

MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & SKILLS ENHANCEMENT POST-COVID19

Date: August 30, 2021, Time: 12:00 PM – 02:00 PM (Saudi Time) Venue: Virtual Event

The Youth Development Forum (YDF) is a flagship annual standing event that takes place on the sideline of the IsDBG Annual Meeting. This year's YDF is made up of two parts. The first part brings together influential thinkers, policymakers, international development policy experts, and most importantly youth delegates to address, discuss and debate critical issues of relevance to meaningful youth engagement.

Youth is society's most essential resource, with the potential to contribute significantly to socio-economic growth and development. However, many remain unemployed and unengaged. The issue of youth economic empowerment has been addressed in many of the past YDFs, adopting various perspectives to the issue. However, this year the YDF will focus on Youth Engagement. A 2020 UN report reveals that although young people are some of the most affected by the pandemic's socio-economic impacts, they are also among the most active in global responses as frontlines as health workers, researchers, activists, innovators, and communicators.

The post-COVID-19 era will require immense creativity and resilience. Young people, as changemakers in various fields and areas of specialty are playing a crucial role in ensuring that developmental and socioeconomic agendas are resilient, equitable, and adaptable. Being digital natives, young people are pivotal in efforts to innovate, advocate, mobilize, and spearhead COVID-19 recovery initiatives through social media platforms and utilizing technology to advance healthcare efforts. As such not only do young people have a right to, but it is of utmost urgency to engage youth actively and meaningfully in all matters that affect their lives.

The second part of the YDF will be dedicated to highlighting the importance of partnership by launching the IsDB-UNDP Joint Knowledge Products "State of the Ecosystem for Youth Entrepreneurship and Youth-led MSMEs in Bangladesh and Indonesia".

KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. The role young women and men play in advancing the development agenda.
2. Frameworks for meaningful youth engagement that development institutions are using to ensure effective youth engagement.
3. Meaningful youth engagement and its impact on youth prosperity and economic empowerment.
4. Differentiate between meaningful vs tokenistic youth engagement.
5. Examples of effective youth-led recovery efforts post COVID-19.
6. Key skills for young people to acquire to enable them to engage effectively with their community and other stakeholders.

Keynote Speakers:

1. **Amer Bukvic** is the IsDB Chief Partnership Officer. He served as lecturer in business administration in the University of Business & Technology, and the University of South America as well as the International University of Sarajevo. Appointed as CEO of Bosna Bank International in 2006 after managing business development units.



2. **Mr. Djalalov Muzaffar Mukhitdinovich** At the age of 21, Muzaffar Djalalov graduated Tashkent University of Information Technologies. At the age of 30, he defended his Ph.D., becoming a Doctor of Science. Muzaffar Djalalov began his career in 2006 at the Center for Scientific, Technical, and Marketing Research as a regular researcher. Ten years later, he was assigned to the position of deputy director of that enterprise. He also worked for over 5 years at the Ministry for the Development of Information Technologies. All those years he has been the coordinator of major international projects in the field of education and technology. And in 2018, he was assigned as an acting Rector of INHA University in Tashkent, becoming the youngest Rector in the history of Uzbekistan. According to the "Yuksalish" movement, Muzaffar Djalalov included in the TOP-35 of young leaders of the country. It should be noted that Muzaffar Djalalov is fluent in four languages: Uzbek, Russian, English and Korean.



Moderator:

1. **Léa Moubayed-Haidar** has worked in the youth empowerment space for over a decade with the UN, INGOs and development management companies. She recently co-authored ‘Youth Voices in Youth Employment: A Roadmap for Promoting Meaningful Youth Engagement in Youth Employment Programs’ with Plan and the Youth Employment Funders Group (supported by Citi Foundation). She is now heading the Economic Development Policy Unit of Lebanon’s EU Trust Fund livelihoods and social stability programs.



Master of Carmony:

1. **Jakhongir Pulatov** founder of Cambridge Learning Center, Graduate from Westminster International University in Tashkent, and Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO, he obtains experience and considered to be a raising Entrepreneur in the education sector.



Panelists:

1. **Farrukh Omonov** had been serving as the Deputy Chairman of the Central Council of the Youth Union for Entrepreneurship, Information Technology and International Relations. Omonov was born in 1988 and is a graduate of the Tashkent State University of Economics and the Academy of Public Administration under the President.



2. **Chris Morris** is the Head NGO and Civil Society Center at Asian Development Bank (ADB). He oversees the planning, implementation, and monitoring of ADB's overall engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as the design and implementation of the CSO program at the ADB Annual Meetings. Before joining ADB, Chris was vice president within the water division of global engineering firm Black and Veatch.



3. **En'am Malkawi** is the Lead Youth Development Specialist at IsDB. She holds an MA in Social Studies from the University of Kent. She has over 17 years of experience in the development sector leading programs and strategies in the fields of youth empowerment and community resilience. She has an extensive experience working with international organizations and agencies including the United Nations, EU, USAID and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.



4. **Ghada Khalifa** is Director of Philanthropy, Middle East and Africa at Microsoft having assumed previous positions of Citizenship Lead, Microsoft Egypt, Anti-Piracy Marketing Manager, APMM, Public Relation Manager - Extended Responsibility she has a comprehensive experience and exposure to the public engagement and development.



5. **Oladiwura (‘Diwura) Oladepo** is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Tech4Dev, a non-profit organization that is focused on digital and technology skills empowerment and advocacy ensuring African’s access to opportunities and platforms for decent work and entrepreneurship. Tech4Dev has directly impacted over 10,000 people through its digital and technology skilling trainings and has facilitated job access and career opportunities for over 30% of its program beneficiaries.



Launching Knowledge Product:

1. **Anasse Aissami** is the acting Chief Operation Officer of the IsDB, having worked as the Director of Operation Evaluation, the Operations Policy and Services Department, and the Manager of the Project Special Evaluation unit as well as numerous positions in the private sector, while holding a graduate degree in project management, he possesses a rich skillset and experience to project management, development, and effective control of process workflow.



2. **Ms. Kanni Wignaraja** UNDP Regional Director for Asia and Pacific Ms. Wignaraja brings over twenty-five years of experience of the UN's mission and UNDP's role in the sustainable development agenda. She has a deep knowledge of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the global, regional, and country level workings of UNDP, across policy, program management and operations.



3. **Sharia Walker** is the Senior Youth Development Specialist at Islamic Development Bank. She has worked on finalizing the Islamic Development Bank's (IsDB) first Youth Development Strategy, mainstreaming Youth Development throughout the IsDB's sector operations, and organizing the IsDB's Annual Youth Development Forum for the last 4 years. Before joining IsDB, Sharia was a social entrepreneur, the founder of Walker Consultancy, an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) firm providing ADR services including developing and assessment tools and capacity building.



4. **Beniam Gebrezghi**, UNDP Programme Specialist, Civil Society and Youth Beniam Gebrezghi leads on developing regional youth initiatives in Asia and the Pacific supporting 24 country offices by providing advisory, policy and programme support in the areas of civil society support and strengthening and youth empowerment. He has more than 20 years of work experience in the field of international development cooperation with various teams within UNDP including developing partnerships and policies for UNDP focusing on Civil Society, Youth and Indigenous People.

