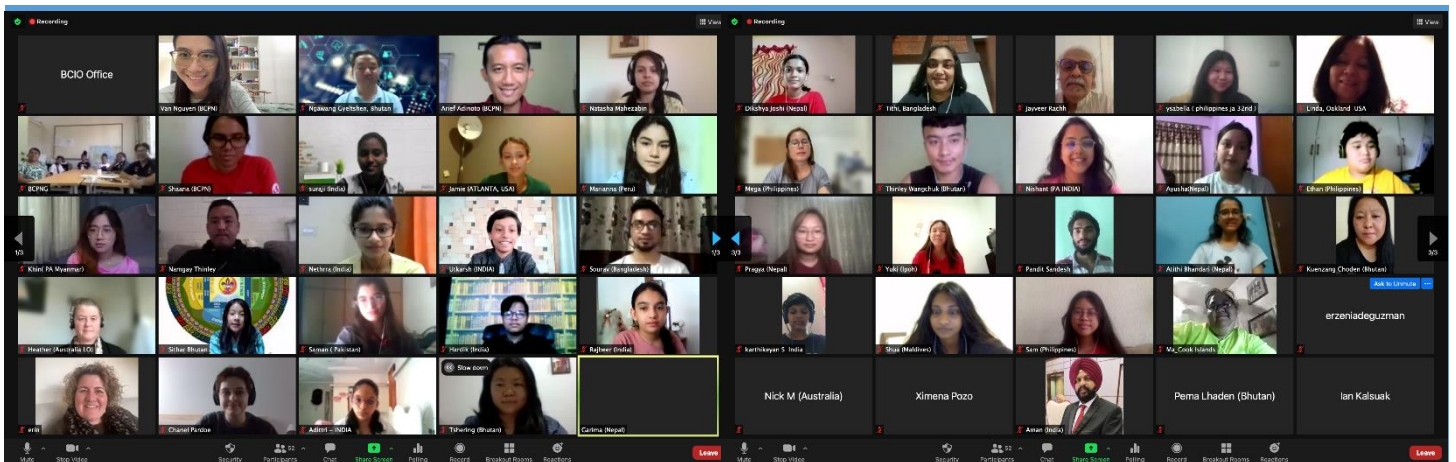




BCIO
BRIDGE CLUB INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

BRIDGE CLUB Professional Network (BCPN) Webinar Report Sustainable Development Goals: What it means for the Asia-Pacific



Organized by: BRIDGE CLUB International Organization

Date: June 26, Saturday 12:00- 13:30 JST



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

What it means for the Asia-Pacific

26 JUNE '21
12:00 - 13:30 JST

Following a series of successful webinars, BRIDGE CLUB Professionals Network (BCPN) organized its 4th webinar on June 26, 2021. The theme of the webinar was “Sustainable Development Goals: What it means for the Asia-Pacific”. This webinar drew an attention among the APCC members. The webinar was hosted by Van Nguyen, BCPN Communication team leader and presided over by Arief Adinoto, Chairperson of BCPN. This webinar was attended by 60 participants from 20 countries/regions including APCC Liaison officers and 2021 JAs.

The keynote speaker Mr. Ngawang Gyeltshen (JA 1989, PA 2005 and BCIO HOM 2010), officer at UNDP, is a development practitioner with more than 15 years of experience. He specializes in nature conservation and green finance. He currently works on environmental sustainability and sustainable development. Ms Mahezabin Helal Natasha, Environmental Consultant, United Nations ESCAP, JA 1995 & PA 2005 from Bangladesh facilitated the webinar as a resource person.

The webinar was designed to introduce sustainable development goals (SDGs) in brief with an easy context to make it understandable to all the participants.

In the 1st part of the webinar Mr. Ngawang presented the 17 goals of sustainable development with many statistics and visuals. He made the session interactive and keep the participants active through conducting polls. Most of the participants interacted through chat box too. Mr. Ngawang explained the improvements in different sectors of development with different parameters and emphasized on more to achieve.

After the presentation there were a Q/A session. Ms. Natasha came forward to answer few questions from the participants. Saman Zahid from Pakistan, Suraji from India, Pragya from Nepal participated in this session.

2nd part of the session was more interactive and a reflection of what the participants learned from the presentation in the first part. In the discussion through chat box the participants shared their individual and BRIDGE CLUB's action plan to address SDGs. Mr. Ngawang shared some good examples from some BCs who worked on SDGs. Both Mr. Ngawang and Ms. Natasha shared their insights on sustainable environment.

The webinar had a great impact and speakers and participants are interested to have a follow up session in near future.

We asked Mr. Ngawang about his insights on this webinar from a keynote speaker's point of view and these are some of the points he has shared with us. **"I enjoyed leading the session and was impressed by the level of questions and interactions. We were able to draw preliminary synergies between SDGs and APCC/BCIO and plan the growth of BCPN using SDG lenses. As we have seen, our BRIDGE CLUBs are already implementing many activities, which are linked to SDGs. Going forward, I am excited to help APCC/BCIO/BCPN in advancing our efforts towards sustainable development."**

We also asked Ms. Natasha, resource person for this webinar about her opinion on this program. **“I am pleased to have participated at the webinar on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), organized by the BRIDGE CLUB Professional Network (BCPN). Achieving the SDGs or the Global Goals is critical to every community of the world and BCPN activities can contribute towards this objective. The active participation of over 60 participants of different ages around the Asia-Pacific region was indeed noticeable. The valuable insights and enquiries that we received from the speakers and the participants will surely help the BRIDGE CLUBS around the world to connect their own initiatives and exchange views on this front. In future, organizing more thematic and sub-regional events e.g. on climatic change issues, or partnerships etc. will inspire the BC community to advance their effort.”**

We followed up with some of the participants of the webinar and the following are some of the feedback we have received.

Ms. Heather Darbyshire (APCC Liaison officer, Australia): “I enjoyed the session but as you were aware, the presentation left little time for a group discussion in break out rooms. Ngawang was very knowledgeable in his understanding of the SDG's but given the large number of them, it may have been better to provide some 'pre-reading' or a PowerPoint presentation that potential participants could read beforehand to gain a general understanding of what was to be covered, then it may have been possible to reduce the amount of time spent explaining the individual goals - with perhaps Ngawang's presentation revolving more around 'big picture' ideas and experiences and examples. This would have allowed time for the group discussions to be held to allow people to express their ideas and thoughts more freely and perhaps some definite actions could have resulted. It was really great to see the range of participants there - both from the BCPN as well as younger JA's/BC members - topics such as this are great for a mixed audience but also, thinking of the aims of BCPN - a follow up session of older members could be beneficial to face some of the more difficult questions and really have the opportunity to identify the issues which affect members and their communities and develop a set of actions that are perhaps a little 'deeper' than those that will come out of the virtual Summer Camp - actions that are more challenging, require a deeper understanding of and challenge members to take action that is meaningful and impactful.”

Ms. Suraji G. (JA 2009, PA 2021 India): “Sustainable development program was wonderful. The speaker's each word was crisp and clear. It reached the audience well. Thank u BCPN was this amazing session. BCPN can also conduct more activities and competitions related to this topic so that all our APCC members will get more exposure. At last I loved everyone point of view about the topic in comments.”

The BCPN Management Team is delighted to have BCPN Webinar 4 become a success. We wholeheartedly appreciate the participants for taking their precious time and being a part of this event with great enthusiasm. As an outcome of the webinar, we will further explore the synergies and partnerships with institutions that can help the growth of BCPN as well as contribution to overall sustainable development. If required, we will have detailed sessions to explore these, during PA camps, Presidents’ meeting and other forums.

The next webinar is tentatively scheduled after about 2 months. Please stay tuned with us for more information on the upcoming BCPN Webinar.

BRIDGE CLUB Professional Network (BCPN) Team Members

Name	BC Country	Position
Arief Adinoto	Indonesia	BCIO General Manager BCPN Chairperson
Nidhi Parekh	India	BCIO Asst. Manager BCPN Support Manager
Kazi Bushra Ahmed Tithi	Bangladesh	BCPN Development Team Leader
Fathimath Shaana	Maldives	BCPN Database Team Leader
Van Nguyen Thi Truc	Vietnam	BCPN Communication Team Leader
Karuna Shrestha	Nepal	APCC Program Coordinator BCIO Secretary