



International Youth Day

August 12, 2017

In celebration of the **2017 International Youth Day**, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) is pleased to share messages from some of the members of AFPPD's Standing Committee on Investing in Youth. This year's theme is "**Youth Building Peace.**"



Hon. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay

MP, Nepal

Co-Chair, AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth

"Youths are the **partners of the present and building blocks of the future**. They have the potential to propel development if they are involved in inclusive and participatory decision-making. Youth, sustainable development and world peace are the three vertexes of a triangle. So let's **unlock and connect the potential of young people everywhere** to make this world a better place for humanity."



Hon. Akosita Lavulavu

MP, Tonga

"I believe that a happy and vibrant youth goes a long way towards promoting peace and eliminating conflict. When we ensure that our youth have access to good education, health and employment, we are in essence empowering them to thrive and contribute as **ambassadors for peace**. Investing in our youth is our best way of **securing a world that they can truly call home.**"



Hon. Ria Bond

MP, New Zealand

"Youth have the ability to initiate change through **education, advocacy and activism**. Rates of gender based violence are unacceptably high in New Zealand and in Pacific Island countries. We need to engage youth to tackle this issue. In Kiribati, Vanuatu and New Zealand, for example, young people are using **drama, music festivals and workshops** to address violence towards women and promote sustainable peace in communities."



Hon. Dastan Bekeshev

MP, Kyrgyzstan

"Youth is a **driving force behind significant social changes** in any part of the world. However, this force can have a destructive nature if used by radical groups, especially in Central Asia. Making this force constructive and beneficiary for the entire society should be one of the AFPPD's goals. '**Investing**' of **financial, spiritual, institutional efforts into youth** is a way of helping all of us build a fair, diverse and tolerant society."



Hon. Datuk Wilson Ugak Anak Kumbong

MP, Malaysia

"As a Member of Parliament from Malaysia, I urge all of you, the young Asians, to have a single mission which is to protect the planet for the next generation. **The future of today lies on the shoulders of our younger generation** and our role as parliamentarians is to drive and facilitate everyone through the journey."



Hon. Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy

MP, Philippines

"Every year, we celebrate international youth day to give emphasis to the **importance of the youth's contribution** in conflict prevention, transformation, social justice, and sustainable peace. I hope that this year, the youth, who has most to bear in passing on the culture of inclusive societies, **be more active and vigilant in their role of promoting lasting peace.** Happy International Youth Day!"



Hon. Dinh Cong Sy

MP, Vietnam

"Young people are the future owners of the country. They play an important role in creating and maintaining peace and stability for cooperation and development. **Each government needs to make proper investments for young people** to promote their knowledge, and ensure their physical and mental health. And the youth, themselves, should be fully aware of their responsibility to contribute to the process of building a peaceful, humane and prosperous society within the nation as well as worldwide."



Hon. Sanjida Khanam

MP, Bangladesh

"Youth is a critical force to build and maintain peace. Young people are full of energy, dedication and responsibility. Let us believe in the potential of youth and allow opportunities for them to rise. Let us **nurture the young minds of today into the future leaders and advocates of peace of tomorrow.** We have to show our support so that these young people can reach their full potential and bring us to light."



Hon. Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle

MP, Sri Lanka

"As we celebrate the International Youth Day, we, as parliamentarians, need to work together to empower youth and support opportunities that enable them to acquire the relevant skills, competencies and attitudes in peacebuilding."