

Environment Minister Calls upon Global Youth to lead the Zero-Waste Agenda

Environment Minister Naseer Ahamed called for greater action on the part of the global youth in pushing the zero-waste agenda towards creating cleaner and greener world in which resource maximisation will yield equitable economic benefits to all.

Minister Ahamed expressed these views when he addressed the 3rd Zero Waste Summit held in Istanbul, Turkiye on the theme 'Climate and Youth'.

He said that "Climate change is one of the biggest challenges affecting children and young people today and as key decision makers in the governments, we have a bigger role in identifying both positive and negative impacts on young people and children. Additionally, it is important that we accept the fact that youth play a key role in the decision-making process and to involve them meaningfully in the decision-making process by giving them the platforms and opportunities to voice their concerns, experiences and innovative ideas."

He further stated that the importance of having youth as a key stakeholder group in addressing the impacts of climate change and achieving Sustainable Development Goals has been identified in many processes, especially under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the role and contribution of youth in addressing climate change is recognized and addressed through Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and other work under Article 6 of the UNFCCC and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.

He also stated that "we as leaders should provide enabling environment for youth to engage in climate action. After all, youth is a key group to shoulder the implementation of zero-waste agenda towards Climate Action as future custodians of the Planet Earth. And in this effort, he assured Sri Lanka's fullest support, involvement and engagement towards realizing the said objectives.

Conveying a strong message to the youth in particular, he said that the sheer volume of food lost or wasted per year is approximately enough to end world hunger four times over and that he called upon the youth to take the message to the world starting from their homes.

Minister Ahamed was invited as a very special guest by the Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Turkiye, H.E. Murat Kurum to attend and address the Summit. The Turkish first lady Her Excellency Madam Emine Erdogan, under whose auspices the Turkish zero-waste project is implemented, was the Chief Guest at the occasion.

Minister Ahamed also held discussions with his Turkish counterpart on environmental cooperation between the two countries on the side-lines of the Summit.



Environment Minister Naseer Ahamed addressing the 3rd Zero-Waste Summit in Istanbul, Turkiye.