



CONCEPT NOTE

Today's world is looking at collective leadership with abundant hope. India is working on a vision to bring the whole world together for a common objective, for a better future. IMC YLF Annual Youth Conclave 2023 is being held concurrently with India's G20 Presidency. The conference will have discussions on **EKTA | One South Asia; IMAGINE | One Shared Future; HEAL | One Earth; UNITE, CREATE HARMONY | One Family.**

Youth Conclave is designed to bring together youth and young entrepreneurs from South Asia on one (virtual) platform to discuss G20 themes and utilize India's Global South Asian experience, learnings, and models as templates for global solutions.

The theme(s) of India's G20 presidency, as outlined by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modiji are:

- Moving away from a zero sum, individualistic mindset to one centred on "one-ness. In the context of common, urgent, global challenges, this translates into 3 overarching goals: healing our "One Earth", creating harmony within our "One Family" and giving hope around our "One" Future"
- Shaping G20 priorities with "fellow travellers" in the Global South

As India comes of age @75 and looks beyond its borders to take a leadership role on a global stage, India's oldest merchant chamber too should take this opportunity, in line with India's G20 theme, to take a leadership role in shaping a youth and entrepreneurship agenda with "fellow travellers" in the South Asian subcontinent. South Asia is overwhelmingly young (50% of the population is under 25), faces common challenges (unemployment, disproportionate climate change impact, wealth inequality, health access, gender inequality etc), common opportunities (human capital, domestic markets, geopolitical shift led opportunities for the region) that are leading to, among other things, the creation of vibrant youth led start-up ecosystems across the region. South Asia is also one of the least economically integrated regions in the world, despite the obvious advantages of shared, aspirational human capital, common languages, contiguous borders and shared socio-economic contexts implying common markets. Intraregional trade stands at just one-fifth of its

potential with an estimated gap of \$44 billion annually. Geopolitical shifts towards de-risking global supply chains also present a tremendous opportunity to create regional infrastructure for global markets.

Despite efforts under SAARC frameworks, policy interventions towards integration have largely been held hostage to politics and civil society interventions have ineffectively focused only on strengthening cultural bonds. Today, the trifecta of (a) a young, aspirational population that is increasingly distanced from the memories of partition and faces urgent common problems, (b) vibrant in-country entrepreneurial ecosystems solving shared challenges and (c) favourable global geopolitical shifts, offers an exciting opportunity for a different kind of civil society response- one that is focused on recognising and forging entrepreneurial bonds across South Asian youth.

The Sessions at the Conclave will include deliberations on G20 themes IMAGINE- A Shared Future; Art & Culture Continents Adhesive; Climate Action and Green Development: Making Sustainability a Way of Life; Accelerating progress of S in ESG, Disruptive Entrepreneurs and so on.

The sessions will highlight

IMAGINE- A Shared Future

- The aim is to let's honour what binds us but start afresh. Most of the country (50% under 25) has no memory of partition. How can we write a new South Asian story? Can we make this the South Asian century? What can we learn from each other today? What does our common future look like?

HEAL and Unite One Earth-One Family

- One of the biggest challenges we'll face together is climate change. It knows no borders. How can we work together to prepare for what's coming? What can we learn from each other? What can we teach the world?(indigenous wisdom)

UNITE/ CREATE HARMONY AMONGST- One Family

- There's a systems shift underway as the world realises that old models of entrepreneurship based on self-interest need to make way for newer models based on a more evolved understanding of the harmonious relationship amongst human beings and between humanity and nature. - ie: harmonious systems, not extractive systems. South Asia has many examples of these models (Gandhian trusteeship, social business) that draw on, among other things, spiritual traditions. This external shift (in goals terms- could create a link to the SDGs) is accompanied by an internal shift (the Inner development goals).

For more information, Contact IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry:
Ms. Anita Naik, Deputy Director +919920186337 | anita.naik@imcnet.org