

Global RCE Network

International Youth Day Webinar 2026

Youth in Charge: RCE Leaders Shaping Sustainable Societies

Date: 12 August 2026

Time: 21:00–22:00 JST (Online)

Registration link: [Click here to register](#)

Background

Are the youth in charge enough? Young people are becoming more recognized as essential partners in advancing sustainable development. Yet, they are still viewed primarily as beneficiaries rather than leaders, too often. Youth are rarely given seats for decision-making. Sometimes, they may be consulted, or invited to speak, but less frequently involved in shaping decisions, co-designing initiatives or leading projects. At times, we have seen them assigned as assistants instead of decision makers or producers of knowledge. This leads us to ask what can be done to truly put the youth in charge.

Objective

This International Youth Day 2026, UNU-IAS, together with the Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs), invites the public to the book launch webinar of *Youth in Charge: RCE Leaders Shaping Sustainable Societies*. This youth-centered and youth-led publication spotlights RCE initiatives that advance meaningful youth engagement and leadership in sustainability initiatives and feature active youth participation in project design, implementation and leadership. Drawing on diverse experiences around the world, this book illustrates how youth leadership and partnership contribute to addressing local and global sustainability issues while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The webinar will also feature a panel discussion with RCE Regional Youth Coordinators from around the world to discuss and reflect on the issues of youth participation, leadership and action for sustainable development.



UNU
IAS



Programme

Moderators:

Gio Miole, JSPS-UNU Postdoctoral Fellow, UNU-IAS

Ahmad Ali Karim, RCE Regional Youth Coordinator, Asia-Pacific

10 mins	Introduction <i>By:</i> <i>Yelin Ha, Intern, UNU-IAS</i> <i>Gio Miole, JSPS-UNU Postdoctoral Fellow, UNU-IAS</i> Opening Remarks <i>By: Nafissa Insebayeva, Consultant, UNU-IAS</i>
10 mins	Book Launch and Presentation <i>By: Gio Miole, JSPS-UNU Postdoctoral Fellow, UNU-IAS</i>
20 mins	A Conversation with RCE Regional Youth Coordinators (RYCs) <i>By:</i> <i>Evance Ouya (RYC, Africa & Middle East)</i> <i>Héctor Esparra-Escalera (RYC, Americas)</i> <i>Woojin Lee (RYC, Asia-Pacific)</i> <i>Alyson Mackay (RYC, Europe)</i> <i>Facilitator: Janu Muhammad (RYC, Asia-Pacific)</i>
10 mins	Closing Remarks <i>By: Jonghwi Park, Head of Innovation and Education, UNU-IAS</i>