

The Middle East & Africa Forum for Sustainability Leaders

Views You Can Use

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We can achieve a greater impact by focusing on youth

According to UNICEF, there are about 620 million people between the ages of 18-24 who are not employed or enrolled in any education program. This presents a great opportunity to capitalize on the energy of these young populations. We need to start by understanding their drivers and motivations. For instance, a friend of mine was interested in drones and learned to pilot them by the age of 20. He later used that skill to create his own startup that provides drone flying services for companies and currently employs over a hundred young drone pilots.

A platform to bridge the gap between industry and education

Bridging the gap between education and industry is an urgent matter. The skills gap is a major bottleneck for the industry, and it is especially visible in areas such as renewable energies, resource efficiency, and innovation. We are working to connect the dots in the lead up to COP28 by creating a platform where we can better understand the needs of the industry and identify how educational institutions can meet those needs. We aim to launch this program by COP28 with a number of regional universities and private sector partners, and we are open to connecting with more interested parties.