

Youth involvement sought to help preserve a green world

A recently concluded international youth conference recommended young people around the globe be actively involved in discussions on environmental problems and conservation initiatives.

With 144 delegates from 37 participating countries attending, the week-long conference brought up a number of recommendations regarding what every stakeholder could do to address climate change and global warming.

Four representatives, from Indonesia, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Finland, simultaneously read out the recommendations with the hopes that governments, the private sector and the general public would adopt them.

“For the youths, be active promoting knowledge on global environmental issues in the community,” Gina Karnina of Indonesia said, reading one recommendation.

The youths were also expected to be actively involved in debates and actions to deal with environmental problems at the national, regional and international levels.

The conference recommended the governments implement sustainable forest management for the wealth of the people, promote environment-friendly industry, improve the people’s awareness on environmental issues, develop sustainable energy and increase international cooperation on environmental issues.

The private sector was expected to reduce chemical emissions and promote energy-safe products.

Civilians were urged to be more actively involved in environmental activities and help control governments and the private sector.

Youth and Sport Affairs Ministry staff member Indra Kurniawan said his office totally supported of the recommendations.

“The ministry is committed to supporting the youth movement in relation with environmental issues and will bring this to the United Nations so this will be an inter-country movement,” Indra said.

He added that no special institution was established following the conference, but the values that it brought would become an inspiration for people to care for the environment.

Gadjah Mada University Center for Environmental Studies researcher Eko said that through the conference the participating youths were expected to be able to participate in efforts to reduce global warming by living an environmentally friendly lifestyle according to their respective traditions and conditions.

“Environmentally friendly youths will in the future become environmentally friendly leaders,” he said.