

International Youth Leadership Program (IYLP)

Program Description

About IYLP

In recent years, the global climate and humanitarian crisis have seen record numbers of people displaced and fleeing from disasters, violence and persecution. With the urgency and magnitude of these challenges, there has never been a greater need for bold actions, partnerships, and leadership globally.

With more than **1.8 billion young people** around the world, youth today are the largest generation in history. Through technology and ease of travel, these young people are connected like never before. Given the resources and support, young people have the potential to be changemakers and to contribute to the development and resilience of their communities and beyond.

Tzu Chi's International Youth Leadership Program (IYLP) is a 9-month program for young people aged **20-35 years**, aimed at fostering young leaders with an international outlook. IYLP develops and equips youth with skills, knowledge, resources, and practical experiences to become engaged global citizens and transformative leaders. Sponsored by the Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation, and co-organized by the Tzu Chi International Youth Association (TIYA) and Tzu Chi USA Global Partnership And Youth Department, IYLP delegates will be given opportunities to network with peers across the globe, co-create community service activities, and represent Tzu Chi at international and United Nations conferences such as UNFCCC COP29 held in Azerbaijan in November 2024, among others. IYLP runs from March through November, 2024.

Objectives

- **Foster young leaders** with a broad global perspective, the ability to create solutions to sustainability issues and a spirit of humanistic culture and care.
- **Build a strong network** of passionate and service-minded youth leaders.
- Provide youth opportunities to engage in international activities through a multifaceted and practical training program.

IYLP includes:

- Sustainable development courses
- Skills building workshops
- Support from mentors experienced on project topics

- Scholarships to attend conferences
- Resources to organize local and international projects and events
- Upon completion, a Certificate of Completion and access to other exciting opportunities.

About Tzu Chi Foundation and TIYA

Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation, also known as Tzu Chi Foundation, is an international humanitarian and nongovernmental organization (NGO). For 58 years, Tzu Chi Foundation has worked in the missions of charity, medicine, education, and humanist culture with offices in 67 countries. Providing disaster relief, medical aid, and environmental protection projects across 133 countries, Tzu Chi Foundation was given Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) in 2010. In 2019, Tzu Chi Foundation was granted accreditation by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as an observer to sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), and in 2022, Tzu Chi Foundation was appointed co-chair of the UN interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development's Multi-Faith Advisory Council.

Tzu Chi International Youth Association (TIYA) is a sub-organization of Tzu Chi Foundation. Established in 2020, TIYA is a platform that aims to provide opportunities and resources for young people to nurture young leaders to contribute positively to their communities and beyond through innovation and collaboration.

For more information, please refer to the 'Program Information' and 'FAQs'.

Alternatively, you are welcome to ask a question, attend our Virtual Information Sessions or contact IYLP@tzuchi.org.tw

Eligibility

- **Age Requirements:** Applicants must be aged **20-35 years** during 2024 (underaged applicants will be disqualified automatically).
- **Nationality Requirements:** All nationalities are welcome.
 - *Note: Some United Nations-related activities may have nationality restrictions, thus several opportunities will be opened to qualified delegates only.*
- **Other Requirements:**
 - Applicants must have an interest in sustainable development and **agree with Tzu Chi's humanistic spirit and philosophy.**
 - Applicants must be able to communicate fluently in English in both speech and writing.

- For requirements upon the completion of the program, please refer to the 'Implementation' section.

Application Guide

The application form can be accessed here: <https://www.surveycake.com/s/Y730A>

Note: Please do not submit more than one application. If more than one application is received, we will only use the first application submitted. If there are any problems with the online submission, please contact IYLP@tzuchi.org.tw

You will need the following to complete the Application Form:

- **ID Photo:** Please provide a photo taken in the last six months that will be suitable for ID use.
- **Cover Letter** (one A4 page, size 12, PDF):

Please use the following questions to guide your Cover Letter:

1. Tell us about yourself. What global issues are you passionate about and what works have you partaken to address these issues?
2. What are your interests and involvement in community work?
3. Why have you chosen to apply for IYLP and what do you wish to gain from this Program?

- **Curriculum Vitae** (two A4 pages, size 12 font, PDF)
- **2 Letters of Recommendations (PDF only):**

Please include the following details for your referee:

1. Name
2. Position and Organization
3. Contact Details
4. Relations to the Applicant

For more information, please refer to the 'FAQs'. Alternatively, you are welcome to ask a question, attend our Virtual Information Sessions using the QR code or contact IYLP@tzuchi.org.tw.

Implementation

- **Timeline/ Selection of Participants**

<p>Virtual Information Session</p> <p>Jan 5, 2024</p>	<p>Open to interested applicants to hear more about the program and ask questions.</p> <p>Time: 20:00-21:00 (GMT +8)</p> <p>Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86090954676?pwd=udtI98B4ioByZk8HqttwWEHENJDUIO.1</p> <p>Meeting ID: 860 9095 4676</p> <p>Passcode: 437975</p>
<p>Registration Closed</p> <p>Jan 28, 2024</p>	<p>Please take note of the due date of the registration close date.</p>
<p>First selection</p> <p>Feb 16, 2024</p>	<p>After careful review of the application documents, an email will be sent to applicants who are eligible to go onto the interview process.</p>
<p>Interview</p> <p>Feb 24-27, 2024</p>	<p>Interviews will be conducted either individually or in groups.</p>
<p>Final Selection/ Team Arrangement</p> <p>March 5, 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up to 5 successful applicants will be selected for the global team. ● Applicants from The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and The United States will be grouped into overseas chapters. Up to 5 successful applicants will be selected for each overseas chapter.

<p>Curriculum</p> <p>March-November, 2024</p>	<p>Regular training sessions are held every three weeks on Saturdays.</p>
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Program Content

The Program will include the following:

- **12-Week Online Courses:** 2.5-hour sessions are held every three week Saturday Morning (Team Asia: 09:30-12:00 pm(GMT+8)/Team US & Europe: 09:30-12:00 pm(EST)) Sessions will be a mixture of lectures, discussions, and skills training. Invited speakers include sustainability experts, youth leaders, social entrepreneurs, NGO project specialists, academics, and more. There will be individual assignments and group projects throughout the courses. Please see below for the roadmap of the courses.
- **Action & Practice track:** During the program, delegates must host events related to sustainable development, either online or in-person. Guidance and resources may be provided.
- **Mentor-Mentee meeting:** During the program, mentors of each team will host a mentor-mentee meeting every (before/after) each class.
- **Digital Marketing track (optional):** Delegates can join the Digital Marketing team to raise awareness on sustainability issues on social media, as well as showcase the activities and achievements of the 2024 Cohort throughout the program.
- **Research & Advocacy track (optional):** Delegates will have the opportunities to perform data and information research on sustainability issues, as a means to prepare for advocacy and engagement in international platforms.
- **Conference Engagement (optional):** Delegates will have the opportunity to attend and/or speak at various local, national, and international conferences related to sustainable development issues. Funding and scholarship opportunities are available.

- **Completion of the Program**

To receive a Certificate of Completion, delegates must

- complete the 12-week Courses (early notice is required for absenteeism)
- complete the Action & Practice track

- **Subsidies**

For delegates who are admitted to the United Nation Conference, Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation will provide a subsidy covering transportation and accommodation.

Also participation in other international conferences might be subsidized, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

- **Beyond IYLP 2024**

In addition to COP29 and UNEA-6, delegates who have successfully completed the program will be eligible to apply for other conferences, forums, humanitarian work, leadership roles, among others. Opportunities will be announced to all delegates who are

eligible and interested. The timeline for conference engagement opportunities open from

July 2024 to July 2025.

Terms and conditions

Acting reasonably, in the circumstances, Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation (also known as "Tzu Chi") reserves the right to cancel or change the Program and/or the Program activities at any time.

Tzu Chi reserves the right to make any cancellations, changes and/or substitutions in cases of emergency or changed conditions or in the interest of each group as deemed necessary by Tzu Chi.

Acting reasonably, in the circumstances, Tzu Chi reserves the right to refuse or revoke an application for participation in the Program.

Tzu Chi will provide comprehensive support to Delegates in obtaining visas and required documents associated with travel and attendance to events or conferences. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the Delegate to obtain such visas and required documents.

In the event Delegates cannot obtain the necessary visas and/or documents for participation in IYLP, Delegates shall not hold Tzu Chi responsible.

Tzu Chi reserves the right to use any photos or videos of Delegates, or statements made by Delegates, for print, verbal, internet, or other commercial use and shall not be held liable for such use.

Requests to decline such use must be sent in writing to the Program Coordinator
IYLP@tzuchi.org.tw

Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation shall not be liable for any loss, harm, injury, or damages sustained by Delegates or caused to Delegates' properties howsoever caused.

FAQ

How long will the "International Youth Leadership Program" be open for application?

The application opens from 18 December, 2023 to 28 January, 2024. You are encouraged to submit the application early, to give us more time to study your submission. Use the following QR code for the registration form:

How do I know if I have been accepted for the first selection and interview? What preparation is needed for the interview?

Upon receipt of your application materials, we will review the material for eligibility. If the materials are complete and meet the application conditions, the organizer will send an email around mid to end of February, and to book a date for the interview. In this interview notification email, we will attach the interview instructions.

What language will be used for the admission interview?

The interviews, like the program as a whole, will be conducted completely in English.

English is not my native language, can I apply for this program?

All training courses in this program will be taught in English, so an ability to express oneself in spoken and written English is a basic condition for participation. Proficiency in a second language is also a benefit to your application.

Do I need a certificate to show my English ability?

No, it is not necessary to have a certificate to show your English abilities but do feel free to state any certificates you have. The English ability of applicants will primarily be assessed through the application material and interview.

Do I need to be proficient in Mandarin Chinese?

The only language requirement is English, but proficiency in a second language or any additional languages (such as Mandarin Chinese) might be of benefit for your application.

Is there a fee to apply for this program?

No. Tzu Chi International Youth Association is committed to cultivating the abilities of young leaders. Therefore, the program will provide free training. Moreover, if you are admitted to the United Nation Conference by representing Tzu Chi, the organizer will provide you with a subsidy covering transportation and accommodation. Also, participation in other conferences might be subsidized, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Is participation in this program restricted by nationality?

Participation in IYLP is not affected by national, religious, or ethnic identity. We aim for diversity and inclusiveness. Everyone is welcome to apply. However, some United Nations-related

activities may have nationality status restrictions, thus some opportunities will only open to qualified delegates.

What are the selection criterias?

We are looking for youth with volunteer experience and sustainability vision who are passionate about being a changemaker locally and globally. Fluency in English will also be taken into consideration.

Program Information and Sessions

What is the program format?

The program, including lectures and presentations, small-group discussions, and interactive activities, is conducted as virtual sessions using video conferencing and interaction online software. After successfully concluding the program, participants will have the opportunity to apply to join in-person events such as United Nations conferences or Tzu Chi conferences.

What are the time and cost commitments for attending the program?

Attendees are expected to attend twelve **2.5 -hour training sessions**, to be held every other week, and to meet with their **mentors between sessions (typically for 0.5-1 hours)**. They also need to complete the Action and Practice track. There will also be take-home assignments, reading, or group projects associated with certain sessions. Overall, the expected workload to participate in the program is 8-10 hours/fortnight.

There is no fee to participate in the program. However, you would need to ensure you have access to electronic devices (preferably a computer or tablet) and stable internet connection for the online course streaming. Additionally, if an attendee applies and is accepted to join an international in-person event, while Tzu Chi will provide a subsidy, there might be additional expenses (e.g. insurance, visa application fees, food and daily living costs, and/or partial travel or accommodation expenses) associated with the trip.

What time will the training sessions be held? If I am enrolled in the program and am unable to attend a training session, will I still be eligible to receive a completion certificate?

The training sessions for this program are expected to be arranged in the morning in Asia and Oceania / in the evening in the Americas.

To receive a Certificate of Completion, delegates must

- Complete the 12-Week Courses (early notice is required for absenteeism)
- Complete the Action & Practice track

*Missed sessions will need to be made up through watching the recording of the session, meeting with the mentor, and completing the assigned work.

Will the program include practical components?

The curriculum includes training in project management, and attendees might have opportunities to participate in planning and execution of events and activities.

If I am not accepted into the program, will I still be able to participate in any of the class sessions?

In order to ensure quality training, this project will only accept a maximum of 5 participants for each local team.