International Youth Forum Begins in Korea

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A total of 132 youths from 30 Asian and European countries have gathered in Korea to discuss their role in tackling world's major issues, such as global warming.

They are participating in the 19th annual International Youth Forum (IYF), which kicked off at the Hamilton Hotel in central Seoul Wednesday for a six-day run.

The main event starts Thursday and will continue through Monday at the youths training center in Goesan-gun, South Chungcheong Province, according to the organizer and host, the National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea (NCYOK).

The forum will discuss global issues such as education and the elimination of poverty, unemployment, public health policy, the HIV/AIDS crisis and gender equality.

At the close of the forum, participants will adopt the "Seoul Declaration" to establish their responsibilities as world youth and their plans to help solve global issues.

The forum, a plaza of inter-cultural dialog among Asian and European youth, is co-hosted by the Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family Affairs under the sponsorship of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). ASEF undertakes projects brought forth at the annual Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), an forum for Asian and European heads of state.