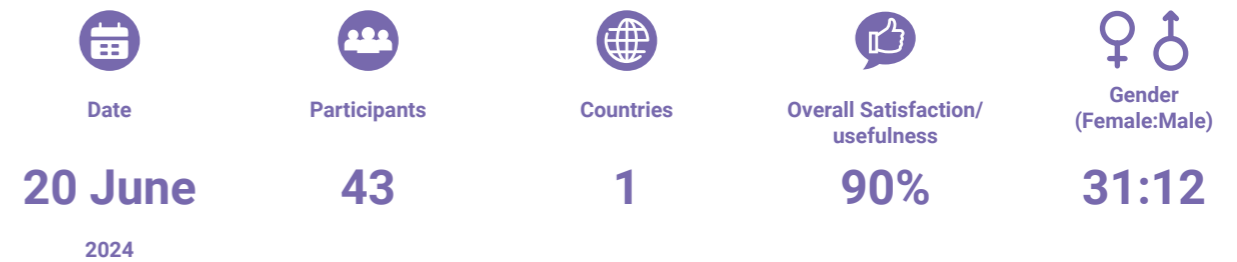
Design Thinking addresses not only surface-level issues but also the deeper, interconnected root causes of complex social challenges. By understanding stakeholder dynamics and identifying effective intervention points, it offers a structured approach to tackling multifaceted problems. In South Korea, Design Thinking’s potential in social innovation has gained recognition. The Seoul Metropolitan Government, for instance, introduced “Social Problem-Solving Design” in 2012, starting with the Living Safety Design initiative, which emphasizes consumer-focused public design to address diverse societal challenges. This methodology’s capacity to drive innovation and sustainability makes it a powerful

tool for enhancing competitiveness and fostering solutions to evolving societal needs.

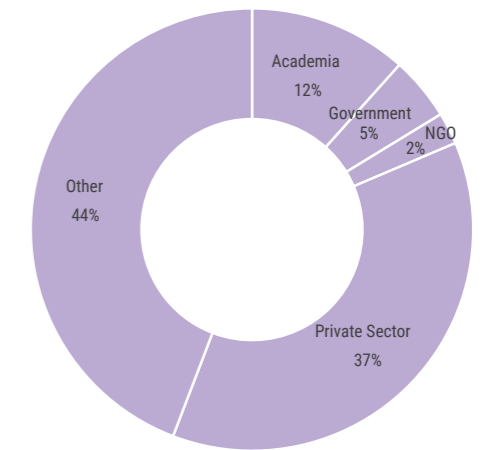
This Expert Lecture was designed to explore the concept, characteristics, and applications of Design Thinking in addressing complex challenges and driving social innovation. It also aimed to identify the evolutionary direction of social prob-

lem-solving design. The lecture provided valuable insights for individuals, businesses, and cities seeking creative solutions to enhance competitiveness in a rapidly changing environment, as well as for those interested in developing public policies that meet the diversified needs of citizens and establish effective design governance.

### Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization



## Lecture Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline Expert Lecture on “Design Thinking: Creative Problem-Solving Process for Innovation and Sustainability,” on June 20, 2024, in Jeju Island. This Expert Lecture invited around 30 participants from Jeju Island who have a keen interest in Design Thinking, and creative social problem-solving processes. The Lecture aimed to explore the concepts, characteristics, and real-life cases of utilizing Design Thinking, and to discuss where social problem-solving design can be headed. The Lecture sessions were informative and inspirational in that participants were able to gain insights into how to develop creative problem-solving solutions, enhance the capacity of individuals, companies, and cities in a rapidly changing environment, explore processes for

solving a wicked problem that meet the diverse needs of citizens, and establish design governance.

The sessions emphasized that when applying Design Thinking to address social problems, it is crucial not only to focus on user-centered solutions but also to look beyond the surface problems to identify underlying issues and their connections. Understanding the interactions with various complex stakeholders and determining the types and scopes of possible interventions are also very important. At the end of the sessions, participants were encouraged to engage in a group activity where they gained hands-on experience with the Design Thinking process: empathize – define – ideate – prototype – test.





Alumni Workshop

JEJU AIRPORT





## Rethinking Roadmap for Tourism and the SDGs

### Background

Ever since the establishment of UNITAR CIFAL Jeju in 2010, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju has hosted around 500 capacity-building Workshops for local actors mainly in the Asia-Pacific region, where more than 21,000 participants have benefited from the programs. As an effort to make sure that CIFAL Jeju alumni have put into practice what they have learned through the provided training programs, CIFAL Jeju has taken the initiative of organizing Alumni Gathering Workshops since 2022 under the thematic areas aligned with the UN SDGs. The previous two Workshops focused on the context-specific progress, challenges, and gaps identified in the process of localizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They served as a useful platform to share expertise, experiences, and best practices about Voluntary National and Local Reviews as well as specific SDG themes

like economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

This year's Alumni Workshop focused specifically on sustainable tourism, in contrast to previous workshops that addressed a broad range of SDG-related topics. Tourism is indeed one of the fastest-growing sectors and a vital source of foreign exchange and employment, particularly in the developing countries. According to UN Tourism (also known as UNWTO until 2023), sustainable tourism is defined as "tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities." Recognizing sustainable tourism as a significant contributor to sustainable development, the UN member states have agreed on "the need to support sustainable

tourism activities and relevant capacity-building that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, flora, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity, and improve the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole."

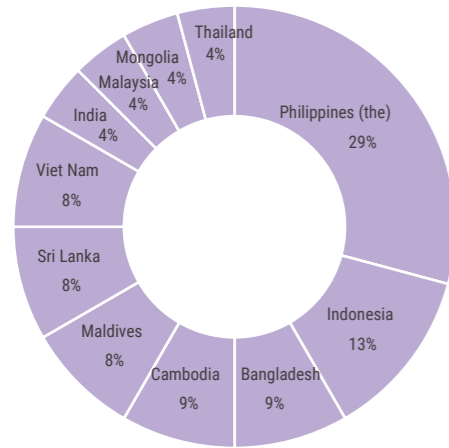
Tourism, a major global economic driver, accounted for 10% of global GDP, 30% of service exports, and 1 in 10 jobs in 2015, highlighting its potential to advance Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). However, challenges like unsustainable practices, resource mismanagement, climate change, and global crises such as COVID-19 have exposed the sector's vulnerabilities, with Asia-Pacific experiencing an 84% drop in arrivals in 2020. This disruption spurred stakeholders to reimagine tourism as a catalyst for greener, more inclusive development. By safeguarding natural and cultural heritage, empowering communities, and fostering sustainable practices, tourism can contribute meaningfully to resilience and sustainability.

In recognition of tourism's transformative power in achieving the SDGs and the need to reshape the sector, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized its third offline Alumni Gathering Workshop with the title of "Rethinking Roadmap for Tourism and the SDGs." The Workshop highlighted tourism's potential contribution to accelerating the SDGs and provided participants with a platform to share their success stories, challenges, gaps, and lessons learned in the sustainable tourism sector. Given the challenges of sustainable tour-

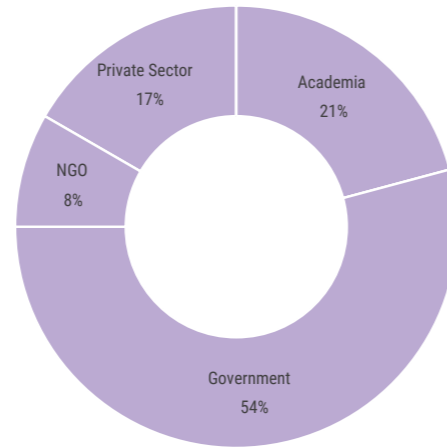
ism in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for responsive plans to address them, the workshop provided insights into key components for reshaping the sector, focusing in particular on: long-term planning and stakeholder collaboration for community-based tourism, decarbonizing tourism, leveraging digital tools for reinvigorating tourism, developing branding strategies for sustainable tourism, and financing strategies for sustainable tourism management. The sessions also highlighted successful cases in the tourism sector globally, including specific examples from Korea (including Jeju Island) and the Philippines, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic. The Workshop was expected to offer participants the opportunity to actively contribute to promoting environmental awareness and protection, respect for biodiversity and cultural diversity, and the improved welfare of local communities through sustainable tourism activities.



## Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization

## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized its third offline Alumni Gathering Workshop on “Rethinking Roadmap for Tourism and the SDGs,” on October 16-18, 2024, in the Philippines in collaboration with UNITAR CIFAL Philippines. The Workshop aimed to share the best practice cases that have applied the knowledge acquired through prior training workshops to real-world tourism challenges, with an emphasis on community-based, environmentally responsible practices, and explore the potential of sustainable tourism in

advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Workshop invited 24 alumni from 11 Asia-Pacific countries – Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines. This year’s Workshop provided a valuable learning space where alumni could share their successes, challenges, and lessons learned in sustainable tourism. The agenda covered various topics central to sustainable tourism and the SDGs.







In Session 1, titled “Stakeholder Collaboration for Sustainable Tourism at a Local Level: Case Study of the EU SWITCH ASIA Tourlink Project,” Peter Richards from TOURLINK Project shared insights on developing tourism projects tailored to local contexts. He covered capacity building for various stakeholders in the tourism sector, addressing carbon emissions and waste issues, revenue generation and distribution, and platform-based consulting processes. Emphasis was placed on the importance of tailored approaches, on-site coaching, and continuous communication for sustainable tourism.

In Session 2, titled “Decarbonizing Tourism in Indonesia Policy Directive: Supply Chains as Enabler Factor,” Angga Wijaya Holman Fasa from the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy/ Tourism and Creative Economy Agency introduced Indonesia’s decarbonizing strategy in the tourism sector. This included efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the tourism sector, invest in nature-based solutions, transition to a circular economy, and activate financial mechanisms for sustainable tourism. He highlighted key plans and implementation examples aligned with climate action, biodiversity preservation, and circular economy principles.

In Session 3, titled “Thailand Community-based Tourism: From Digital Transformation to Grassroots Innovation”, Nutthapon Rathie from UNDP Thailand discussed strategies for revitalizing local tourism through digital innovation, citing Thailand as a case study. Highlights included the use of AI-driven quick surveys to optimize visitor experiences, leveraging Google Maps to improve accessibility for people with disabilities and the elderly, and applying design thinking processes to promote inclusive tourism. Key results and

achievements were also shared.

In Session 4, titled “Branding strategies for promoting sustainable tourism: sustainable tourism policy and best practice cases on Jeju Island,” Hyun Chul Shin from Jeju Tourism Organization shared examples of sustainable tourism initiatives, such as the ‘Kareum Stay’ village tourism brand, the clean Udo Island campaign, and local resident-led workation success stories. The achievements, including Jeju villages being recognized as UNWTO Best Tourism Villages, demonstrated the effectiveness of Jeju’s policy development, public-private partnerships, and community-driven service models.

In Session 5, titled “Developing financial plans for managing sustainable tourism,” Giovanni Francis A. Legaspi from the Asian Institute of Tourism, focused on developing community-led tourism projects that provide value to both visitors and local communities. Discussions included strategies and tools for sustainable tourism marketing and branding, enhancing community ownership for social and environmental innovation, and applying financial frameworks that balance economic profitability, people-centered projects, and environmental sustainability.





亭德觀

Youth Workshop



## Shaping Sustainable Future-Oriented Energy Landscape for Next-Generation Leaders from Developing Countries

### Background

Global nations are intensifying their renewable energy deployment efforts, particularly in developing countries seeking to balance economic growth with greenhouse gas reduction. This aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 7.2, which emphasizes renewable energy expansion and international cooperation.

Korea, transitioning from an ODA recipient to a donor, plans to increase its green sector ODA above the OECD average by 2025, pledging \$300 million for future projects. The Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) emphasizes comprehensive international cooperation through green ODA, business support, and technology advisory services. The Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology (KIAT) implements green ODA projects, such as solar-powered

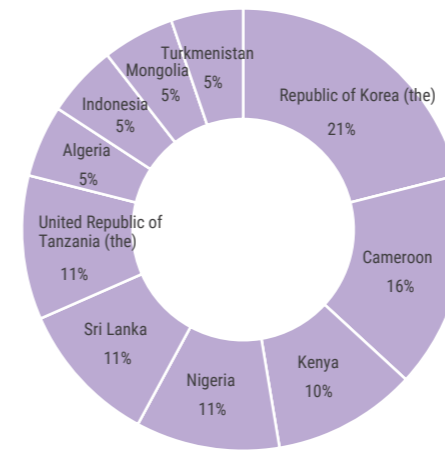
microgrids in Ecuador's Galapagos Islands and power grid stabilization in Senegal.

However, implementing energy projects in developing countries faces various challenges, as exemplified by Mongolia's case, where extreme climate conditions, coal dependency, and public skepticism pose significant barriers. Success requires a multifaceted approach incorporating international climate financing, public-private collaboration, public awareness campaigns, and long-term energy policies with carbon pricing mechanisms.

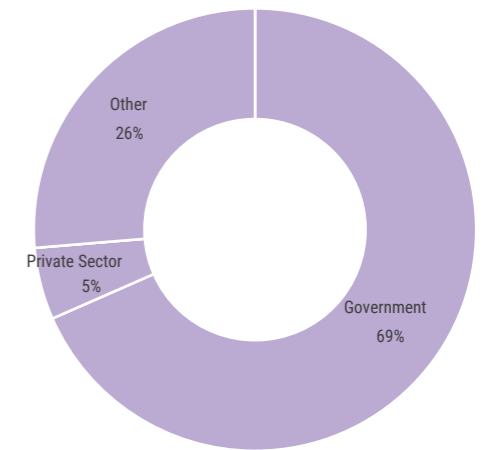
Against this backdrop, the UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline Youth Workshop on "Shaping Sustainable Future-oriented Energy Landscape for Next-Gen Leaders," on August 6-7, 2024, in Jeju Island. Through expert-led sessions and

site-visit sessions, the Workshop aimed to empower participants from developing countries with the tools and strategies necessary to understand the complexities of the future-oriented energy landscape and contribute to driving the transition towards renewable energy in their home countries.

### Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization



## Workshop Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline Youth Workshop on “Shaping Sustainable Future-oriented Energy Landscape for Next-Generation Leaders from Developing Countries,” on August 6-7, 2024, in Jeju Island. The Workshop, attended by 19 foreign and domestic youth participants (foreign participants are from developing countries), aimed to explore the complexities of transitioning to renewable energy in their home countries and areas. Through expert-led lectures and site visits to Jeju CFI Future Energy Center in particular, the Workshop served as a chance to equip participants with the tools to shape a sustainable energy future. The Workshop addressed the current global energy transition, green ODA, challenges and opportunities within the context of ODA, and financing mechanisms for renewable energy production in developing countries lectured by GGGI and GCF. Additionally, through case study presentations, participants obtained knowledge of public-private partnership strategies needed to drive sustainable energy development in their home countries. Lastly, the Workshop explored success stories from Korea’s energy sector.

In Session 1, titled “Navigating Global Energy Transition,” Hyunyoung Oh from the Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI) provided an overview of global renewable energy trends, highlighting the significance and examples of energy transitions. She emphasized that transitioning to renewable energy is a key global effort to address climate change, and energy scarcity, and build sustainable energy systems, aligning with environmental protection and energy security goals. Solar and wind energy accounted for 96% of the growth in renewable energy, with contin-

ued increases in their adoption.

In Session 2, titled “Exploring Sustainable Energy Development through Green ODA,” Minyoung Seo from the Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI) discussed sustainable energy development via green ODA. Korea’s 2024 ODA allocation focuses on humanitarian aid and development, with ₩896.5 billion allocated to grant and concessional assistance. Key beneficiaries include Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Ethiopia, with increased support for Southeast and South Asia. The session underlined the contribution of such aid to sustainable development.

In Session 3, titled “Enabling Environment for Sustainable Energy in Developing Countries: Challenges and Implications,” Jehei Song from the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) presented the challenges and implications of creating sustainable energy environments in developing countries. Topics included regulatory and policy frameworks, socio-economic and infrastructural challenges, strategies to overcome barriers, and case studies. She emphasized the need for global participation and effective policies to ensure successful energy transitions in response to climate change.

In Session 4, titled “Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation in Sustainable Energy Development: Case-Studies and Lessons,” Hakseok Ryu from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) highlighted the role of international cooperation in sustainable energy development. He noted how global energy security has become increasingly critical amid the Ukraine war. Korea, collaborating with organizations like the IEA and UNESCAP,

is strengthening energy transitions and connectivity. Korea’s hydrogen economy plan includes deploying 6.2 million hydrogen vehicles and 15 GW of fuel cells by 2040.

In Session 5, titled “Public-Private Partnerships: Driving Innovation in Energy Financing Mechanisms,” Anurag Mishra from Green Climate Fund (GCF) discussed innovative energy finance mechanisms and the role of PPPs in mitigating risks and supporting clean energy projects during their initial stages. He highlighted GCF’s use of diverse financial tools (e.g., loans, grants, guarantees) to help developing countries maximize renewable energy potential and align with national priorities. These mechanisms facilitate climate finance and contribute to achieving the SDGs.

In Session 6, titled “Korea’s Sustainable/Clean Energy Initiatives: A Model for Localized Solutions,” Mishra elaborated on Korea’s sustainable energy initiatives, which aim for renewable energy expansion and carbon neutrality. He underscored the pivotal role of government commitment and support in these efforts. By introducing energy solutions tailored to regional characteristics, Korea has improved energy self-sufficiency, reduced energy costs, and lowered carbon emissions. Korea’s approach was highlighted as a reference for developing countries, emphasizing the importance of government-backed, region-specific energy solutions.





# Jeju International Future Generation Forum (JIFF)





III. HIGHLIGHTS

2024 Jeju International Future Generation Forum (JIFF)

## Youth at the Mainstream: the Shaper of the Better World

### Background

Every year, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju co-organizes the Jeju International Future Generation Forum (JIFF) with Jeju Special Self-Governing Province to serve as a pivotal initiative, fostering international youth exchanges, strengthening friendships with Jeju’s sister cities, and engaging young leaders in global problem-solving.

This year, with the theme, “Youth at the Mainstream: the Shaper of the Better World,” the Forum aimed to empower youth participants to explore actionable solutions to global challenges and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through collaborative discussions and immersive cultural experiences. The Forum targeted 30 youth participants from Jeju and its overseas sister cities across the Asia-Pacific region. These participants, selected through a rigorous pre-screening process, engaged in a

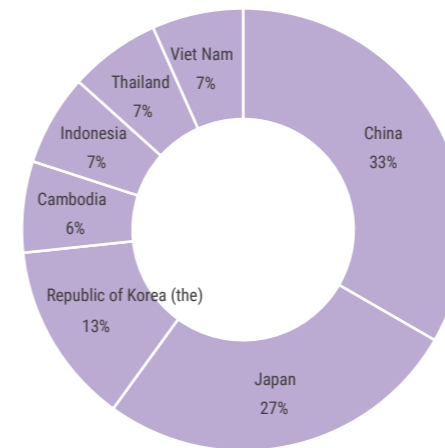
series of dynamic programs, including Keynote Session, Thematic Parallel Discussions, Youth Talk Show, Networking Sessions, and Action Plan Showcase. By facilitating these multifaceted interactions, the Forum enabled youth to actively engage in meaningful dialogue, articulate innovative solutions, and develop concrete outputs such as action plans and visual materials. The Forum’s broader objective was to nurture a global network of youth leaders committed to addressing pressing global issues. Through expert-led lectures, panel discussions, cultural exchanges, and creative workshops, JIFF aimed to provide a platform for young people to exchange ideas and develop a shared vision for a sustainable future. The Forum also aimed to serve as a venue for fostering “pro-Jeju” global advocates who will appreciate Jeju’s unique cultural and environmental assets, further strength-

ening the island’s global presence and relationships with its sister cities.

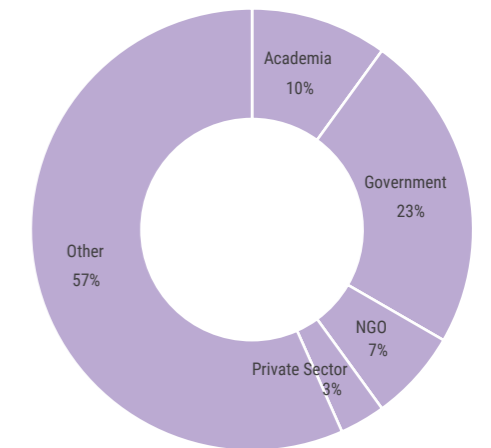
backgrounds, the Forum underscored the critical role of youth in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future.

Ultimately, the 2024 Jeju International Future Generation Forum equipped youth with the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to drive meaningful change in their communities and beyond. By uniting young leaders from diverse

### Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization



## Forum Summary

The 2024 Jeju International Future Generation Forum (JIFF), held on November 1-3, 2024 at the Center for Social Connectivity of Jeju, was jointly organized by UNITAR CIFAL Jeju and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province under the theme “Youth at the Mainstream: the Shaper of the Better World.” The Forum gathered over 30 youth participants, spanning from the Asia-Pacific region and Jeju locals, alongside mentors. Activities included various interactive sessions - from Keynote Session, Thematic Parallel Sessions, Youth Talk Show, Networking Session, Action Plan Showcase, and Site Visit Sessions - with participants also exploring local culture through visits to downtown Jeju and Camelia Village in Seogwipo City. These experiences enriched discussions on global issues and sustainable development, focusing on achieving the SDGs.

Prior to the Forum, participants engaged in a five-week preparation period focused on developing action plan essays and visual materials addressing four key global issues (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership). The preparation process involved individual research, brainstorming, and content development. During the Forum itself, participants showcased their work through the Networking and Action Plan Showcase Sessions, presenting perspectives from both global and local standpoints while exploring strategies to enhance public engagement.

The Forum kicked off with an Opening Ceremony featuring the band Lee Kang and included various ceremonial elements such as welcome speeches and introductory videos. Several high-ranking officials attended, including Director-General Hee Chan KIM of Jeju Special

Self-Governing Province, Director Byung Hwa CHUNG of UNITA CIFAL Jeju, Vice-President Hee Kyoung KANG of Jeju National University, Consul-General JianJun CHEN of Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China in Jeju, Consul-General Katsutoshi TAKEDA of Consulate-General of Japan in Jeju, as well as Head of Culture and Tourism Unit Christina CHAN of ASEAN-Korea Centre. The speakers highlighted Jeju’s commitment to youth empowerment and the Forum’s role in building youth networks and mainstream.

The Forum’s main program began with a Keynote speech from Christian Mortelliti of UNESCAP Headquarters, followed by Parallel Sessions structured around the SDGs’ 5P framework (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership). Distinguished speakers, including Robert Rudolf (University of Korea), Darren Southcott (Jeju National University), Yuha Jin (TELLA), and Kevin Kester (Seoul National University), led in-depth discussions in their respective areas of expertise. A highlight of the program was the Youth Talk Show, where Savinda Ranathunga from the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Office and Christian Mortelliti shared insights on youth empowerment, environmental sustainability, and global development. The sessions incorporated interactive Q&A components, enabling participants to engage directly with speakers and explore global challenges in detail.

The 2024 JIFF concluded with interactive Networking and Action Plan Showcase Sessions, where participants presented their essays and visual materials in an informal setting that encouraged collaboration. This second in-person



Forum since the pandemic offered a more diverse range of sessions than its predecessor, enabling youth from Jeju and partner cities to address global challenges, develop innovative solutions, and raise awareness about crucial issues. The success of the event emphasized the significance of face-to-face interactions in fostering meaningful dialogue and cooperation in the post-pandemic period.









# Global Youth Art Camp





## Rooted, Growing Island

### Background

Art can play a significant role in increasing awareness, fostering emotional connections, and motivating action against global challenges such as the climate change crisis. The role of combating the climate crisis has become increasingly important as the climate-related challenges intensify, demanding urgent and coordinated responses from all sectors of society. International organizations, governments, and civil society groups all over the world are increasingly developing policies and programs that leverage the power of arts and culture to engage the public on climate issues. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took a step to collaborate with artist groups, announcing a collective initiative called 'The Art Charter for Climate Action (ACCA)' to accelerate the global visual arts sector's transition to net zero and tap into the power of art to inspire climate

action beyond the sector.

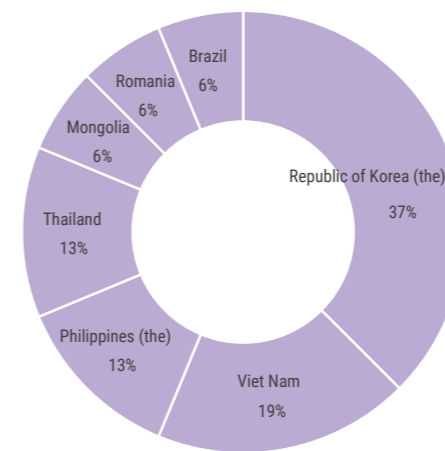
Focusing on the significance of art in climate action as well as the 2030 Agenda, a global youth art project has been held annually in Jeju since 2018. This initiative, organized in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and supported by Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, aims to foster collaboration between local and international young artists. By empowering them to become art activists, the project encourages young people to take a leading role in addressing global challenges. Additionally, the project has recently promoted ecological art and highlighted the unique culture and natural heritage of Jeju. The program touched upon Culture for Urban Planning and Public Spaces in 2018 and 2019. From 2021 to 2023, the event titled Global Youth Creatives Residency

was developed to explore Jeju's distinctive natural environment and culture, which underpin its four UNESCO titles and rich local arts scene.

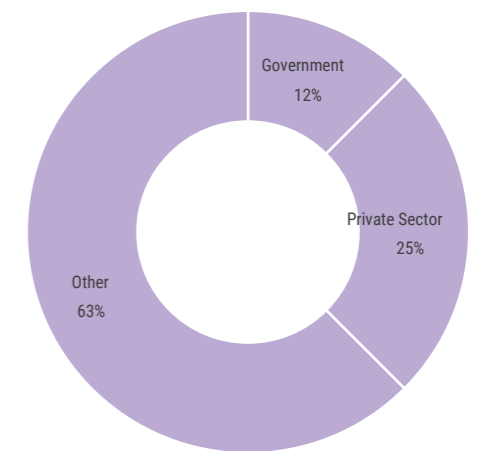
Building upon the success of the 2021 and 2022 GYCR with the theme of 'Islands in Flow', the project continued to invite domestic and international artists to Jeju to strengthen the collaboration among artists and raise awareness of climate crisis issues. In 2023, the focus shifted more towards the trees of Jeju, with team-based creative activities held at the island's renowned natural attractions.

This year, the GYCR project was renamed Global Youth Art Camp and continued with the theme "Rooted, Growing Island," maintaining a focus on trees with enhanced creative activities supported by art mentors. The program will include lectures on Jeju's culture, natural environment, and art related to the island and its trees, alongside group creative activities. This comprehensive program will enable participants to reflect on what they have seen, felt, and learned, translating their insights into collaborative artworks created by the group.

### Overview



Participants by Country



Participants by Organization





## Program Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju, in collaboration with Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, organized the “2024 Global Youth Art Camp” on September 25-29, 2024, in Jeju Island. The program brought together 15 young artists from both domestic and international backgrounds, spanning from countries such as Romania, Brazil, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Mongolia, alongside Jeju-based artists. Representing diverse fields in cultural and artistic professions, these young creatives convened to engage in a unique cultural exchange program designed to inspire eco-conscious artistic practices and promote sustainable development through art.

The 2024 program, previously known as the “Global Young Creatives Residency,” adopted the theme “Rooted, Growing Island,” building upon the successes of the 2023 theme. This year, the focus expanded to emphasize group creative activities, fostering collaboration among participants and highlighting the role of art in addressing global sustainability challenges. The program incorporated expert-led lectures, dialogues with resident artists, site visits, and collaborative projects, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of Jeju’s natural and cultural heritage.

Participants visited key natural and cultural sites in Jeju, including Gotjawal Forest and Bijarim, to experience firsthand the island’s ecological richness. These visits served as inspiration for artistic reflection on themes of sustainability and environmental stewardship. Additionally, visits to Artspace IAa and Jeoji Artists’ Village offered opportunities to engage with local artwork and discuss environmental art practices with Jeju-

based artists. The discussions delved into the role of culture and art in driving social change, particularly in the context of environmental preservation and sustainability.

Under the mentorship of seasoned artists active in both local and international art scenes, the participants engaged in group art projects and created individual concept sketches inspired by their program experiences. These sketches reflected their impressions of Jeju’s natural beauty, their interactions with fellow artists, and their commitment to eco-conscious artistic principles. The group projects highlighted the power of collaboration in art to address global challenges, while the individual sketches served as personal reflections on the transformative experience of the camp.

The program also fostered meaningful cultural exchange by facilitating networking opportunities between Jeju-based and international artists. These interactions established a foundation for future collaborations, encouraging participants to continue their engagement with sustainable artistic practices beyond the camp. By showcasing Jeju as a hub for cultural and environmental innovation, the “2024 Global Youth Art Camp” demonstrated the potential of young artists to contribute to positive societal change through their creative endeavors. The program successfully underscored the critical role of culture and art in achieving sustainable development goals, leaving a lasting impact on all involved.









# Jeju Forum UN Session





## Harmony in the Digital Age: Exploring AI Powered-Paths to Peace Building

### Background

The preceding year, 2023, stands delineated as a period marked by the escalation of international crises, notably the protracted conflict in Ukraine spanning almost two years, the Israel-Hamas war that erupted in October, the Burkina Faso conflict, and the unrest attributed to armed groups in Nigeria, along with the oppressive regime prevailing in Myanmar. These protracted armed conflicts and tensions between nations and non-state entities have reached a critical juncture, emblematic of a significant international peace crisis.

Against the backdrop of these challenges to international security and peace, the 2023 Davos Forum has judiciously chosen the overarching theme of “Rebuilding Trust” under the sub-theme of “Achieving Security and Cooperation in a Fractured World.” The Forum advocates for global leaders to “collaborate and make judicious and

resolute decisions” in order to effectively address the intricate issues arising from a globally fractured landscape.

Moreover, the Forum has introduced another sub-theme, “Artificial Intelligence as a Driving Force for the Economy and Society,” accentuating the rapidly expanding scope and influence of artificial intelligence (AI) on a global scale. It underscores the potential for innovative problem-solving across diverse sectors, including economics, industry, education, and environmental considerations, through the strategic application of AI.

The potential of AI technology transcends the realm of mere economic and industrial innovation, extending into the domain of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recent discourse has been actively centered around innovative approaches employing AI in interna-



tional peacebuilding efforts. For instance, the United Nations has effectively employed AI-based algorithm technology to aggregate real-time feedback from conflict zones and stakeholders, thereby contributing to conflict resolution efforts grounded in democratic principles. In Yemen, citizens participated in online hearings through internet platforms, enabling AI analysis to capture real-time perspectives on conflicts stemming from the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Libya, AI platforms have been instrumental in gathering opinions on the UN’s proposed interim government, a decade after the cessation of conflicts in North Africa.

Furthermore, AI technologies are instrumental in analyzing the frequency of hate speech and politically charged content on the internet and social media. This analytical capability aids in predicting regions and vulnerable groups where conflicts are likely to emerge within the next six months. Various AI technologies, including map-

ping services, are being judiciously applied to analyze data pertaining to disaster and conflict risk factors, thereby facilitating the precise delineation of regions on a map for effective peacebuilding initiatives.

However, apprehensions have been raised regarding the ethical risks associated with AI technologies, encompassing advanced information manipulation and the propagation of false information, potentially leading to the escalation of conflicts. As a measured response, the sessions at the Jeju Forum this year were poised to meticulously examine the role of AI technology in international peacebuilding efforts. Eminent experts in the field were invited to share pertinent success stories, fostering a platform for discussions that critically analyze the ethical risks associated with the deployment of AI technology.



## Overview



Date

31 May

2024



Audience

40

## UN Session Summary

On the occasion of the 19th Annual Jeju Forum, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an offline UN Session under the title of “Harmony in the Digital Age: Exploring AI Powered-Paths to Peace Building,” on May 31, 2024, in Jeju Island. The Session was attended by 50 participants from diverse sectors. The Session aimed to explore how AI plays roles in the peace-building efforts among many innovations AI could bring about. Nowadays many international organizations have been employing AI-based technology to aggregate data from conflict zones, thereby analyzing and predicting whether conflicts or their resolutions are imminent. In that sense, speakers shared success stories and challenges concerning the effective utilization of AI technologies for peace-building efforts.

In Presentation 1, titled “Harnessing AI for Peace-making,” Avishan Bodjnoud from the United Nations Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA-DPO) in New York explained the methods of utilizing AI for peace and security building by the UN. The UN uses traditional AI natural language processing (NLP) methods to understand and analyze the reactions and local situations of residents in

conflict and dispute areas collected from real-time online discussions. Based on this analysis, the UN seeks strategic approaches to resolve conflicts. Additionally, the UN analyzes regional conflict damage patterns caused by interstate and state-non-state armed conflicts and climate change using AI to analyze images and videos collected via satellite. For example, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) collected and analyzed satellite images through AI to identify the locations of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to improve their conditions and support them amidst conflicts between government forces and anti-government forces in South Sudan.

In Presentation 2, titled “Causal inference and prediction of climate-amplified food-security induced conflict,” Vassili Kitsios from CSIRO Environment in Australia analyzed the impact of climate change on food security and social unrest using AI, particularly using the 2010 Arab Spring as a case study. Using data such as temperature, rainfall, grain production, imports, and elections, it was explained that during the Arab Spring, droughts caused by rising temperatures increased grain imports. However, the population increase made it difficult to meet the grain short-



ages with imports alone, leading to a food crisis that triggered the Arab Spring. He also pointed out the limitations of climate impact analysis, suggesting the need for applying machine learning methods for extensive data collection to address the ‘small data’ phenomenon, where the collected data samples are insufficient compared to the required amount of data for analysis.

In the following discussions moderated by Byung Hwa CHUNG, Director of UNITAR CIFAL Jeju, panelists raised challenges and solutions for AI utilization and AI ethics issues. Kyoungjun Lee from Kyung Hee University emphasized the importance of legal and institutional regulations on AI utilization. Instead of direct government intervention, policies should promote the establishment of an ecosystem centered on AI technology expert agents in the private and social sectors that can enable rapid AI analysis and

judgment. Additionally, he suggested introducing a ‘data bank’ that can store data while protecting data privacy and preventing the monopoly of data and AI technology. Next, Myoungshin Kim from LG AI Research highlighted that the development of AI ethics education content for experts such as AI researchers, developers, and policymakers needs to be followed to ensure ethical utilization of the technology. Lastly, Matthew Crippen from Pusan National University shared errors in using AI for border control such as in Eastern Europe, where AI was used to detect lies during immigrant screening. He pointed out in the case that AI failed to interpret contradictory human emotions like a sad but smiling face and judged political stances based on visual or injected information, like wearing red clothes, leading to factual misjudgments. When using AI systems for decision-making, the necessity for humans to make final decisions was emphasized to prevent the evasion of moral responsibility by humans.



# Expert Seminar





## Sustainable Energy: Expanding Jeju's Global Horizons - Case Study Seminar on Discovering Jeju as a Blueprint for Green Energy Island Transformation

### Background

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), global temperature could increase by up to 2.9°C by the end of this century unless immediate and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are undertaken. The scientific consensus, as outlined in the Paris Agreement, underscores the need to limit warming to no more than 1.5°C to avert the most severe impacts of climate change. Achieving this goal requires reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. In response to this urgent call, over 140 countries, including the Republic of Korea, have committed to carbon neutrality by mid-century.

Beyond national governments, non-state actors are also playing an increasingly pivotal role in advancing climate action, with some leading the way in policy innovation and implementation. One such example is Jeju Island, a regional lead-

er in climate action. In 2012, Jeju launched its "Carbon Free Island" initiative, aimed at reducing its carbon emissions and transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2030. This local leadership was further demonstrated with Jeju's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2035, a target set in 2024, ahead of the Republic of Korea's national carbon neutrality goal to be achieved by 2050.

Jeju Island has been at the forefront of the energy transition, pioneering over ten large-scale renewable energy projects. Since the first introduction of the Carbon Free Island Initiative, which set a target to meet 100% of its electricity demand from renewable sources, Jeju has actively promoted and implemented renewable energy measures. As a result, the island currently holds the highest share of renewable energy generation in the Republic of Korea, with 19.2% of its

electricity sourced from renewables—10.2% from solar power, 8.9% from wind power, and 0.1% from other sources. By 2035, Jeju further aims to increase this share to 70%.

However, Jeju's journey has not been without challenges. The intermittent nature of renewable energy and the rigidity of the existing power grid and market, designed for fossil fuel-based electricity, have posed significant obstacles to accommodate all electricity produced by renewables. In 2023, wind and solar power curtailments occurred 181 times to maintain grid stability. Furthermore, public acceptance has been a persistent challenge in implementing numerous renewable energy projects.

To address these issues, Jeju has explored a wide range of innovative solutions aimed at increasing grid flexibility. These include reforms to the electricity market to incentivize flexible energy sources and the installation of green hydrogen production systems and energy storage systems (ESS) to absorb excess renewable energy. Jeju is also testing distributed energy systems to reduce the strain on the central grid. These lessons learned could provide valuable insights for other regions and countries facing similar challenges in their renewable energy transitions.

Given its distinct geographical characteristics, Jeju Island holds significant potential to become a global model for island nations and regions aiming to transition to renewable energy. Its unique natural assets, coupled with bold local leadership, position Jeju as a strategic leader in environmental sustainability. The island's proactive approach to becoming an exemplary environmentally sustainable region offers a valuable

blueprint for sustainable development, particularly for regions with similar features. The lessons learned from Jeju's experience can be adapted and applied by other island regions seeking to implement comparable initiatives in their pursuit of renewable energy transitions.

To further share these insights and enhance its global presence, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an Expert Seminar on "Expanding Jeju's Global Horizons: Case Study Seminar on Discovering Jeju as a Blueprint for Green Energy Island Transformation," on November 21, 2024, in Jeju Island. This Seminar facilitated discussions among experts, allowing Jeju to showcase its achievements and receive valuable feedback from the international community to refine its ongoing efforts and contribute to the global energy transition.



## Overview



Date

21 November  
2024



Venue

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/  
Jeju International Training Center



Audience

17

## Seminar Summary

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju organized an Expert Seminar on “Expanding Jeju’s Global Horizons: Case Study Seminar on Discovering Jeju as a Blueprint for Green Energy Island Transformation,” on November 21, 2024, in Jeju Island. The Seminar brought together 17 experts from the Jeju, national, and global renewable energy sectors, aiming to facilitate discussions that could allow Jeju to showcase its achievements and receive valuable feedback from the international community to refine its ongoing efforts and contribute to the global energy transition.

In Session 1, titled “The Role of Global Jeju in Achieving Global Carbon Neutrality”, Hyunyoung Oh from the Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI) and other experts examined global renewable energy trends and South Korea’s renewable energy policies since its 2021 carbon neutrality declaration. The session highlighted Jeju’s initiatives through the “CFI 2030 Plan” and “2035 Carbon Neutral Vision,” while examining the region’s advantages such as autonomous legislative powers and strong community support. Despite challenges including energy demand shortages and renewable energy curtailment, the session proposed solutions like transportation electrifica-

tion and green hydrogen adoption. In response to growing public demands, the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province government is exploring potential strategies to lead energy transition policies, including the expansion of wind power installations, while simultaneously safeguarding ecosystems and ensuring community acceptance.

In Session 2-1, titled “Sharing and Discussion of the Establishment and Implementation of Jeju’s Renewable Energy Policy as a Model for the Transition to a Green Energy Island (Policy)”, Yonghyouk Moon from Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and other experts outlined Jeju’s energy transition policies, including the CFI 2030 and Jeju 2035 Carbon Neutral policies. The presentation focused on strategies to achieve over 70% renewable energy through offshore wind farms and green hydrogen production. The discussion examined approaches to expanding renewable energy generation, highlighting the economic viability of green hydrogen initiatives and private sector collaboration, such as with RE100 data centers, while drawing on European models like those of Germany and the Netherlands. The session concluded by emphasizing





the need for policy improvements in renewable energy certification systems to support these transitions.

In Session 2-2, titled “Sharing and Discussion of the Establishment and Implementation of Jeju’s Renewable Energy Policy as a Model for the Transition to a Green Energy Island (Implementation)”, Hojun Bu from Jeju Energy Corporation introduced Jeju’s implementation roadmap to achieve 100% renewable energy and green hydrogen production by 2035, with short-term goals like wind farm expansion and long-term plans for a green hydrogen-powered generation. The plan of a clean energy industrial complex was shared as a new pivotal strategy, integrating energy supply and demand through public-private partnerships. Key recommendations to the blueprint included fostering educational ties between Jeju University and Jeju Energy Corporation, attracting private investments, and enhancing community engagement. The industrial complex model was praised for its potential to reduce redundant investments and simplify the energy grid. Throughout the session, it was consistently emphasized that Jeju’s energy transition efforts and its successes thus far could serve as a valuable model for small cities and developing countries in addressing renewable energy challenges. In this context, the importance of international expansion through official development assistance (ODA) was also highlighted.

In Session 3, titled “Expanding Jeju’s Global Horizon for the Green Energy Island Transition: Strengthening International Exchange and Cooperation”, Jiyeon Shim from the Embassy of Denmark in Korea and Daejin Kim from the Korea Institute of Energy Research (KIER) highlighted global renewable energy successes, particularly

those of Denmark, and their relevance to Jeju’s clean energy transition. They also shared overall lessons learned from Jeju’s CFI 2030 implementation process from a global perspective, including renewable energy expansion, electric vehicle integration, curtailment management, and grid stability improvements. The other experts emphasized the opportunity for Jeju’s projects, including the CFI 2030 plan and the 2035 Carbon Neutral Vision, to expand international cooperation with small cities and developing island nations facing similar environmental challenges. They highlighted Jeju’s green hydrogen production and storage technologies as potential global market leaders, suggesting that effective branding could position Jeju as a leading force. Additionally, they noted that Jeju could play a pivotal role as a donor country in international climate change efforts, especially through multi-development banks and cooperation in industries like aviation and port sectors. Experts also pointed out that Jeju’s success in energy transition could be extended to Official Development Assistance (ODA) and international consulting, particularly through collaboration with organizations like KOICA. Further, they recommended leveraging Jeju’s experience in wind power generation, which mirrors challenges in many developing nations, as a model for international energy transition. However, they also stressed the need to adapt Jeju’s green hydrogen model to developing countries’ specific needs and capabilities, as not all nations are ready for advanced technologies. Finally, experts underscored the importance of incorporating community feedback, strengthening knowledge-sharing systems, and building partnerships to ensure sustainable international cooperation and development.



## Global Citizenship Education (GCED)



### III. HIGHLIGHTS

#### 2024 Global Citizenship Education (GCED)

## 2024 Global Citizenship Education (GCED)

### Background

The role of our future generations in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4, is crucial. SDG 4 aims to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030. Within this goal, target 4.7 highlights the importance of equipping learners with the knowledge and skills necessary for a sustainable future. This priority was reaffirmed during UNESCO’s 42nd General Conference in 2023 through the adoption of the Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights, International Understanding, Cooperation, Fundamental Freedoms, Global Citizenship, and Sustainable Development. The Recommendation emphasizes the pivotal role of global citizenship education in achieving sustainable peace and advancing human development.

As humanity faces escalating challenges that threaten universal values such as climate change, poverty and inequality, war, and the ethical dilemmas posed by advances in artificial intelligence, there is a growing need for education to prepare future generations to address these multifaceted global challenges. Consequently, the necessity for individuals to understand how their life choices and local decisions can impact the world is becoming increasingly important. Not only as a citizen of one’s country but also as a global citizen, citizens regardless of their nationalities are expected to understand the interdependency and interconnectedness of political, economic, social, and cultural norms and decisions between local, national, and global levels. And more so, to be motivated to undertake actions that reduce inequalities and enhance sustainability.



These citizens were once children and youth, and they will soon become citizens of the world. The world currently has the largest generation of young people in history (1.8 billion) and they are connected like never before. This means that provided with the necessary knowledge and opportunities, they can constitute a tremendous and essential asset in promoting sustainability. The UN has long recognized that young people are a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic growth, and technological innovation. Global Citizenship Education (GCED) offers the first step. It provides the chance for our youth to respect diversity, build a sense of belonging to a common humanity, and become responsible and active global citizens.

In this regard, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju’s GCED program, as a leading institution for GCED nationwide, aims

to empower students of Seogwipo Municipality, Jeju Island by widening their understanding of issues such as human rights, poverty, inequality, multiculturalism, environmental sustainability, and more. With its own pool of trained GCED educators and standardized learning materials, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju is able to apply a participatory and learner-centered approach, engaging its students to not only understand the concepts of sustainability but also critically think about the active roles they can play in their daily lives to be proactive global citizens. The program also seeks to leave no one behind, reaching schools in the most remote areas of Jeju, centers for multicultural students, and community childcare centers, to offer all students, regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds, to reach their potential and grow into their roles as global citizens.



## Overview

**Date**  
29 March  
-27 November  
2024

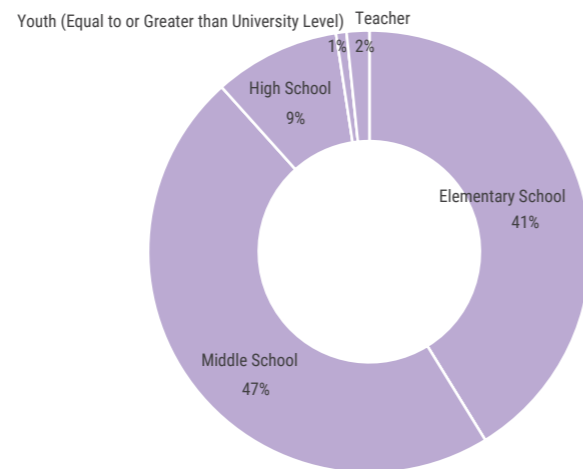
**Training Hours**  
1 or 2  
hours  
per class

**Participants**  
1,822

**Countries**  
1

**Overall Satisfaction/  
usefulness**  
97%

**Gender  
(Female:Male)**  
1,006:816



Participants by School Level

## GCED Activity Summary

The 2024 Global Citizenship Education (GCED) outreach program was conducted for elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as local youth in Seogwipo, with a total of 83 sessions (113 hours) held across 21 institutions, benefiting 1,822 participants. The program achieved a high satisfaction rating of 4.86 out of 5 points. This growth in scale compared to the previous year (20.5% increase in beneficiaries, 34.5% increase in session hours, and 5% increase in the number of schools) reflects the successful completion of the program while maintaining the

continuity of Global Citizenship Education's development.

Starting this year, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju has independently managed the GCED program for the Seogwipo, Jeju region, assuming full responsibility for the project and expanding it to uphold and advance its legacy. Education was provided in six diverse areas: interconnectedness, human rights, poverty, multiculturalism, career paths, and the environment.



In addition, a Global Citizenship Education Expert Community was launched for educators and related professionals in the Jeju region to mainstream GCED within the education field. As part of the community support structure, our center hosted two seminars (held in the first and second halves of the year) to provide an agora for knowledge sharing and networking among experts, thereby enhancing the professional development of Global Citizenship Education instructors. In particular, the 2024 second-half seminar explored themes related to interconnectedness, human rights and poverty, and multiculturalism, tailored to the Jeju context. Additionally, a draft of Jeju-specific Global Citizenship Education guidelines was developed, charting the future direction of GCED to facilitate its globalization.

Additionally, to foster systematic and in-depth global citizenship, Seongsan Middle School and Mureung Middle School were selected as focus schools for Global Citizenship Education by our center. These schools benefited from intensive

GCED education, targeting the entire student body and covering a wide range of themes within GCED. Throughout the program's implementation, education priorities are carefully considered for less accessible rural areas in the target regions, with the goal of diversifying the areas and schools within Seogwipo to promote the local dissemination of Global Citizenship Education.

Additionally, recognizing the need for Global Citizenship Education for adults and relevant stakeholders, the program was continually operated for youth and school teachers, contributing to the development of future leaders capable of actively engaging in the global community, particularly in the field of international development cooperation.





# Networking Activities

## 2024 Networking Activities

### Background

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju has been actively accommodating requests by academia and institutions in Korea and the Asia-Pacific countries for visits to the Center in 2024. These visits have served as good occasions to introduce the programs and the activities of UNITAR CIFAL Jeju, discuss potential collaborations between institutions, and facilitate the exchange of information about capacity-building programs and career development for visiting youth. A total of more than 150 visitors from 10 international and domestic institutions were welcomed to the center.

### Overview



Visits

**6 visits from 10  
Institutions**



Venue

**UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/  
Jeju International  
Training Center**





## Summary

Throughout 2024, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju strengthened its institutional networks through strategic engagement with key stakeholders. The center hosted several significant visits throughout the year. On May 30, the center received a delegation from the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS), which sought consultation on capacity-building training operations for Asia-Pacific local governments as part of their research project “Study on the Concept and Strategy of Region-led Development Cooperation for Sustainable Development.” On June 26, the center welcomed approximately 15 graduate students from Asia-Pacific countries, studying under the sponsorship of Ewha Woman’s University and KOICA. During this visit, Byung Hwa CHUNG, Director of UNITAR CIFAL Jeju introduced the center’s capacity-building training programs and activities, while the students, primarily mid-level female public officials, learned about Jeju’s history, peace concepts, women’s issues, and sustainable development.

The center’s networking continued with ODA Youth Supporters from the Jeju International Cooperation Center on November 8, where CIFAL Jeju staff conducted career-oriented discussions. Subsequently, on November 21, the center welcomed representatives from the Korea Business Environment Institute, Korea Environmental Conservation Institute, and various startups for an informative session that included institutional presentations, interactive Q&A, and discussions on future collaborative ventures. On November 29, the center received international trainees from Seoul National University as part of a workshop coordinated by the Seoul Metropolitan Government. The year’s networking activities culmi-

nated on December 27 with a visit from the Ministry of Economy and Finance’s Green Climate Policy Division. This engagement featured detailed briefings and constructive dialogue on potential areas of collaboration. These diverse networking initiatives throughout 2024 demonstrated UNITAR CIFAL Jeju’s commitment to fostering meaningful partnerships and establishing itself as a hub for international cooperation and sustainable development.



CIFAL Global Network (CGN)









## CIFAL Global Network XXI Steering Committee Meeting



### Background

Hosted by CIFAL Saudi Arabia, the Annual Steering Committee Meeting served as a vital instrument for coordination, evaluation, and strategic planning. Beyond its administrative functions, the meeting provided a unique platform for learning exchange and further collaboration among CIFAL Centers, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility. The agenda included a review of 2024 accomplishments, planned activities for 2025, progress updates on each SDG, and opportunities for interactive learning and knowledge sharing, all aimed at enhancing the global impact of CIFAL Centers' activities.

### Overview



Duration

10-12 December 2024



Venue

Al Majma'ah & Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### Meeting Summary

The XXI Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the CIFAL Global Network (CGN) was held in Al Majma'ah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 10–12. Hosted by CIFAL Saudi Arabia and Majmaah University, the meeting brought together representatives from over 30 CIFAL centers to review 2024 achievements and set priorities for 2025.



In 2024, the network reached over 103,000 beneficiaries through more than 800 events, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity, focusing on women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Key highlights of the meeting included the "Inspiring One Another" session, where each CIFAL center shared progress in 2024 and strategies for 2025, the launch of the SDG Dashboard platform, and a Special Exhibit titled Empowering Futures – Connecting Minds. Discussions also covered governance and operational standards for the CGN and ways to

strengthen its network and collaboration.

Concurrent sessions explored topics such as youth engagement, UNITAR's youth strategies, the role of women and future generations, and the sharing of good practices. Participants also discussed enhancing synergies within the network and identifying new opportunities for collaboration.

The event concluded with a forward-looking agenda, reaffirming the network's commitment to advancing the SDGs and addressing global challenges.







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Designed and Printed by INPLANNING  
Printed in the Republic of Korea