

Empowering youth as green leaders

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Green jobs focus on favourable environmental outcomes and embracing sustainable practices. - NSTP file pic

LETTERS: This year's United Nations International Youth Day theme, "Green Skills for Youth", impresses on us the need to equip young minds with the knowledge required to do green jobs.

The International Labour Organisation says it is crucial to highlight that the "green" aspect is not solely about the end product, but that it also involves adopting eco-friendly production processes, such as decreasing water usage or improving recycling systems.

Green jobs focus on favourable environmental outcomes and embracing sustainable practices.

Green skills encompass the expertise required to excel in these roles, encompassing knowledge of clean technologies, resource management and sustainable practices.

It is about forging a more equitable and vibrant world for generations to come.

The role of corporations linked to environmental decline is undeniable. But it is not about laying blame. It is about sparking transformation to reshape industries as forces for good.

Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad says industries should improve sustainable practices.

He urges them to play a bigger role in the fight against climate change by embracing environmental, social and governance principles.

But this transformation is not the task of corporations alone. Governments play a pivotal role, too.

Legislative support, policy frameworks and financial incentives must intertwine, creating an ecosystem where green jobs flourish.

Below are ways youth can harness green skills.

SEEK out internships or apprenticeships with organisations committed to sustainable practices. Hands-on experience provides insights and networking opportunities;

START your own green ventures. Innovative ideas — such as zero-waste stores, sustainable fashion brands or eco-friendly tech solutions — can make a significant impact;

JOIN or establish environmental advocacy groups to raise awareness about the importance of green skills and sustainable practices. Social media platforms can be powerful tools for amplifying voices; and,

ORGANISE tree-planting drives, clean-up campaigns and workshops on composting or energy conservation in communities. These initiatives foster a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Educational institutions, particularly higher education, have a crucial role in shaping green leaders.

With the largest population of young individuals concentrated in these institutions, the potential for instilling environmental consciousness and nurturing green skills in them is unparalleled.

By offering courses that emphasise green skills, such as sustainable architecture or renewable energy engineering, institutions not only equip students with the tools to combat climate challenges and inspire them to become advocates for sustainable change, but also equip them with green skills to excel in the job market.

Also, by infusing sustainability principles in disciplines, educational institutions instil a holistic understanding of the interconnectedness between the environment, society and economy in students.

This prepares graduates to tackle complex global issues through a sustainable lens, enabling them to drive change across diverse sectors.

The result is a generation of graduates who possess the knowledge, skills and determination to weave environmental stewardship into their professional endeavours.

May the 66th year of our nation's independence inspire us to forge a legacy of environmental stewardship.

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