



Pacific Disability Forum

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Press Release - 2021 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

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The success of any global effort needs the meaningful participation of young people. This is the driving theme behind this year's International Youth Day which is "Transforming Food systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health"

The theme aptly ties in with the global effort to collectively and individually to restore the planet and protect life. It sheds light on the efforts by many stakeholders in the arena of poverty reduction; social inclusion; health care; biodiversity conservation; and climate change mitigation.

For young persons with disabilities, this year's theme also highlights issues that affect them as well and bringing it to the forefront of its national, regional and international communities. Today is a day that celebrates and recognizes the potential of youth with disabilities as active partners in the global society.

It is important to highlight here that the success of regional efforts will not be achieved without the meaningful participation of youth with disabilities across the Pacific through their representative organizations and working collaboratively with youth partners in country such as the National Youth Councils and the relevant ministry that is dedicated to youth work.

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) currently has an active youth Committee representing eight Pacific island countries namely Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Amongst the focal areas for youth development and protection, the committee members continue to work closely with their OPD youth groups to advocate on matters that concerns the lives of their youth members.

Today, let us celebrate the qualities of young people with disabilities and let us also continue to recognize the challenges faced by these individuals. Ensuring that the preconditions to inclusion are fully realized, youth with disabilities in the Pacific can achieve far greater aspects of the goals of the SDGs of leaving no one behind.

Let us celebrate this day together with youth with disabilities in the Pacific region. Together we will continue to motivate the more youthful age to concoct imaginative thoughts and plans to make the Pacific an inclusive one!

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Should you have any queries, feel free to contact Paradise Tabucala on 7720138 or paradise.tabucala@pacificdisability.org.