

EVENT REPORT

YOUNG
PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWSHIP

AUSTRALIA
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FELLOWSHIP
2026

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2026

FEBRUARY 10TH - 13TH, 2026
📍 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

youngprofessionalfellowship.org



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We express our sincere gratitude to the Lord God Almighty for His grace and mercy, for He is the Author and Finisher of all our works.

The Organizing Committee of the Young Professional Fellowship Australia 2026 extends its appreciation to all individuals, partners, and contributors whose efforts supported the successful organization and documentation of this event. The fellowship was conducted in collaboration with the **Youth Diplomatic Academy**, whose support contributed to the overall execution of the program.

In particular, we would like to acknowledge **Ms. Serine Nour Hane Benidir** and **Ms. Vo Thi My Duyen** for their valuable contributions to the preparation and development of this report. Their support in content development, coordination, and review played an important role in ensuring the accuracy, clarity, and quality of the final document.

Their efforts and collaboration are gratefully recognized.

EVENT *Summary*

In a global environment increasingly defined by rapid transformation, institutional complexity, and the need for adaptive leadership, the Young Professional Fellowship Australia 2026 convened emerging leaders in Melbourne to strengthen strategic thinking, ethical responsibility, and cross-cultural collaboration. Held from **10-12 February 2026 in Melbourne, Australia**, the fellowship was organized under the theme **“Next-Generation Leadership: From Personal Courage to Global Impact.”** The program provided a structured platform to explore contemporary leadership challenges and examine the role of young professionals in advancing integrity-driven, inclusive, and impact-oriented solutions.



Building upon the mission of youth empowerment and leadership development, the 2026 edition brought together an international cohort of delegates selected through a competitive process. Participation was supported through **70 scholarships**, including **20 fully funded** and **50 partially funded** awards, enabling diverse representation across geographic, cultural, and professional backgrounds. This structure ensured broader accessibility and reinforced the fellowship's commitment to inclusion and equitable opportunity.

Throughout the program, participants engaged in expert-led sessions, interactive workshops, leadership simulations, social project presentations, and cultural activities. Discussions focused on core leadership pillars such as ethical decision-making, confidence and resilience, diplomatic engagement, grassroots mobilization, teamwork, and adaptive strategy. Delegates examined how personal courage and self-awareness contribute to effective leadership and how individual growth can translate into collective progress within communities and institutions.



The fellowship emphasized experiential learning through scenario-based challenges and collaborative exercises, allowing participants to apply theoretical frameworks in practical settings. These activities strengthened communication skills, strategic problem-solving abilities, and cross-cultural understanding, while encouraging participants to view leadership as both a responsibility and a long-term commitment to societal advancement.

By convening in Melbourne, the program highlighted Australia's role as a platform for international dialogue and professional exchange. The fellowship reinforced the importance of ethical leadership, global cooperation, and youth participation in shaping sustainable futures. Upon completion, delegates departed with enhanced leadership competencies, expanded professional networks, and a renewed commitment to principled action within their respective fields and communities.



MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZING

Committee

“As the Organizing Committee of the Young Professional Fellowship Australia 2026, convened in Melbourne from 10 to 13 February 2026, we extend our sincere appreciation to all delegates, speakers, partners, and participants whose engagement made this fellowship both meaningful and impactful.

The program served as a structured platform for dialogue, leadership development, and collaborative learning. Its successful implementation required careful coordination and collective commitment, and we are deeply grateful for the spirit of cooperation that defined the gathering in Melbourne.

Throughout the fellowship, discussions emphasized ethical leadership, intercultural understanding, grassroots engagement, and personal growth as essential foundations for responsible and sustainable impact. The contributions of our speakers and the active participation of delegates strengthened our shared commitment to advancing inclusive leadership at both local and global levels.

The Young Professional Fellowship Australia 2026 demonstrated the capacity of emerging leaders to translate dialogue into action. The Organizing Committee remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote integrity, collaboration, and meaningful youth engagement in the years ahead.

We thank everyone who contributed to the success of this fellowship in Melbourne.”



BACKGROUND OF THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

Fellowship

The Young Professional Fellowship (YPF) is an international non-profit organization committed to empowering young individuals with the leadership skills, ethical foundation, and global perspective necessary to address contemporary challenges. Through its structured fellowship programs held across different countries, YPF provides transformative learning environments that integrate panel discussions, interactive workshops, experiential activities, and cross-cultural engagement. The organization focuses on strengthening strategic thinking, confidence, collaboration, and responsible leadership among emerging professionals.

YPF promotes inclusive participation through merit-based selection processes, including fully funded and partially funded opportunities, ensuring diverse global representation. By connecting young leaders from varied backgrounds, the fellowship fosters dialogue, international networking, and long-term collaboration. Through its initiatives, YPF continues to cultivate a global community of principled, capable, and impact-driven leaders prepared to contribute meaningfully across sectors and communities.



TOPICS OF Discussion

- ❖ **Next-Generation Ethical and Adaptive Leadership**
Courage-driven leadership, accountability, strategic decision-making, and resilience in complex global contexts.
- ❖ **Confidence, Communication, and Personal Development**
Strengthening self-awareness, public speaking capacity, professional growth, and performance-oriented leadership habits.
- ❖ **Multicultural Diplomacy and Global Dialogue**
Advancing cross-cultural understanding, collaborative engagement, and constructive exchange within diverse international settings.
- ❖ **Youth Participation and Grassroots Social Impact**
Encouraging youth engagement in governance frameworks and supporting community-based initiatives through structured project development and presentation.
- ❖ **Experiential Learning, Collaboration, and Inclusive Global Networking**
Interactive workshops, scenario-based exercises, peer learning, social project showcases, and merit-based participation ensuring diverse representation.

FELLOWSHIP Theme

“Next-Generation Leadership: From Personal Courage to Global Impact.”

FELLOWSHIP Aims

The fellowship was designed with the following objectives:

- To strengthen strategic and adaptive leadership capacities among young professionals.
- To promote ethical decision-making, accountability, and integrity in contemporary leadership contexts.
- To redefine confidence as a function of courage, resilience, and continuous self-development.
- To enhance youth engagement in diplomacy, dialogue, and institutional decision-making processes.
- To promote cross-cultural collaboration and establish long-term international partnerships.

Day 1

DELEGATE CHECK-IN & Welcome

The **Young Professional Fellowship Australia 2026**, organized in collaboration with the Youth Diplomatic Academy, formally commenced on Tuesday, 10 February 2026, with the arrival and registration of delegates at The Hotel Windsor Melbourne. The check-in process was facilitated by the YPF Australia host team, ensuring an organized and efficient onboarding experience for all participants.

Delegates received official fellowship materials and merchandise upon registration, reinforcing a shared identity and the structured nature of the program. The afternoon session also enabled informal networking, allowing participants from diverse national, professional, and cultural backgrounds to initiate early engagement and exchange perspectives.

DELEGATES ORIENTATION AND NETWORKING Segment

The official opening session began in the evening with a comprehensive orientation designed to familiarize delegates with the objectives, structure, and expectations of the fellowship. As part of the session, a screening of the documentary **Journey of Change** was conducted, presenting an overview of the fellowship's global legacy and its impact across different regions.

An entertainment performance complemented the session, contributing to a welcoming and engaging atmosphere while encouraging cross-cultural interaction among participants.



HIGH-LEVEL Discussion

“Youth in Diplomacy and Decision-Making: From Aspiration to Professional Pathways”
Organized by Youth Diplomatic Academy

A central component of the evening program was a high-level discussion focusing on the role of youth in diplomacy and decision-making processes. The session examined pathways through which young professionals can transition from aspiration to active participation in governance, policy-making, and diplomatic spaces.

The discussion emphasized the importance of preparedness, strategic positioning, and sustained engagement in public service. It highlighted that meaningful participation requires not only intent but also proximity to decision-making platforms, including involvement in advisory councils, policy institutions, and leadership roles within communities.



❖ Session Insights: Multicultural Diplomacy and Global Dialogue

The high-level discussion was informed by the active participation of more than **50 delegates representing 50 different countries**, creating a structured platform for dialogue grounded in diverse national, cultural, and socio-economic contexts. The session enabled participants to engage with policy questions through the lens of their respective lived realities, contributing to a nuanced and evidence-based exchange.



❖ Contextual Dimensions of Policy Perspectives

The discussion on education systems was introduced through the guiding question: **“Should education systems encourage students to study less, or more?”**

In response, a delegate representing **South Korea** outlined the intensity of academic competition within their national context, noting that students frequently engage in extended study hours as part of a highly competitive university admission system. The intervention highlighted growing concerns regarding student well-being and the sustainability of such academic pressures.



In contrast, a delegate representing **Kenya** provided an alternative perspective, emphasizing that in certain rural regions, access to education remains a fundamental challenge. The participant noted that economic constraints and limited resources often result in early school dropout, thereby shifting the policy priority toward increasing educational access and retention.

These interventions demonstrated that responses to the same policy question were shaped by distinct national circumstances. The discussion underscored the importance of situating policy analysis within contextual realities rather than evaluating positions in isolation.



❖ Youth Participation in Decision-Making Structures

Addressing the critical issue of youth inclusion in governance, **Mr. Tyler Stitt** delivered a focused intervention on the structural barriers that limit young professionals' access to decision-making spaces. He observed that, despite their significant contributions to technological advancement and cultural transformation, young people remain underrepresented in formal political, diplomatic, and advocacy frameworks.



Mr. Stitt emphasized that meaningful and sustainable political and social progress is rooted in collective action rather than individual efforts. He encouraged participants to actively engage in collaborative platforms, build strategic networks, and leverage partnerships to amplify their influence. He further highlighted the growing importance of emerging technologies, noting that when used responsibly, they can serve as powerful tools for advocacy, communication, and leadership.

In addition, Mr. Stitt underscored the importance of effectively articulating one's skills, experiences, and professional value when pursuing opportunities in public service. He emphasized that diverse academic and professional backgrounds can provide credible and impactful entry points into political, diplomatic, and policy-oriented careers, thereby expanding pathways for youth participation in governance and institutional processes.



❖ Leadership Decision-Making: Balancing Competing Priorities

Participants were invited to reflect on a scenario-based question:

“What should a leader do when required to choose between short-term economic growth and long-term environmental protection?”

The discussion produced a range of perspectives reflecting differing developmental priorities. One participant emphasized that in contexts characterized by economic vulnerability, immediate economic growth may take precedence in order to address pressing social and financial needs.

Another participant underscored the importance of prioritizing environmental protection, noting that long-term ecological sustainability is essential for maintaining future economic stability.

A third perspective proposed an integrated policy approach aimed at balancing both objectives, while acknowledging the complexity and extended timeframes associated with such strategies.

The exchange was conducted in a structured and respectful manner, demonstrating participants’ capacity to engage with complex policy trade-offs while maintaining constructive dialogue.



❖ Cultural Representation as a Form of Informal Diplomacy

The session also highlighted the role of individual delegates as representatives of their respective cultural contexts. Through personal interactions, attire, and narrative exchanges, participants contributed to a process of cultural representation that extended beyond formal discussion frameworks.

These interactions facilitated greater awareness of cultural diversity within the cohort and enabled participants to engage with perspectives that may not have been previously encountered. The process underscored the function of cultural expression as a complementary dimension of diplomatic engagement.



❖ Interpersonal Engagement and Informal Diplomatic Exchange

In addition to formal deliberations, the fellowship environment enabled sustained interpersonal engagement among participants. Delegates engaged in extended discussions on geopolitical and social issues in informal settings, allowing for deeper exploration of perspectives shaped by regional proximity and lived experience.

These exchanges contributed to the development of mutual understanding and trust among participants, reinforcing the role of continuous dialogue in multicultural and international contexts. The interactions further demonstrated that diplomatic engagement is not confined to formal platforms but is also advanced through consistent interpersonal communication.



The session illustrated that effective multicultural diplomacy is grounded in **contextual awareness, institutional engagement, and sustained dialogue across diverse perspectives**. The combination of structured discussion and informal exchange contributed to a comprehensive learning environment, aligning with the fellowship's objective of fostering informed, reflective, and globally engaged young professionals.

NETWORKING DINNER AND END OF THE

Day

The day concluded with a networking dinner, which facilitated continued dialogue and relationship-building among delegates in an informal setting. The session reinforced the collaborative environment established throughout the day. A group photograph was also conducted, marking the official commencement of the fellowship and documenting the participation of the international cohort.

Day 1 highlighted that policy perspectives are shaped by context-specific national realities, as demonstrated through discussions on education systems and development priorities. The session further underscored the importance of institutional engagement in enabling meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes. Additionally, the discussions reflected participants' capacity to engage constructively with complex global issues, while both formal and informal interactions contributed to strengthening cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.



Day **2**

MORNING REGISTRATION AND INFORMAL

Networking

Day 2 of the Young Professional Fellowship Australia 2026 commenced on **Wednesday, 11 February 2026**, with morning registration at the venue front desk. Delegates completed check-in procedures and engaged in informal networking prior to the start of the formal program. This segment facilitated continued peer interaction and contributed to maintaining the collaborative learning environment established during the preceding day.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MR. MUHAMMAD AHMAD

The morning plenary session included a formal welcome address and an overview of the Young Professional Fellowship Australia 2026, reaffirming the objectives and thematic focus of the program. An entertainment performance was presented as part of the opening proceedings.

The keynote address was delivered by **Mr. Muhammad Ahmad, Vice Chairman of the Young Professional Fellowship**. In his remarks, he provided an institutional perspective on the fellowship's strategic mission and emphasized the importance of preparing young professionals for responsible leadership roles. He highlighted the necessity of structured youth engagement within decision-making frameworks and underscored the value of ethical awareness, accountability, and sustained collaboration. His intervention reinforced the program's commitment to equipping participants with practical leadership competencies aligned with long-term social impact.

Guest opening remarks followed, further contextualizing the fellowship's role in promoting youth leadership development and international cooperation.



INTERACTIVE SESSION

"Courage Over Comfort: Redefining Confidence in the Modern Age"

The interactive session titled **"Courage Over Comfort: Redefining Confidence in the Modern Age"** was facilitated by **Ms. Sahera Sumar**. The session examined contemporary interpretations of confidence within professional and leadership contexts, particularly in environments influenced by comparison, performance expectations, and uncertainty.

Ms. Sumar emphasized that confidence is not synonymous with perfection but is instead rooted in self-awareness, resilience, and the willingness to engage constructively with challenges. Participants were encouraged to reflect on how courage, adaptability, and experiential learning contribute to authentic leadership development. The discussion provided a structured space for dialogue and reflection on personal growth as a foundational element of effective professional engagement.



LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY

"Leadership in Action Challenge"

The leadership activity titled **"Leadership in Action Challenge"** was conducted as a structured simulation designed to translate theoretical concepts into practical application. Delegates were organized into diverse, cross-national teams and presented with real-world scenarios, including community conflict resolution, youth initiative design, and responses to broader societal challenges.



Working within defined time constraints, each team assigned leadership roles, developed strategic approaches, and delivered collaborative presentations outlining their proposed solutions. The diversity within teams facilitated the exchange of perspectives and enabled participants to identify shared challenges across different contexts while formulating adaptable and context-sensitive responses.



The activity emphasized teamwork, adaptability, analytical thinking, and collective decision-making. It further reinforced the fellowship's commitment to experiential learning, inclusivity, and cross-cultural collaboration, while strengthening participants' ability to operate effectively in dynamic and complex environments.



CLOSING Ceremony

Day 2 concluded with a structured closing session, during which key insights from the day's discussions and activities were summarized. Reflections were shared to consolidate learning outcomes related to ethical leadership, confidence development, teamwork, and civic responsibility.



Closing remarks were delivered, reinforcing the relevance of the sessions to the fellowship's broader objectives. The day concluded with an official group photograph, marking the completion of the second day of the program.



Day 3

MORNING REGISTRATION AND INFORMAL

Networking

Day 3 of the Young Professional Fellowship Australia 2026 commenced on Thursday, 12 February 2026, with delegate registration at the venue front desk. Participants completed check-in procedures and engaged in informal networking while preparing for the scheduled sessions. This opening segment facilitated continued interaction among delegates and supported a collaborative learning environment consistent with the fellowship's objectives.

OPENING RECAP AND GUEST

Address

The program began with a structured recap of key discussions from the previous day to ensure thematic continuity across the fellowship. A guest opening address was delivered, reaffirming the program's emphasis on ethical leadership, intercultural engagement, and youth-driven social impact. The remarks contextualized the day's agenda within the broader framework of grassroots leadership and community transformation.



INTERACTIVE SESSION

Grassroots Energy:

Turning Local Movements into Global Change



The first thematic session of the day, titled **"Grassroots Energy: Turning Local Movements into Global Change,"** examined the strategic potential of youth-led initiatives in influencing broader institutional and policy-level outcomes. The discussion emphasized that sustainable transformation often begins at the community level and requires structured planning, strategic communication, and long-term commitment.



Participants explored how local initiatives, when effectively organized and articulated, can contribute to national discourse and international cooperation frameworks. The session reinforced the importance of storytelling, persistence, and structured advocacy in translating grassroots passion into measurable and scalable impact.



WORKSHOP *Breaking Barriers: Identifying What Holds Us Back and Building 6 Habits to Thrive*

The workshop titled **“Breaking Barriers: Identifying What Holds Us Back and Building 6 Habits to Thrive”** was delivered by **Ms. Belinda Colubriale**. The session provided a structured examination of key constraints affecting leadership effectiveness, with particular focus on fear, fatigue, and frustration as recurring barriers in both personal and professional contexts. The discussion emphasized the need for deliberate, disciplined approaches to overcoming these challenges, highlighting the role of consistency and self-regulation in sustaining leadership performance.



Drawing on established high-performance frameworks, Ms. Colubriale introduced six core habits: seeking clarity, generating energy, raising necessity, increasing productivity, developing influence, and demonstrating courage. These principles were presented as practical mechanisms for enhancing individual capacity and long-term effectiveness. The session incorporated guided reflection and self-assessment exercises, enabling delegates to critically evaluate their current practices, identify areas for development, and formulate actionable strategies for improvement. Overall, the workshop reinforced the importance of resilience, intentional growth, and structured habit formation as foundational elements of impactful and sustainable leadership.



SOCIAL PROJECTS *Presentations*

In the afternoon, delegates presented their community initiatives and social impact projects during the **Social Projects Presentation** segment. Participants showcased initiatives addressing diplomacy, education, civic engagement, and community development within their respective contexts.



The presentations facilitated peer learning, constructive exchange of ideas, and collaborative dialogue. This segment underscored the fellowship's commitment to translating conceptual leadership training into practical, community-based implementation strategies.

Guest Intervention **MR. NIRAJAN GAULI**

Prior to the closing segment, **Mr. Nirajan Gauli (MIEAust, NER), Honorary Consul of Nepal to Victoria, Australia**, delivered a guest intervention. He noted that the fellowship had brought together a diverse group of delegates from multiple countries, creating a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and cross-cultural exchange.



During his address, Mr. Gauli reflected on his professional journey, spanning roles across public service and private enterprise, as well as his transition from engineering to diplomacy and community engagement. He referenced his academic pathway, including his studies in engineering and ongoing doctoral research, highlighting the importance of continuous learning in professional development.

Mr. Gauli also shared insights from his community engagement through Australia Nepal Public Link (ANPL), including initiatives related to road safety, water safety, mental health awareness, and suicide prevention within diverse communities. He emphasized that leadership is a continuous process shaped by growth, responsibility, and service.

In his concluding remarks, he highlighted the importance of collaboration and engagement among young professionals and acknowledged the role of platforms such as the Young Professional Fellowship in facilitating learning, exchange, and professional interaction among emerging leaders.



GUEST INTERVENTIONS

Intervention by

MR. NIRAJAN GAULI

Prior to the closing segment, **Mr. Nirajan Gauli (MIEAust, NER), Honorary Consul of Nepal to Victoria, Australia**, delivered a guest intervention. He noted that the fellowship had brought together over **35 delegates from more than 20 countries**, highlighting the diversity of participants and the value of cross-cultural exchange.

During his address, Mr. Gauli reflected on his professional journey across public service and private enterprise, as well as his transition from engineering to diplomacy and community engagement. He also referenced his academic pathway, including his studies in engineering and ongoing doctoral research, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning.



He further highlighted his involvement in community initiatives through Australia Nepal Public Link (ANPL), including work related to road safety, water safety, mental health awareness, and suicide prevention. He emphasized that leadership is a continuous process shaped by growth, responsibility, and service. In his concluding remarks, he acknowledged the role of the fellowship in bringing together young professionals and facilitating dialogue and engagement.

Intervention by **MR. MAHADEV DHANUK**

Mr. Mahadev Dhanuk, SCC Coordinator, NRNA Victoria, Melbourne, delivered a brief intervention focusing on youth development and the role of young people in contributing to positive societal change. He emphasized that youth have the capacity to inspire change and actively make a difference within their communities.

In his remarks, Mr. Dhanuk expressed appreciation to the Young Professional Fellowship for organizing the event and for bringing together participants from diverse backgrounds. He highlighted the importance of such platforms in promoting cross-cultural exchange, fostering friendships, and strengthening unity among young people at the global level.



CULTURAL *Walk*

As part of the cultural component of the program, delegates participated in a structured cultural walk, presenting traditional national attire in recognition of global diversity. The segment symbolized mutual respect, intercultural appreciation, and shared human connection among participants from diverse backgrounds.

This activity reinforced the fellowship's emphasis on inclusion, cross-cultural understanding, and global solidarity as essential dimensions of leadership development.



CLOSING Ceremony

Day 3 concluded with a formal closing ceremony recognizing participant engagement and contributions throughout the fellowship. Certificates were awarded in acknowledgment of delegates' active participation and commitment to the program's objectives.



An entertainment performance was presented as part of the closing proceedings. The program concluded with official group photographs documenting the collective experience and shared achievements of the cohort.

The completion of Day 3 marked the formal conclusion of the Young Professional Fellowship Australia 2026 in Melbourne, reflecting the program's objectives of strengthening ethical leadership, intercultural dialogue, grassroots engagement, and collaborative youth development.



KEY OUTCOMES AND

Achievements

- ❖ Successfully convened an international cohort of emerging leaders in Melbourne under a structured four-day fellowship program.
- ❖ Delivered thematic sessions aligned with **Next-Generation Leadership**, ethical responsibility, confidence building, diplomacy, and grassroots impact.
- ❖ Strengthened participants' strategic thinking, adaptive leadership capacity, and decision-making skills through expert-led discussions and interactive workshops.
- ❖ Enhanced confidence, communication abilities, and professional competence through experiential learning and collaborative exercises.
- ❖ Facilitated meaningful cross-cultural dialogue and international networking among delegates from diverse backgrounds.
- ❖ Showcased youth-led social projects, encouraging practical application of leadership skills toward community impact.
- ❖ Ensured inclusive global representation through **20 fully funded and 50 partially funded scholarships**.
- ❖ Reinforced the alignment of personal development with collective progress and long-term global engagement.

