

Protect what is Precious
Loving God and Being a Good Steward
Protecting our Youth and Caring for the Creation
2019 Asia Chapter Presentation

...living the laudato si...

**Who are our neighbors and are we loving them as ourselves?
Are we caring for the creation, the poor, the oppressed, the
widows, the fatherless? Then, do we know and love God?¹**

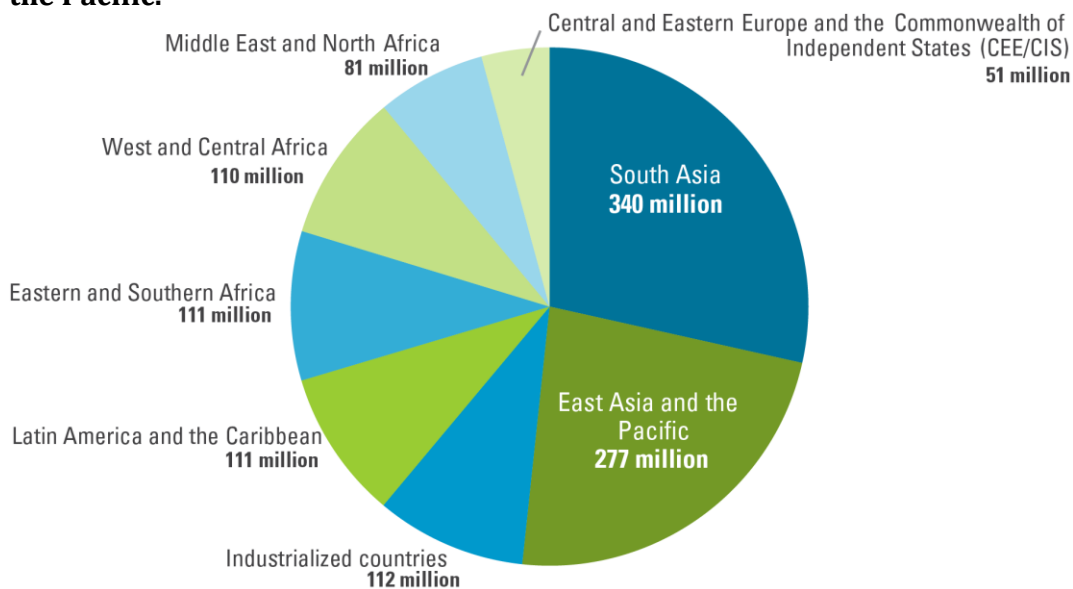
A look at our population:

Asia is the largest continent on the earth and it also has the largest population in the world.

The population of **Asia covers 60%** of the total human population on this earth, **which is recorded at around 4.3 billion people.**

And some 1.2 billion adolescents aged 10-19 years old make up 16 per cent of the world's population.

More than half (620mm) of all adolescents globally live in South. East Asia and the Pacific.



¹ *Matthew 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

GDP and poverty in Asia

Some of our poorest countries in Asia include Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea and Afghanistan.

- We have more than 500 billionaires in Asia but there are 1.6 bn who are living less than \$2 a day.
- **5 Asia companies have shaped Asia**, and the world – Samsung (world's second-largest technology company), Toyota (auto), Sony (entertainment), HDFC Bank (India's largest private sector bank) and Alibaba (e-commerce).

However, economic growth has left some of the most vulnerable behind. We have a

Labour market, with high unemployment among youth in Asia

- In many countries of the region, a substantial proportion of youth, in low-income countries – especially young women – are *not in employment, education or training (NEET)*.
- In 14 of 26 countries of the region, more than one in five women are NEET.
- 35 per cent of the region's unemployed are youth aged 15–24. and these workers have little secondary and tertiary education.²
- Unlocking our youth's potential will require positive action across the private, social and private sectors.

.. our natural resources³

- There are 10 major rivers flowing through out 16 countries in Asia, all of which flow from the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)
- 4 priority rivers, the **Ganges, Indus, Yangtze and Yellow** house the largest economies with an estimated total GDP of US\$3.8 trn.
- Many of the continent's major cities and important economic hubs lie in their river basin. And these river basins are densely populated with 1.5 bn people.
- Compared to other developed countries in the G20, China and India, the two most populous countries in the world, simply do not have enough water to ensure food & energy security plus develop under the current export-led economic growth model *

*www.Chinawaterisk.org

² www.ILO.org 2018 advancing decent work for sustainable development.

³ God calls us to be stewards of and “reign over” everything He created in this earth.

Genesis 1:27-28 “So God created human beings in His own image...God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.’”

Let's look at the countries in conflict

Ending violence against children is recognised as a priority in the global development agenda. This is **the Sustainable Development Goal 16.2** (ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children), and other targets focused on child protection outcomes.

- Nearly 1 in 4 children is living in a country affected by humanitarian crises,.
- As of early **2018**, nearly 31 million **children worldwide** had been displaced by violence and conflict.
- Around 700,000 Rohingya fled persecution in Myanmar at the end of 2017.

Violence and exploitation of children is acute across Asian and Pacific nations. Estimates across the region find:

- 17-35% of low-income children are subject to physical violence;
- 11-22% of girls experience sexual abuse;
- up to 40% of children are emotionally neglected or abused; and
- nearly 1 in 10 children are engaged in child labour.

In addition, problems of early and forced marriage, online exploitation, unsafe migration and trafficking are among the highest of any region.

Reducing violence is not only imperative to alleviate children's suffering but also key to ending extreme child poverty. Children who are subject to abuse or neglect are more likely to under-achieve at school, or drop out and miss out on the opportunity of a complete education.

Major Religions of South Asia

Asia has extremely diverse climates and geographic features, there are three major religions in South Asia: Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. We speak different languages, and religion has a strong influence on culture and traditions. China and India are considered two of the largest country in Asia. ⁴

Whilst these three religions are also all in the top four religions in the world. Behind Christianity, Islam is the second largest religion, with approximately 1.3 billion followers. Hinduism is the third, and Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world by number of followers.

Today Islam continues to spread throughout Asia, The following is the 10 largest Muslim populations in the world today and 8 of them are in Asia.

⁴ We have 48 countries in Asia; 3 of them Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkey have part of their land in Europe.

Country	Number of Muslims
Indonesia	170,310,000
Pakistan	136,000,000
Bangladesh	106,050,000
India	103,000,000
Turkey	62,410,000
Iran	60,790,000
Egypt	53,730,000
Nigeria	47,720,000
China	37,108,000

– growing foremost in Asia is the rising numbers of individuals who identify themselves as Christians.

Apart from the Philippines, Timor Leste, Asian Russia, Cyprus, Armenia, and Georgia, Christians are still a minority in the forty-eight countries in Asia.

However, over the past two decades, a marked increase in Asian Christians, especially in Korea, India, and China, has led to predictions that in 5 years, by 2025 their numbers, now estimated at 350 million, will escalate to 460 million.

Yet for many Asians, Christianity is still tainted by a “foreign” past because it is associated with the European arrival in the late 15th century and with the imposition of colonialism and the influence of the West in the 19th and 20th centuries.

We live in a complex, complicated world where problems have been created by men.

..wars, conflicts, violence, refugees, migrants, modern slave, climate change, pollution, plastics... as a global society – we are facing complicated and intertwined issues which should be addressed collectively. It is not someone else’s problem. It is our collective problem.

We need to create conditions for sustainable, diversified and inclusive development. Our mind-set should take a new paradigm of activating our adolescents needs and requirements to live in today’s changing world with understanding and appreciation of what are essentials in young people who may live in conflict, or in low economic strata.

Living in such complexities of culture, language, religious differences, let's have a look at how can we start a transition from negative to positively

Protecting our children and our home (our world)⁵ - what is our plan?

- Unleash the potential of our youth and
- Protect our world

If we reflect from the book of Genesis, we see that human beings were made "in the image of God"⁶. We are created in his IMAGE and thus, All humans are equal and all humans deserve to be treated with fairness, and justice⁷

This means to say that humans were created to be God's representatives on earth and carry out His plan, abiding by the morals and concepts of justice that God himself abides by.

Our youth is our asset, not a liability...

⁵ (Genesis 1:27) *We are created by God in His own image that means all humans are equal and deserve to be treated with fairness and justice. Every human being is an image bearer of God.!*

⁶ 26. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

⁷ 28. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

I. By Unleashing the potential

The Bible instructs us to teach and nurture our children⁸ so that they thrive and flourish as productive, faithful individuals **living a life of PURPOSE and ABUNDANCE.**⁹

Our mind-set must be forward thinking of the future where there are multi-cultural dimensions, multi-disciplines...

Installing Values, a moral compass

Our children, our adolescents depends on a value transfer from their families – to love and to share. But with **fragmented families**, chasing the career / monetary success, we have forgotten our moral compass which has been given to us; [**through Jesus**] to live a practicing Christian way of life, through the **teachings of the Church**, through our education process - **the “Word of God”** which is the Bible. It has the highest authority than any human teachings.

Access to God’s Word should be limitless, and people are already working to ensure that. e.g. the audio Bible now reaches 6.1 billion people in 1266 languages.

Collaborative tri-sector approaches

Forward thinking, collaborative approaches and partnerships in community investment. Private sector corporations and philanthropy are needed to build regional and global communities where social progress and economic development occur in harmony with nature.

II. **Be DO-TANKS!**¹⁰ Rather than think tanks. For too long, we have been band-aiding the issues – we now have an opportunity to discover and **ACT** on this transitional journey

⁸ Proverbs 22:6 “Director your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.”

⁹The world will teach us to seek greatness in different aspects of our lives. This is not the way of Christ, who said that to be great in His eyes, we must first surrender the grip we have on our own lives and humbly serve others.

Matthew 20:26-28 NIV whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Deuteronomy 30:15-16 “Today I offer you life and prosperity or death and destruction. This is what I’m commanding you today: Love the Lord your God, follow his directions, and obey his commands, laws, and rules. Then you will live, your population will increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you’re about to enter and take possession of.

¹⁰ *James 1:22-25 “But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.”*

Constructive innovations that can bring about collective force of change to our youth and our common home.

James 1: 22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

II.1) Let's start with Education

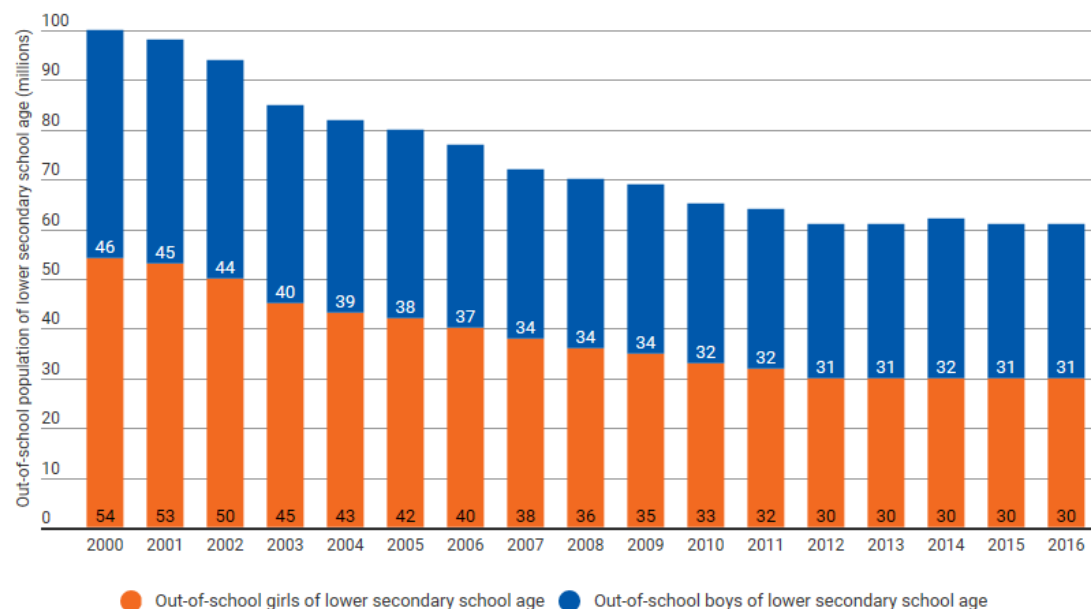
- Of Asia's more than 620mm young people, 220 million are not engaged in education, employment or training, and a further 300 million are underemployed
 - Girls are more likely to be left behind, as 34 per cent of female youth are NOT in schools, or employed, nor do they have training compared to 10 per cent of male youth globally

Returns on education investment are beyond measure

Literacy, useful knowledge, skills development - education remains one of the most funded philanthropic causes across the globe.

- Investing just \$22 per capita each year in improving secondary school education could generate economic benefits of about 12 times the costs.
(UNICEF adolescent investment case. 13 March 2019)

Out of school population among children of lower secondary school age (millions) by sex, 2000-2016

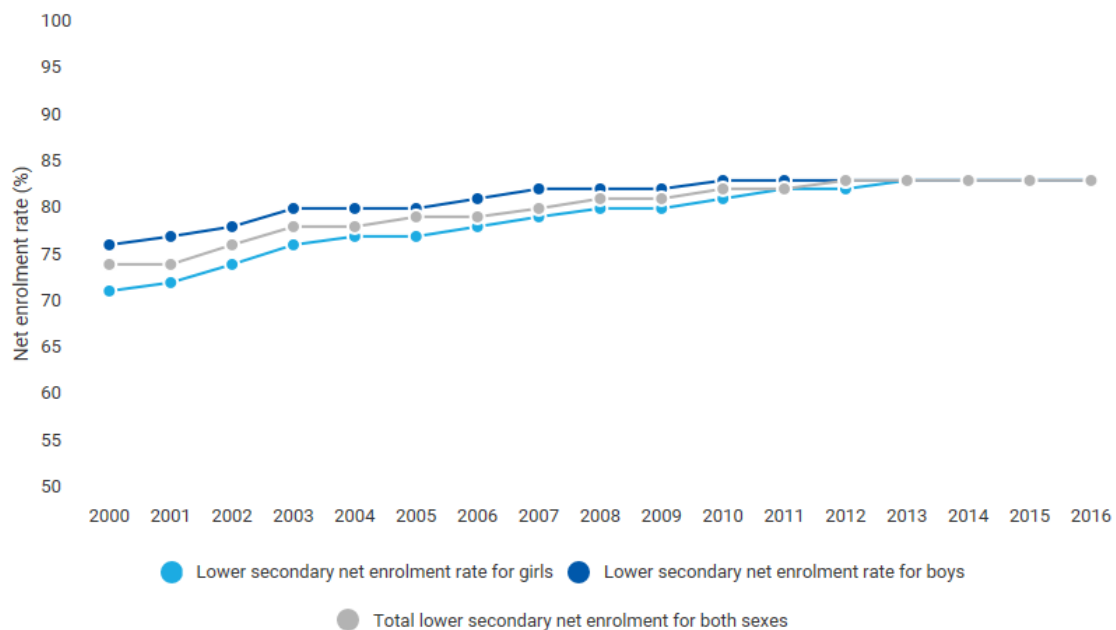


Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics global databases, 2018

Another translation: James 1: 22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Out of school population among children of lower secondary school age (millions) by sex, 2000-2016

Adjusted net enrolment rate among children of lower secondary school age by sex, 2000-2016



It makes economic sense to invest in programming that protects children and provides environments in which they can thrive. Healthy, educated and happy children go on to be active, productive adult citizens in their communities.

Our youth will be the backbone of our future society.

II.2 We need to examine new approaches and technologies to education that can help increase access to information, to evidence based knowledge with clarity. It is not possible to overcome our mounting social and environmental challenges using industrial era thinking.

Looking of youth as our population asset – we should look at their transition from children to adolescents to adulthood.

If we are successful from one learning to another progressively – it leads to sustainability, work with purpose and intent.

II.3 Conserving Our Planet and Fulfilling our Responsibilities as Good Stewards¹¹

As inhabitants of planet Earth, we all share and rely on natural resources such as

¹¹ *God calls us to be stewards of everything He created in this earth. “We are to have dominion in everything in the sea, the heavens (sky), everything on the earth. Genesis 1: 27*

Creation care is a “gospel issue”

air, water, soil, minerals, plants and animals to survive and thrive. However, as necessity and excessive consumption increase, the impact of natural disruption has intensified; as has the urgency to search for effective solutions that could reverse climate change.

We are also aware that we are failing in the sacred trust given to us by God to care for his creatures. In the last 40 years we have lost half of earth's entire stock of wildlife, according to the World Wildlife Fund. This should bother any human being; it should devastate those of us who are Christians. **"We think the Church of Jesus Christ has a unique role to play in guiding human society toward a healthier and happier relationship with creation."**

<http://www.careofcreation.net/what-creation-care-is-all-about/>

Positive change needs a shift in both mindset and behavior - from science, technology, governments, businesses to arts and philanthropy – **to restore and protect our planet and our biodiversity.**

III. We need to increase livelihoods, employment, supply that meets demand

With nearly half of the future citizens at risk of low education, unemployment – can we, in Asia, maintain the growth that we have enjoyed in recent past.

- One in four of the poorest adolescents has never attended school,
- one in two has either dropped out of primary school
- or is still in primary school many years after expected completion.

An alarming number of youth lack the education and skills needed to compete in today's job market.

- India and China has 360 and 300 million respectively.
- With nearly 700 million youth, these adolescents carry the responsibility of sustaining and improving their countries' **socioeconomic growth** that embraces all.
- 36 million youth are unemployed, with another 300 million underemployed.

Collaborative market approaches to investment, business and philanthropy are needed if we are going to build a community where social progress and economic development **occur in harmony with nature.**

III.1 People Power: the pathway to socioeconomic development¹²

Youth unemployment at highest recorded level; 36 million Asia Pacific young people unemployed. **Although, only one in five workers are between the ages of 15 and 24, this group accounts for almost half the region's jobless.**

12

Learn, earn and give back to society by adding multiple learning pathways that can help our adolescents to increase employability. Meeting supply and demand. Our socioeconomic development should be committed to putting people at the center, prioritizing their safety, dignity and the right to thrive.

Bible verses instruct us to care for the poor, the oppressed, the widow, the orphans...

Through collaboration, design sustainable programs and services with adolescents in mind, school to work transition - **we can increase the supply and demand (talent) chain**, with deeper understanding of our ecosystem of both the youth and our earth.

IV Private sector engagement - deploying ESG principles, diversity & inclusion and fair employment practices, should be the business NORM. Private partnerships should demonstrate **how doing good is GOOD business.**

Engaging Technology - Despite very real challenges that technology holds for the fabric of society, if used well, also holds the potential to positively impact and transform the lives of children and their families.

IV. The Role of Church and faith based organisations include schools, to philanthropy endeavors in activating and unleashing the full potential of our adolescents

I believe how the role faith based institutions have a role in shaping the future of our youths

Church is relevant, more a role for the Church to reach out, not just in Catholic faith in our rapidly changing world to help establish new norms, undergrid common (human) values and assist the global community to have a constructive conversation on some of the new challenges we all face, some of which are game changing and existential and relate to humanity's future.

Catholic education in schools across the world

gives a spiritual foundation for a moral life that was established, it forms the bedrock of [my] ethical world and continues to serve as the lens and setting from which we navigate right from left. It is a given – and always present in [my] thoughts and behavior .

Global population of Catholics (Christians) – look up to our Heavenly Father to serve as a [moral] **Compass for where we (the global)** could and should be heading ¹³.

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- ¹³ *Our God, who is our Heavenly Father should be our only, highest “moral compass”. He has the final say, not any human beings.*
 - *Matthew 23:9 “And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.”*

The Church is no longer a form of secular government instead – the Church carries an important role and responsibility. It can project influence more than power. At times, a moral authority.

We as Christians and as the Church are to live out what God teaches in the Bible. It is about being faithful and obedient to God; also an expression of our love to Him and to our neighbors and our common home, our world.

The Church can stay relevant to our changing complex world and be an agent of positive SOCIAL moral compass and direction.

V. Digital humanitarian change in the 21st C.

Pope Francis encyclical letter said “The Church cannot present new models, only commentary, to stress the value of a spiritual perspective in a material, and now digital world.’

At this point, perhaps, we need to formulate, strategize, focus and develop a future “business plan” for the Compass of Global Humanity to lay out.

We now have an opportunity to exercise options, create DO-TANKS than can effect positive change, enlighten, activate our youth facing their digital future.

VI. Role of CAPP in Asia from Mission→Mandate→ what & how?

We examined what should be the roles of *for-profit* and the *not-for-profit* be in steering society and shaping the future? ¹⁴

Who is your neighbor and how does “loving thy neighbors” look like to you? What are the one thing we, individually can do now, in our digital world and/or sphere of influence to live this out? Building diversity and inclusion.

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- *2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work.”*

John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; your Word is truth.”

¹⁴ *Matthew 22:37 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Isiah 1:17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

We have all been entrusted with our talents and resources. How are we managing them? On the day we see the Lord, will He say to us “well done, good and faithful servant”? Here is a great story to share.....

In Matthew 25, it talks about Jesus’ second coming and the final judgment. Jesus will come in his glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit upon His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as the faithful and unfaithful ones.

“Then the King will say to the faithful ones, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.”

“Then the righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’”

“Then the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”

VI Our Do-tank in Asia – actionables in the pipeline

Warren Buffet said: “Giving money away is easy, Giving money away well is fiendishly difficult.”

CAPP Asia be the bridge that link the private sector to the social sector that reflect and resonate with CAPP’s Vision, Mission and Mandate.

- Be an advocate for governance, a guide which respond to CST principles and reflections.
- To provide information that can allow for better informed decisions.

VI.i **An intelligent rating compass** that meet the needs of youth, protect our common home. **A link between private to social sector - direct engagement between for profit and the not-for-profit.**

- A working guide whose mission is to increase capacity and reach.
- A profiled platform of organisations that embraces leadership, technical know-how, annual reporting, evaluation and the capacity to expand the models of development work that can be scaled.
- Establish vetting criteria – building certifications, sustainability, transparency.
- Create a database to find organisations that meet funder’s vision.
- Capacity to partner with allies and supporters

VI.ii **Evidence mapping of countries** in Asia – individual and **institutional volunteerism**¹⁵

- Assist, counsel, mentor social organizations to deepen impact and aid those who are vulnerable and marginalized.
- Leverage members expertise with expertise that can improve qualitative and quantitative results of talent supply and demand linkage

VI. iii **A domain of youth learning, skills based engagement** with content driven allies that can be role models, increase job opportunities, access to investment capital. A portal of school to work transition with career counselling, internships and entrepreneurship education.

In conclusion, it is apparent in order to activate our GenZ, our future global citizens; we need to innovate, to build a global community where social progress and economic development occur in harmony with Nature.

We are faced with opportunities to embrace better education that can lead to higher opportunity of employment.

- Lower wars and violence to bring stability to our future
- Increase gender equality

Strengthening our faith, regaining moral compass aligned with the Word of God, which The Word of God, not any religious traditions, is to be our only source for God's truth

Deuteronomy 4:2 "You shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither take from it" teaches us to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:37-38)

Thank you.

¹⁵ *Matthew 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*