

## 2016 Youth Forum in Almaty

**UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty together with the Foundation of the First President of Republic of Kazakhstan – Leader of the Nation, with the support of UNDP and UN Information Office in Kazakhstan initiated the first Youth Forum on Sustainable Development: "The Road to 2030: Achieving Sustainable Production and Consumption", dedicated to the International Youth Day that was held on 26 August 2016 in Almaty.**

Over 250 people, including speakers, observers, experts, media representatives, organizers and volunteers, attended the Forum.

Opening of the Forum began with an introductory speech of Andrei Chevelev, Director of the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty. In his speech, he expressed his gratitude to all participants of the forum and again highlighted close cooperation between United Nations and Kazakhstan in achieving SDGs for a better people life. Mr. Asset Abdualiyev, Director of the Centre for innovative development of Almaty shared with participants results of current innovative projects for the sustainable city development. Former advisor to the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Mr Matyash Zrno, talked about the best practices of their government programme in achieving responsible production and consumption in Afghanistan. In conclusion, of the first Session, representative of the UNESCO YouthMobile School in Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Rinat Tukhvatshin, urged the youth to be active in programming mobile applications and promised strong support for everyone who wants to learn in this area.

The main aim of this event is to provide young people the opportunity to present their projects and start-ups for sustainable development. In particular, achievement of sustainable development through responsible consumption and production. Thus, 26 young participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Germany and Spain developed and proposed their projects for innovative and social development to provide food security, water resources management, energy efficiency, environmental safety, green transport and construction.

One of the most interesting ideas in the Youth Forum were the projects of Regina Serkina - "Eiyhorniya" (Effective water purification) and project of Askar Tyrtukaev - «PurpleLife» (Innovative generator alkaline water) and "TomTato" by Aigerim Seisebayeva. The youngest participant Evita Whilhelm from Germany was only 15 years old, she presented a project about the climate change and its possible usage in the agricultural sector.

In addition, mobile developers of YouthMobile Summer School 2016 from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and Almaty, Kazakhstan participated in the Forum and presented their mobile applications: "Justice Camera", "SOS Sende" and "Mobile Call-Centre" that significantly contributes to the sustainable development goal №16 "Peace, Justice and Effective Institutions". As follow up to the Youth forum, 10 developers selected for participation in Conference "Internet and the Radicalization of Youth" in Quebec, Canada (from 31 October to 1 November).

YouthMobile School focused on people with special needs and women. At the Forum, Representatives of YouthMobile Summer School were 2 young men and 2 young women. The Summer School contributes to employment of youth, as programming skills would enhance their ability to make informed choices and empower them to gain access labor markets, as well as support post UNESCO conference advocacy on Youth and Internet Fighting Radicalization and Extremism.

Experts from international organisations, national companies, public authorities as well as civil society actors attended the Forum, exchanged experience with the youth participants and identified solutions to sustainability. In this regard, we invited experts from UNDP, Council of Young Scientists at the Foundation of the First President of RK, departments of Mayor Office of Almaty, Centre for innovative development of Almaty, Kazakhstan Council for Green Building KazGBC, Saint-Gobain Kazakhstan, Kazakh-German University's MA Programme for water management.

Many of the ideas found an interest of the experts that led to productive discussions afterwards about projects' implementation on the national level.

The Forum was covered by numerous of media agencies, including national channels "Kazakhstan", "KazakhTV", magazine "Bayterek" and production platform "Global Success of People" - which is making a full length film about the Forum.

In conclusion, Mr. Andrei Chevelev highlighted some recommendations for the implementation of joint efforts in the future:

1. Conduct the Forum in Almaty annually in accordance with the Forum agenda and use this event as a platform for the dialogue between the Youth and the stakeholders.
2. Strengthen the cooperation with the governmental authorities, in particular with Mayor Office of Almaty and other relevant bodies, national and international organizations in the field of the promotion and realization of the innovative youth projects connected to the sustainable development.
3. Develop partnership with other countries to hold the Forum at the regional and international level.
4. Help the Youth in different directions development which will cause the formation of the new bank of ideas, new markets, creation of the new respectable work places, fair trade, safe and ecological development of the cities and other additional opportunities, making a valuable impact on the planet and the people.
5. Develop the potential and interest of youth in achieving of the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Integrate educational programmes of UNESCO in schools and universities of Kazakhstan in the field of the sustainable development to form a more tolerant, responsible and fair youth generation in the areas of ecology, antidiscrimination, gender equality and general wellbeing of peace and the humanity.
7. Provide an open access to information and educational modules to develop intellectual potential amongst youth.

By the end of the one-day Forum, the list of the most successful projects and startups was established and will be published soon on the official website of UNESCO Office in Almaty for their further support and implementation.

Thus, the first Youth Forum in Almaty provided young generation with a platform for a dialogue on the global challenges they are facing today and an opportunity to contribute in decision-making process.