



Report¹

Talk Show “Young Professionalism for Climate Resilience. Enhancing professional capabilities of the young for climate resilience” Indonesia Pavilion, COP24 Katowice 2018 14 December 2018, 9:00-10:20 CET

Introduction

This Talk Show discussed the professional values for developing climate resilience with young professionals. The panellists, most of them youngsters, shared their insights on how they see professional values and responsibilities associated with climate change and what professional approaches could be used for tackling climate change. The talk show was initiated by Yanti Kusumanto of TYK research & action consulting, the Netherlands, who moderated the event together with Desti Alkano of the Energy Academy Indonesia (the Talk Show flyer is attached). Invited speakers were Dutch and Indonesian nationals with a view of initiating a bilateral “young-led climate partnership”.

Keynote

In his keynote, Prof. Jatna Supriatna of the Institute for Sustainable Earth & Resources of the University of Indonesia and Chair of Sustainable Development Solutions Network Indonesia, noted that while numbers of young people and professionals in Indonesia engaged in environmental and climate-related issues have increased remarkably, it remains a challenge to more recognise them at the science-policy level. This is a lost opportunity because climate solutions they could offer are insufficiently acknowledged and utilised for scaling-up and scaling-out processes. Millennials particularly, possess the potential to contribute to the Fourth Industrial Revolution for confronting climate change. Furthermore, climate solutions have been developed by young people all over the place, besides their proven role in bringing these to the community level. For enabling this, evidence-based policy should be in place for which the government should take a pro-active role.

Panel discussion and conclusions as reported by moderators

Kamia Handayani, began her career as young environmental specialist in Indonesia’s state electricity company (PLN). Her responsibility was then to ensure that PLN paid attention to the environmental impacts of its operations. The 2015 Paris accord has brought her a new challenge: how to assist PLN in aligning Indonesia’s Paris pledge with the country’s electrification needs. Policies towards a low-carbon power sector have been put in place yet at the same time climate change already adversely impacts on the sector (e.g. affecting power plants operations due to extreme weather). The challenge that confronted Indonesia’s power sector motivated her to do a Ph.D. study. Still affiliated with PLN, she now is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Twente, the Netherlands, focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation in Indonesia’s power sector.

Conclusion: The professional values which appear to be key in Kamia’s case are: a) an intrinsic motivation (driven by a combination of an enabling institutional setting and policy discourses on

¹ Author: Yanti (T) Kusumanto, TYK research & action consulting, the Netherlands 28 Dec. 2018

climate change) to develop scientific capabilities and work as a science expert in the state company she is affiliated with and b) continuing education institutionally supported by this company.

Annisa Triyanti is a Young Scientist Representative of the UNISDR Global Science and Technology Advisory Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Amsterdam. Climate change brings uncertainties to the context wherein professionals operate and provide advice to clients. Annisa believes that such context necessitates a professional approach that considers *coherence* as core value. Other professional values of climate resilience professionalism must derive from this core value. Therefore, she thinks that a “climate change expert” does not exist and that at the most we can only speak of professional experts with different fields of expertise on which climate change impacts. It is hence difficult to speak of a particular code of conduct for professionals in relation to climate change. This implies that climate change as a phenomenon can only be tackled by these different fields of expertise all together, which therefore should be done in an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary way. The power of young professionals lies in their versatility and broad, mandate-free perspectives, enabling them to more aptly and adequately respond to climate change. The notion of innovation associated with climate change is important in thinking about young professionals’ roles and responsibilities. Innovation, Annisa said, should not only relate to the technological dimension of creation and design but relate to also social innovation, policy innovation etc. For thinking and acting innovatively, professionals must therefore embrace such values as leadership, cooperation/partnership, and effective and inclusive communication.

Conclusion: Climate change necessitates “*coherence*” as core professional value. It can be tackled only if different fields of expertise, each affected by climate change in a particular way, collaborate for finding climate solutions. In aiming to attain such coherence, professional values that are key and which derive from this core value are leadership, partnership and effective and inclusive communication.

Eefke van de Wouw is Dutch Youth Representative to the United Nations on Sustainable Development. She highlighted that many young people, at least in the Netherlands, while compared to earlier generations tend to be more worried about climate change, feel the burden that are laid on their shoulder for contributing to a sustainable future. Young people may indeed have the energy and creativity to do so, yet it makes little sense to leave it up fully to the young, for example, by putting them at the forefront in dealing with global warming or perhaps even to only attract attention from the public and decision makers. Conditions should be shaped by earlier generations that would empower the young and enable collaboration between different generations to find climate solutions. Eefke believes it is more real to work on solutions together where everyone from different generations take the own responsibility. The right conditions should be created for that.

Conclusion: For bringing the voice of the young to national and higher-level climate decision-making, where processes most probably engage various generations, a core professional value is one which enable intergenerational communication and learning.

Tiza Mafira is Executive Director of the Indonesia Plastic Bag Diet Movement and is a legal and public policy expert on environmental law, waste management and climate change policy. She brought the notion of “*activism*” to the discussion. Professionals who work on climate issues have often to deal with a lack of awareness on climate change with communities, clients, government and the wider public. Many young people consider activism as a tool to raise awareness and are endowed with the necessary drive, creativity and energy to foster awareness. Many do this on a voluntarily basis. Nonetheless, behind this more obvious, catchy “on-stage activism”, another kind of activism is at work which is indispensable. This is the more tedious, time-consuming, and behind-the-scene professional work, e.g. investigating climate problems, designing policy, developing regulatory framework, etc. The two forms

of activism go hand in hand for getting things done and for bringing real solutions to climate problems to clients, governments, communities and society at large.

Conclusion: A professional value in connection to climate change that is proposed here is “professional activism”, which in Tiza’s case is fostered by an intrinsic motivation driven by wider climate discourses and which goes hand in hand with the more obvious “on-stage activism“, feeding one another.

Marcel Beukeboom is the Climate Envoy for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and is in this capacity part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. Beukeboom sees that young professionalism definitely adds value to climate negotiations for the very reason that seeking climate solutions and putting these to action must go across-generations and that we need all that it takes to confront climate change. Possessing solid knowledge on which professionals build their arguments for sitting at the negotiation table is crucial. Moreover, because the young tend to be less experienced than earlier generations professionals, they may need to even work harder in building knowledge for becoming recognised. This panel is proof that being young and knowledgeable can be real, which should provide a leeway for getting engaged in climate negotiations. An important question is however, when young professionals see the need to more influence climate negotiations and processes of change. In aiming to enlarge influence and become more heard, networks and allies should be built with professionals of other organisations. A Dutch example is the Climate and Energy Professionals whose members have organised themselves and initiated a professional association. They have partaken at equal footing with others in crafting the national climate agreement.

Conclusion: Government, at least of the Netherlands, has experienced that young professionals have contributed meaningfully to climate negotiations. Being young should not withhold anyone to partake in official processes on climate. The necessary professional values thereby are possessing the relevant knowledge and communication and organizational skills to bring this to the negotiation table, be heard and influence the process.

Interaction with audience

Comments and questions forwarded by the audience received apt replies from different panelists. Mr. Noer Adi Wardoyo, Director of the Centre for Environment and Forestry Standardization of Indonesia’s Ministry of the Environment and Forestry shared information as regards policies and programs that have been developed in connection to professional standards and competencies in areas connected to climate change. In developing these programs, the government has collaborated closely with universities on among other things study programs and curriculum development. A representative from the IPCC secretariat encouraged the scientists/researchers on the panel to connect to the IPCC through its various channels since it is important that their perspectives be voiced and heard. Bas Tuenter, Master student of Radboud University, the Netherlands, inquired in what ways the Indonesian government gives support to current and future young professionals in addressing climate change, and how the Dutch government could partner with Indonesia to facilitate these efforts. Nila Patty of Sampah 2 Use, the Netherlands, asked how local wisdom of traditional communities could be incorporated in young professionalism. A last question came from Mr. Wahyu Budiarto of Chevron Indonesia, who was eager to know from the panelists what misperceptions and biases may exist with older generations, which he makes part of, about young activism.

Discussion and Recommendations

As some panelists opined, climate change is not new. Nonetheless, this Talk Show presupposed that what this imply for the roles and responsibilities of many professionals has remained an area for investigation and discussion. Climate change is a cross-cutting issue and the kinds of professions affected by climate change are numerous to also include those who at first sight have little to do with climate (e.g. such as accountants, IT-professionals, infrastructure project managers, medical care staff).

At present, the group of professionals who associate themselves obviously with the climate problem is much smaller, though increasing, than the group professionals who do not or to a limited extent. This is a lost opportunity in confronting climate change as we need to do the utmost to avert climate change including by tapping on multigenerational professional expertise and by adapting professional standards of practice adversely impacting on climate.

Based on the Talk Show the below recommendations deserve attention:

- In confronting climate change, government, professional associations, industry and civil society need to develop professional approaches that foster coherence. This means that professional responsibilities and standards of operation should be developed which boost interconnections between or encompass different fields of expertise.
- At the personal level, professional values which need to be stimulated are leadership, collaboration and effective and inclusive communication.
- A professional value which is key for handling climate change is professional activism in connection to, in particular, policy development. This value is crucial to encourage government, communities, business and society at large to see the urgency of climate change, to call for climate action and support those who already take action.
- Organisations, both public and private ones, should offer young professionals they employ opportunities of training and continuing education in connection to climate change. This holds even more true for professionals who are engaged in activities that require climate-related expertise. Training and education are powerful tools to further build intrinsic motivation with the young.
- Training and education programs should be explored and developed collaboratively between government, clients, education institutions and professional associations.
- For (future) young professionals with a representative role at climate negotiation or decision-making levels, whether at national, international or multi-lateral level, education and training should include intergenerational communication and learning on climate. Besides, conditions for intergenerational communication and learning to occur can be created (e.g. by way of facilitated platforms).
- In connection to the three previous recommendations above, government could step in for shaping conditions and leading the process of knowledge development and communication among young professionals. The education system could be instrumental in this regard, if not already so. Professional associations, usually self-regulating, could provide relevant training and learning activities to their members or collaborate with other associations as necessary. Government could support young professionals who cannot afford to contribute membership fees to professional associations or pay for training these provide.

Attachment

SPEAKERS

PROF. JATNA SUPRIATNA (KEYNOTE)
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 Executive Director of the Indonesia Plastic Bag Diet Movement (Gerakan Indonesia Diet Kantong Plastik)

YOUNG PROFESSIONALISM FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITIES OF THE YOUNG FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

INDONESIA PAVILION
 COP24
 KATOWICE, POLAND
 FRIDAY, DEC 14 2018
 9.00-10.20 CET

Energy Academy Indonesia
 YouTube Channel
 for live streaming

Hosted by

Yanti Kusumanto
 Event Coordinator & Owner of TYK research & action consulting, the Netherlands



Desti Alkano
 Co-founder of Energy Academy Indonesia (Ecadin)



COP24 KATOWICE 2018

The 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change










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