

Youth LEAD

2014

ANNUAL REPORT



## Message from the Regional Coordinator

**2014** can be summarized in a few words: in the face of several challenges, we made significant progress and accomplished tremendous achievements. It is now time to look back, reflect on our successes, and to look forward to see what still needs to be done.

If 2014 was a year of celebration, it was also a year of looking to the future. We launched new initiatives, made new partnerships, and created new spaces that will strengthen Youth LEAD for generations to come. We are pleased to inform you that in June 2014, Youth LEAD received its official registration in Thailand, establishing itself as the first international youth-serving regional network of its kind. This official registration is representative of the progress Youth LEAD has made over the past three years in establishing itself as the Asia Pacific Network of Young Key Populations.

At the same time, we are also actively participating and advocating in different platforms to address the need and rights of Young KP. Youth LEAD was one of the International Task Force for World Conference on Youth and made significant contributions to the Outcome document. We actively participated in International AIDS Conference as plenary speakers and workshop facilitators, as well as through our involvement in the youth rapporteur team.

Youth LEAD has been selected as one of two regional delegates representing Asia and the Pacific on the NGO Delegation to UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) for the term 2015-2016. Youth LEAD is the first youth network in Asia and Pacific to be part of the UNAIDS PCB.

Regarding our activities, Youth LEAD has grown tremendously in size and scope. We are currently in 19 countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Mongolia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam) with 56 focal points and focal points coordinators who are actively engaged on the ground with hundreds of young people from key communities and networks.

Youth LEAD has also secured funding from the Robert Carr Civil Society Network Fund (RCNF) for two more years (2014-2015) in consortium with HIV Young Leaders Fund and additional funding for Global Fund youth related initiatives. Through the support from the RCNF, Youth LEAD has supported unique and innovative projects led by young people in six countries, ranging from collecting information for our advocacy platform, tracing stories of youth leadership and transformation, and acquiring mobile HIV testing in marginalized communities. From these experiences, Youth LEADers are becoming the empowered leaders that they want to be, influencing national, regional and global activism. As for now, Youth LEAD has conducted New Gen rollout in 10 countries. Youth LEAD is very proud of all the participants and trainers, seeing them transform into leaders and activists to bring about change.

We know that there are challenges ahead that contribute to a long journey of lobbying aimed at lowering the age of consent: policy and legal barriers, access to treatment and services, participation of YKP at decision making levels, and stigma. But we know we have the determination and a strong commitment to tackle these challenges head on.

We are grateful for the support of our donors, stakeholders and partners. We appreciate all the work and initiatives that have come from Youth LEADers this year. We can do so much more for the cause of YKP from the grassroots level to the high-level policy making bodies thanks to the strength and resilience of our amazing Youth LEAD community.

We are very excited for new opportunities ahead in 2015.



Thaw Zin Aye  
Youth LEAD Regional Coordinator



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## About Youth LEAD

Youth LEAD (Youth Leadership. Education. Advocacy. Development) was founded in the summer of 2010 under the Coalition of Asia-Pacific Regional Networks on HIV and AIDS (7 Sisters). Youth LEAD is a regional network of young key populations and young people living with HIV, ages 18-27, in Asia and the Pacific. Young Key Populations (YKP) include young sex workers, young drug users, young men who have sex with men, young transgender people, and young migrants. Youth LEAD's network exists to capacitate, empower and create regional partnerships among national-level YKP organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. Youth LEAD equips its members with the necessary skills and tools to address gaps, issues and challenges faced by marginalized, vulnerable, and affected communities.

### Keep in touch.

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/youthleadAP](http://www.facebook.com/youthleadAP)

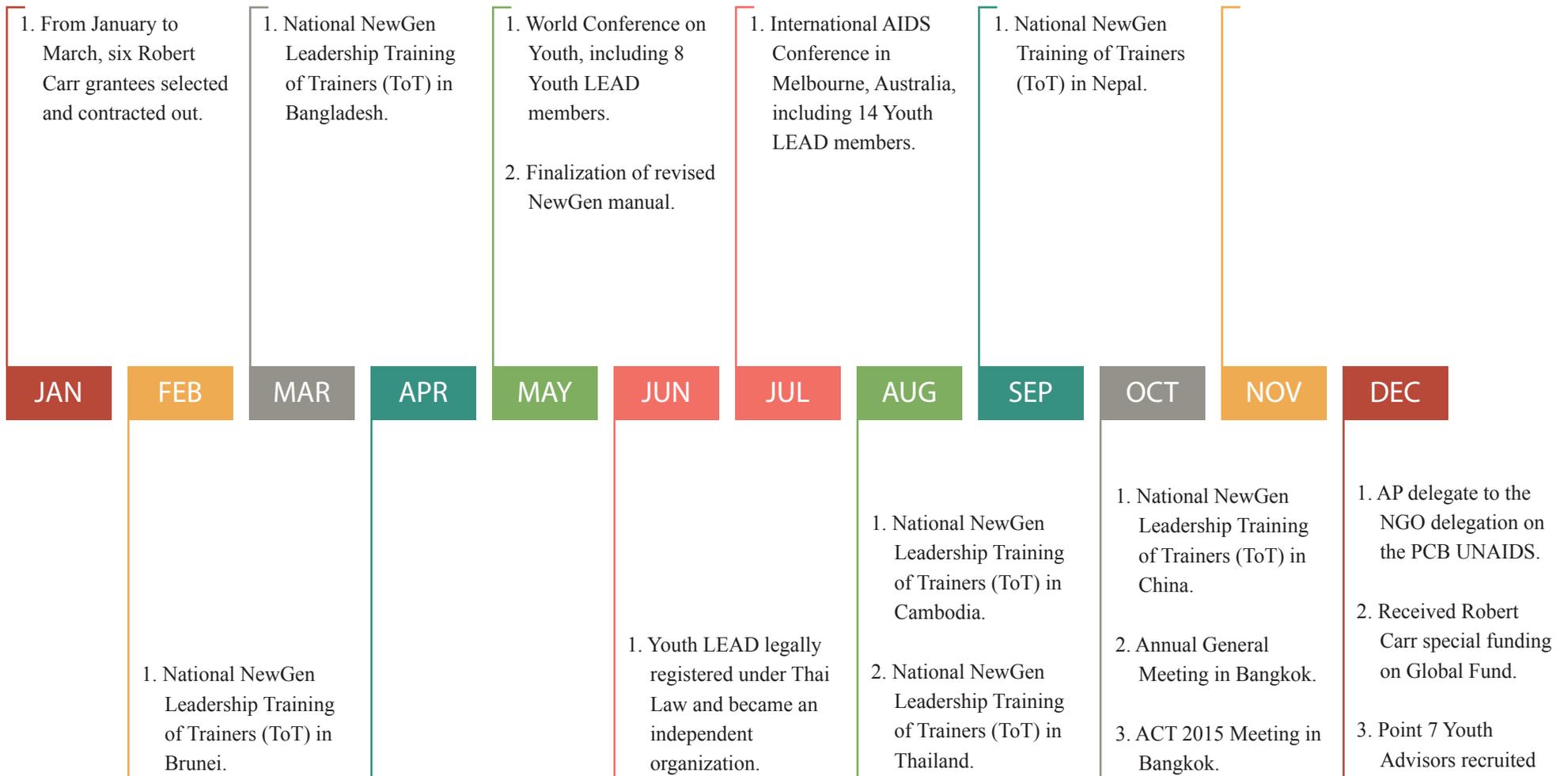
**Instagram:** @youth\_lead

**Twitter:** @\_youthlead

**Website:** [www.youth-lead.org](http://www.youth-lead.org)

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## 2014 Highlights



## Getting Independent

Youth LEAD is officially legally registered as an organization in Thailand! This is an exciting milestone for Youth LEAD and we hope that this inspires other youth-led organizations to become autonomous and independent in the future.

### Strengthened Governance

Alongside official Thailand registration as mentioned above, Youth LEAD, with support from NEEDED, developed a variety of official governance documents. This includes a governance handbook, policies and procedures, and separate financial and organizational policies pertaining specifically to Youth LEAD. These documents will guide the operations of the organization and will institute a stronger system of regulation.

### Annual General Meeting

Youth LEAD believes that an effective Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an indication of a strong and transparent organization. Since its inception, Youth LEAD has held an AGM, and 2014 was no exception. It was a fun-filled and meaningful week, hosting thirty young key populations leaders from the region. It was Youth LEAD's third AGM, and took place in Bangkok from October 1-3, 2014.

### Focal Points

Youth LEAD has developed a network of YKP activists in each of the countries we work in, through a mechanism we call Focal Points. These Focal Points are selected from different YKP across the region, who work directly with their respective communities. Our network has reached 19 countries in Asia and the Pacific with 50 Focal Points from all key populations and young people living with HIV/AIDS. Our Focal Points allow Youth LEAD to connect with YKP on the ground in their communities and countries. Focal Points are mentored through focal point country coordinators and Youth LEAD's secretariat. Communication is upheld through Google Group, Facebook, Twitter and Email.



In Photo: Newly elected board members 2014

1. Chin Gipolio, Philippines (top left)
2. Srijana Rai, Nepal (top right)
3. Chanthorn Phornng, Cambodia (middle left)
4. Ayu Oktariani, Indonesia (middle right)
5. Gautam Yadav, India (bottom-above left)
6. Nancy Zhang, China (bottom-below left)
7. Thu Yain, Singapore (bottom right)

Strengthening Country Activism

19 Countries

56 Focal points



*In 2014, Youth LEAD strengthened YKP advocacy on major issues including: legal barriers, the National Strategic Plan, Policies and Guidelines on the HIV Response, the Global Fund funding model, sexual and reproductive health and rights, the Post 2015 development goals, as well as youth friendly testing and treatment at national levels.*

## Robert Carr Grantees

*The Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund (RCNF) is the first international fund that specifically aims to strengthen international networks across the world.*

With the support of Robert Carr Network Fund, Youth LEAD directly supported six initiatives of YKP in six countries.

Nepal	Philippines	Indonesia
<b>Interventions to intensify the YKP movements</b>	<b>Responsible Youth on Move: Ver 2: Mobile education on HIV, testing and counseling for YKPs</b>	<b>Launch advocacy and Strengthen network</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly discussion forum with experts</li> <li>• Documentation of barriers to access SRHR and HIV services</li> <li>• Policy brief and national advocacy meeting</li> <li>• Network strengthening</li> <li>• Documentary on YKP in Nepal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional mobile van</li> <li>• NewGen training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Plan of YKP-led organization, Fokus Muda.</li> <li>• Advocacy during revision of national strategic plan, strategic use of ARV, country dialogue under New Funding Model</li> </ul>
South Korea	Cambodia	China
<b>More awareness, advocacy and human rights</b>	<b>National Concept Note on Young Key Populations (KYPs)</b>	<b>Advocacy For YKP</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation of Human Right team</li> <li>• Monthly discussion forum</li> <li>• Participation in different important events</li> <li>• Additional Human Right camp</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Review of policies and programs related to YKP</li> <li>• The recommendations/outcome of the review to be integrated in revision of strategic plan on HIV and concept note under New Funding Model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Video Documentary on YKP</li> <li>• Chinese YKAP Rights to Voice Magazine.</li> <li>• YKAP-Friendly Service and Community Empowerment for Welfare Addressing Workshop.</li> </ul>

## Best practice in Indonesia: Result of National Advocacy efforts

- Specific chapter about YKP in the draft of National Strategic Plan on AIDS 2015-2019
- The only representative of YKP in the NSP writing team
- YKP friendly community monitoring & evaluation tools on Strategic Use of ARV program (SUFA)
- YKP-related action plans on SUFA in 13 provinces, related to outreach, community capacity building and further participation of YKP
- YKP, SRHR and human rights as key topics to be endorsed during the NSP and NFM processes
- One year fully funded demonstration site program to better inform health care service providers about YKP specific issues, to be implemented in Bandung, West Java

## NewGen Roll-Outs

NewGen roll out in Dhaka, Bangladesh

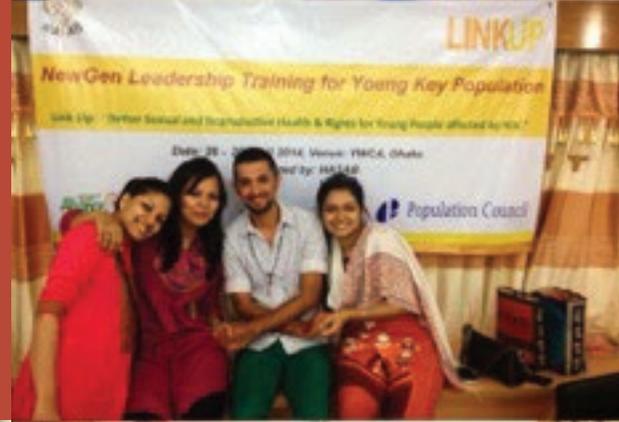
25 - 29 April 2014

30 participants representing YKP.

Youth LEAD, HIV/AIDS Alliance's Link Up Project, and Link Up partner HASAB.

*"The vocal and bright youth participants spent 5 days cultivating and strengthening leadership and communication skills vital to meaningfully engaging in the HIV response and bringing about positive change for themselves, their peers and communities in highest need but most often ignored."*

-Reports from Bangladesh



NewGen roll out in Brunei

16 - 20 March 2014

25 participants representing YKP.

Youth LEAD in support of Brunei Darussalam AIDS Council.

*"NewGen was an eye-opener for us in a way that it changes our minds to be more proactive, empowered and encourages understanding. As the future generation, we should be willing to take on any challenges that is beyond our expectations and to be immersed in the culture of accountability among ourselves."*

-One of the participants from NewGen Brunei

## Regional and Global Response

### International AIDS Conference 2014

There were 14 members of Youth LEAD, including Focal Points and the Secretariat, in attendance at the International AIDS Conference in Melbourne 2014. Youth LEAD was very successful in engaging at the conference. The IAC deemed Youth LEAD as an example of ‘Good Practice’ of Young Key Populations Enhancing Community Engagement. Youth LEAD’s Focal Point Ayu Oktariani made an opening speech at the conference. Youth LEAD was also involved in multiple roles including plenary speakers, workshop facilitators, and even in the youth rapporteuring team.



*“I’m asking all young people living with HIV and those who care about us, to join hands and work together to make a better world, where young people get the information they need and all people living with HIV are treated with respect.” Ayu Oktariani, Focal Point Indonesia, during her opening speech at the conference.*

-Ayu Oktariani, focal point Indonesia, during her opening speech at the conference.

### World Conference on Youth

With a focus on mainstreaming youth in the post-2015 Development Agenda, the World Conference on Youth – held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in May 2014 – brought together more than 1,500 youth delegates and participants. With 11 representatives from the Youth LEAD team present, young key populations in the Asia Pacific region were well represented at the conference.

Ahmed Alhendawi, the United Nations Special Envoy on Youth, took part in one of the parallel sessions organized by Youth LEAD with support from UNAIDS. The sessions discussed the importance of including YKP voices in the post-2015 development processes.



### All In! Meeting

All In! aims to bring attention to the underrepresented and underreported population of adolescents (young people ages 10-19), who are routinely left out in the global AIDS response. Youth LEAD took part in the first Global Strategy Consultation meeting in December 2014. Youth LEAD’s agenda was to bring attention to the importance of tangible interventions and investments for young people and adolescent affected and living with HIV. Youth LEAD also took part in the pre-youth meeting to strategize on the engagement of young people in the consultation meeting.

### Evaluation of NewGen

Youth LEAD’s NewGen training program underwent a successful evaluation process in order to improve the roll outs at the country level in the future. The evaluation took place in three countries: Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines, carried out by Dr. Julia Coffey and three local consultants – Setia Perdana (Indonesia), Kyaw Min (Myanmar) and Jay Caparida (Philippines).

The study committee consisted of members from UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNESCO, the University of Melbourne and Youth LEAD. It was proof read and finalized by Jeffry Acaba, designed by Bikash Gurung, and financed with support from UNICEF EAPRO.

## Regional and Global Response

### UNAIDS Regional Management Meeting, Asia and the Pacific, October 2014

Youth LEAD actively participated in the UNAIDS Regional Management meeting, speaking on three different issues: legal and policy barriers faced by YKP, testing and treatment of young MSM and investing on young people for effective HIV response.



### Youth LEAD in



*The PACT for Social Transformation* is a collaboration framework agreed to by 25 youth-led and youth serving organizations within the AIDS movement. The meeting creates a space for participating organizations to set the strategic direction for the youth within the global AIDS movement.

Youth LEAD was one of the co-leaders for two thematic groups at The PACT: Resources for Young People and Legal Barriers in 2014. The PACT was an influential stakeholder in 2014 for the creation of “Making Money Work For Young People in HIV Response”, an initiative created for the Global Fund explained on page 6.

### Youth LEAD in PCB UNAIDS



representative of young people.

This November 2014, Jeffrey Acaba from Youth LEAD was selected as one of the two Asia Pacific delegates to the NGO Delegation of the UNAIDS PCB. The delegate is expected to ensure that the voices of Asia Pacific communities is included and that the work and decisions of the PCB are relayed back to the region

As a representative of Youth LEAD, Jeff was engaged in 3 Working Groups within the NGO Delegation, and also led the NGO Report Working Group. This working group is tasked to oversee the development and publication of the NGO Report, presented once a year to the PCB.

### Youth LEAD in Bi-regional meeting

Youth LEAD attended the Bi-regional meeting (26-27 November 2014, Philippines) on the dissemination and roll-out of the WHO 2014 Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Care for Key Populations. Hosted by the World Health Organization Western Pacific Region (WHO WPRO) and UNAIDS Regional Support Team (RST) Asia Pacific. Youth LEAD has raised the issue particularly of accessing ARVs for adolescent and young people living with HIV and creation of specific WHO toolkits for young people during the meeting. Youth LEAD also facilitated the breakout session on adolescent and young key populations.

## NewGen Roll-Outs

NewGen roll out in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

11 - 15 August 2014

35 participants representing YKP.

Cambodian Community for Women Living with HIV/AIDS (CCW) in collaboration with Cam ASEAN -Youth and Bandanh Chaktomok.

*“After the training, I have developed my work plan, together with my team, to continue delivering the courses to my network focal points in early next year. I also will share what I have learned to Young Community Leaders, Outreach Worker of the National Smart Girl Network.”*

- One of the participants from NewGen Cambodia



NewGen roll out in Bangkok, Thailand

14 - 18 August 2014

20 participants representing YKP.

Youth LEAD in support of UNICEF Thailand and Focal points.

*“Participants experience what it feel like to be leaders throughout the day, and learn that leaders must effectively communicate their thoughts and plans, and that a leader without followers cannot function.”*

-Reports from NewGen Thailand

## Youth LEAD in The Global Fund Advocacy

Robert Carr Networking  
Funding (RCNF)



Youth LEAD was selected to receive the Robert Carr grant in 2014 for the second time, and was the only youth-led organization to be selected. This was done in consortium with the HIV Young Leader Fund.

In addition Youth LEAD's project was selected in the Special Call for Proposals. The project aimed to provide technical assistance to young people in countries in order to engage and influence the concept note development process of Global Fund. This project will be carried out in Cambodia, Pakistan, Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam.

Point 7 Advisors

*Point 7 is one of the donor board constituencies in the Global Fund. It consists of Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherland, and Sweden. Point 7 has been supporting youth advisors in their own constituencies, however in 2014 they decided to recruit young advisors from the Global South.*

Youth LEAD manages the Point 7 Youth Advisors to Global Fund Board supported by Norad. Youth advisors include Lumumba M Musah (Uganda), Chanthorn Phornng (Cambodia) and Ivens Reis Reyner (Brazil). These advisors provide recommendations to the board of the Global Fund from youth perspectives.

Making Money Work for Young People in  
HIV Response



Making Money Work for Young People in HIV Response is an advocacy initiative developed to influence the Global Fund into allocating resources for young people. The Global Fund is the largest multi-lateral donor in the world.

Youth LEAD advocated globally for this initiative through the PACT Resource Group. Youth LEAD contributed through the development of the Global Fund Youth Guide, a guide written for young people to understand Global Fund. This led to the development of the facilitator toolkit, used to implement the youth guide.

The pilot workshop was done in Honduras, Nepal, and Zimbabwe, and received support from Norad, the Norwegian Agency of Development Cooperation. This was done to capacitate and empower young people to understand the Global Fund. The workshop will be carried out in early 2015.

## NewGen Roll-Outs

NewGen roll out in Kathmandu, Nepal

31 August - 4 September 2014

25 participants representing YKP.

YKAP Nepal in support of Youth LEAD, UNICEF Nepal and NFLWHA.

*"I was so shy whenever someone talked about the sexual organs and could not control my laughter but after coming here I realized that it is the issue we youths need to know and discuss..."*

- One of the participants from NewGen Nepal.



## NewGen roll out in Yunan, China

*The NewGen China roll out took place in Yunan from October 28-31 2014. Participants represented young key populations in the country. The training was supported by UNICEF and UNAIDS China, and was organized by Youth LEAD China.*

## Beyond HIV & AIDS



From October 4-5, 2014, Youth LEAD with support from different UN partners, organized the ACT!2015 Regional Advocacy Workshop. The workshop aims to develop a regional advocacy roadmap to guide youth organizations and YKP activists in Asia. 27 youth advocates working with in 19 youth-led and/or youth-serving organizations attended from 13 countries in Asia.

Participants began by recognizing SRHR and HIV issues that affect young key populations in the region by providing the current community context. They developed the regional advocacy agenda based on these issues, and created the regional advocacy roadmap, which targeted three important meetings – the Beijing+20 Programme of Action Review, the Asia Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS, and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals – that will happen leading to the UN General Assembly on the post-2015 agenda. From this, outputs were presented to a panel of stakeholders, who provided additional inputs in advancing the agenda further. The advocacy goals and objectives were

- i. Youth friendly services,
- ii. Comprehensive sexuality education,
- iii. Meaningful youth participation, and
- iv. A safe legal environment.

### Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights of YKPs

Youth LEAD's 2013 Annual General Meeting recognized the need to identify the SRHR needs of young key populations and address them accordingly. As the result, the NewGen Manual was revised



to incorporate SRHR issues, and Youth LEAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with YPEER for joint initiatives on these issues in the future.

In 2014, tangible activities took place at the country and regional levels. Nepal conducted three major activities relating to SRHR in 2014. Firstly, Nepal took the initiative to document the SRHR needs of YKPs and conduct their first SRHR training. Secondly, YKAP Nepal conducted two focus group discussions in October and December 2014. These were conducted on the SRHR needs of YKPs and living with HIV in order to document human rights violation and legal barriers. Lastly, in December 2015, Y-PEER Nepal facilitated a five-day residential training for YKPs from a variety of partner organizations in various regions.



*"Youth LEAD makes young people feel powerful. It teaches them to manage, lead, and become outstanding community organizers."*

-Ayu Oktariani, 28, Youth LEAD focal point, Jakarta, Indonesia.

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