

# UBI TIMES

BASIC INCOME  
EARTH NETWORK  
ASIA-PACIFIC

Feb, 2025 #2



*Renana Jhabvala at India Basic Income Coalition's National Conference*

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## Message from the Hub Manager John Michael

Dear readers,

Greetings from the BIEN Asia-Pacific Hub, and welcome to the second edition of UBI Times.

The response to our inaugural edition has been truly heartening. The messages of support, the thoughtful reflections, and the new connections we have made in the past month reaffirm the solidarity for UBI advocacy in the region. Beyond just appreciation, the newsletter has opened new pathways for collaboration—connecting us with individuals and organizations eager to work together in advancing UBI. This is exactly what we hoped for—a space where ideas, experiences, and strategies for UBI can be shared and nurtured.

One of the most inspiring updates in this edition comes from Tuvalu, where UBI 4 Climate Justice is pioneering the use of unconditional cash transfers to support climate activists. As the climate crisis deepens, the Global South continues to bear the brunt of environmental injustices. But projects like this demonstrate that economic security and climate action are not separate struggles—they are deeply intertwined. The intersection of UBI and climate justice is a growing area of work, and it is encouraging to see such an initiative take shape in our region. In a similar vein, Pulau has taken a bold step on the global stage by pledging to implement a Cap and Share model as part of its commitment to climate justice. These developments remind us that basic income is not just an economic tool but a crucial element of broader struggles for justice and sustainability. A special thanks to Zainab Bie from Equal Right, for sharing insights on the Tuvalu pilot in this edition's Voices from the Region—a compelling reminder of the power of UBI to support those on the frontlines of change.

We are also honored to feature a contribution from BIEN Deputy Chair

Hilde Latour in this edition. Her reflections on BIEN’s journey toward decentralization and the role of regional hubs resonate deeply with our work in the Asia-Pacific. As she aptly puts it, every movement starts with a first step, and our efforts to localize and strengthen the UBI discourse are part of a larger vision to make BIEN a truly Earth-wide movement. Her words remind us that the fight for basic income is not for mere policy—it is about dignity, justice, and universal solidarity.

Looking ahead, the Asia-Pacific Hub is actively engaging in two major in-person events. In Malaysia, we are collaborating on ‘Basic Income for Malaysia: Insights and Possibilities,’ a conference bringing together policymakers, economists, and civil society leaders to push the UBI discourse forward. Meanwhile, in Indonesia, we are supporting a UBI Training Program designed to strengthen grassroots advocacy and deepen understanding of basic income among scholars, activists, and community leaders. These events embody a crucial balance—UBI must be advanced at both the policy level and through popular movements. When communities champion the idea and policymakers actively explore its potential, basic income can move from discussion to reality.

As we enter our third edition, we would like to invite contributions from across the region. If there is a basic income initiative in your country that you would like to share, please reach out—we would love to amplify your work in UBI Times and other hub platforms.

A special note of appreciation goes to the Asia-Pacific team, whose dedication to the hub’s operations, advocacy, and communications has been invaluable in pushing our work forward.

Let us continue building a future where dignity, security, and freedom are universal.

**In solidarity,**

John Michael

Asia-Pacific Regional Hub Manager

Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN)

# Message from the Deputy Chair, Basic Income Earth Network Hilde Latour



*Every movement starts with a first step.*

*Doing the Basic Income walk is stepping along the path of unconditional love, without judgement.*

Every single human being on Earth deserves a floor to stand on, no conditions of any kind. As in most societies you need money to survive, Basic Income can be seen as a basic human right. Basic Income is a very simple idea: when you are born you get it and when you die, it stops. The numerous pilots around the globe show over and over again that a Basic Income transforms lives on every level. It starts with small changes on the individual and household level, often accompanied by initiatives in the community, organised by the people themselves. It is the variety of effects that makes Basic Income a relevant conversation in every domain, in every corner of the World. Basic Income has no borders, no religion, no race.

Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) originally started as a European Network in 1986 and became an Earth Network in 2004 with more than 40 affiliate organisations today. Three years ago BIEN began a process of decentralisation and initiated 'BIEN Hubs', starting in Africa, Latin America and Asia-Pacific, with the ambition to grow into a web of regions; each with their own character but all part of the BIEN-family. We envisioned this decentralisation would lead to more context specific conversations about Basic Income in the regions and would facilitate 'connective tissue' between basic income activists, movements, countries and organisations (even beyond the Basic Income space).

I am excited to see what is happening in BIEN's Asia Pacific Hub and read the first UBI Times with a big smile on my face. A big thank you to John Michael and everyone around him for taking the first steps in realising the Hub and making us part of this journey through this attractive Newsletter. I am confident that Basic Income will become a reality in the near future.

# what is happening in the hub?

## Universal Basic Income in the Asia-Pacific Region: Insights, Reflections & Possibilities at Woxsen University

A one-day workshop was conducted at Woxsen University, in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence Indo-Pacific Studies and the Laurence Simon Department of Economics. The session was led by Dr. Sarath Davala, Ms. Grace



Gregory, and John Michael, with Prof. Konrad Gunesch, Dean, School of Liberal Arts & Humanities, Dr. Areeba Moazzam, Asst. Prof. & Co-Chair, Centre of Excellence Indo-Pacific Studies, and Dr. Rohin Gaddam, Asst. Prof. at the Laurence Simon Department of Economics co-facilitating the discussions. Attended by the entire faculty of the school and students from multiple departments, the workshop featured discussions on poverty, AI-driven job loss, freedom, and unpaid labor. Through group activities, the participants explored public policy solutions that address gender injustice and structural inequalities, leading into a comprehensive dialogue on basic income in the Asia-Pacific region.

## IBIC National Conference



The India Basic Income Coalition's Cash-Based Social Policy Conference at IIT Delhi brought together policymakers, economists, academics, and civil society leaders to discuss India's evolving cash transfer policies. Over two days, participants explored the political economy, fiscal trade-offs, administrative innovations, and citizen experiences of such programs. Discussions highlighted the growing acceptance of quasi-universal, unconditional cash transfers, with examples like Ladli Behna, Gruha Lakshmi, and KMUT. Key political figures, including a former Finance Minister and members of national and state policy bodies, engaged in critical dialogues on cash-based welfare architecture.

## Unconditional Screening

The [Unconditional film](#) screening at Lamakaan, Hyderabad, featured Prof. Amir Ullah Khan, economist and former IAS officer, as the discussant. The team, including Hyma Anneboina, Vivek Joseph, former WorkFREE coordinator, engaged participants in a discussion on



poverty, financial inclusion, and economic justice. Few themes that came up in the discussion include the misconception that the poor are lazy, the burden of loan sharks, and income stagnation limiting access to quality education. Discussions also covered how guaranteed income supports dignity, freedom, and better life choices. Issues of caste marginalization and the structural challenges of Global South economies were also examined.

## Hub Manager's Interview with iDream Media in Telugu



The hub manager was invited by iDream Media, a well known info entity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, India for its long form interviews with those in the public field. In the interview, John shared with Journalist Sahasra about the existing social policy and the need for reform. More focused discussion took place on the precarity of informal workers in India and the need for a basic income for all. The findings of WorkFREE UBI+ Pilot with the garbage collectors have been shared. This interview marks a beginning of advocacy in regional languages for the hub. [Click here to watch the interview.](#)

# what is happening in the hub?

## IBIC Team Workshop

The IBIC Coalition's workshop in January, at Montfort Social Institute, Hyderabad focused on defining collective outcomes and strategising for UBI advocacy in India. Facilitated by representatives from Indus Action, Project DEEP, WorkFREE, INBI Foundation, and BIEN Asia-Pacific Hub, the sessions included discussions on aspirations, key tasks for achieving a UBI endgame, and building group consensus. The workshop also addressed role divisions for long-term coordination and narrative-sharing efforts. Led by Sarath Davala, Pankhuri Shah, Tarun Cherukuri, Archana Kannan, Muzamil Baig, Vibhor Mathur, Sarah Afraz, and John Michael, the workshop strengthened collaboration and alignment within the coalition, ensuring a unified approach toward advancing basic income initiatives in the country.



## Post Endline survey of WorkFREE begins



The WorkFREE post-endline research has commenced a year after the cash transfers concluded, aiming to assess long-term impacts. The study explores labor choices, community solidarity, expenditure patterns, time use, assets, freedom, and gender dynamics. Field research is being conducted across participating slum communities in Hyderabad to understand the sustained effects of basic income on their lives.

# UBI 4 Climate Justice: Unconditional Cash Transfers for Tuvalu's Climate Defenders

**Zainab Bie**  
Director, Asia-Pacific, Equal Right



In Tuvalu, where 96% of land sits less than 5 meters above sea level, climate activists are fighting an existential battle.

As climate change threatens the very existence of the small Pacific Island nation we're excited to announce an innovative approach that merges universal basic income principles with climate justice. Our pilot project, 'UBI 4 Climate Justice' provides unconditional cash transfers to climate activists, recognizing their critical role as frontline defenders of both environment and culture.

The intersection of economic insecurity and climate vulnerability creates a devastating cycle: while Tuvalu's activists lead crucial environmental initiatives, they often struggle with financial precarity that limits their capacity for sustain advocacy. Our pilot breaks this cycle by providing monthly stipends of £50 or an annual lump-sum payment of £500 to climate defenders, enabling them to dedicate more of their time and energy to environmental protection and community resilience.

Our pilot is the first of its kind to do two things:

First, it recognizes that economic security isn't just about individual wellbeing—it's a fundamental requirement for effective climate action.



Second, it demonstrates how unconditional cash transfers can serve as a mechanism for climate justice, redistributing resources to those facing the most severe climate impacts while contributing the least to global emissions.



With basic income support, activists can focus on developing indigenous climate solutions, preserving traditional ecological knowledge, and building long-term community resilience. This model shows particular promise for Small Island Developing States, where local climate defenders often possess crucial environmental

knowledge but lack financial resources to apply it effectively. We hope to create a tangible pathway to advocate for distribution of wealth to those most impacted by climate catastrophe by directly providing financial resources to local climate activists . This approach transforms abstract climate policy into direct, meaningful support, enabling frontline defenders to develop adaptive strategies, and advocate for systemic climate solutions.

Figure 1: Potential scenario for raising and distributing the carbon charge

IMPACT OF CAP AND SHARE	Year 1	Year 35
Carbon extraction cap (gigatonnes)	36.3	0.9
Carbon charge per tonne <sup>2</sup>	\$135	\$14,300
Amount raised	\$4.9 trillion	\$12.9 trillion
Climate grants distributed	\$1 trillion	\$1 trillion
Amount retained in <b>Global Commons Fund (GCF)</b>	\$0.2 trillion	\$190 trillion
Monthly universal payment, per person	\$31	\$71

As Equal Right continues to advocate for basic income globally, our UBI 4 Climate Justice - Tuvalu pilot offers a concrete example of how unconditional cash transfers can address interconnected

challenges of economic inequality and environmental justice. We're seeking to scale this model, aiming to support up to 100 climate activists in Tuvalu by the end of 2025, and demonstrating how basic income can serve as a powerful tool for both social and environmental transformation.

**Cap and Share is more powerful than Cap and Trade (and similar policies):**



Cap and Share taxes all fossil fuel extraction, not just any amount over the 'cap'



The cap in Cap and Share is legally binding, rather than just a charge when companies go over it



In Cap and Share, no offsets, trades or swaps of pollution or emissions credits are allowed, and the cap would progressively decline until no new fossil fuel is extracted



Cap and Share involves direct distribution of the carbon charge proceeds to citizens (there is no inherently distributive element to Cap and Trade)

# news from the region.

## Palau becomes First Nation to sign [Cap and Share](#) pledge

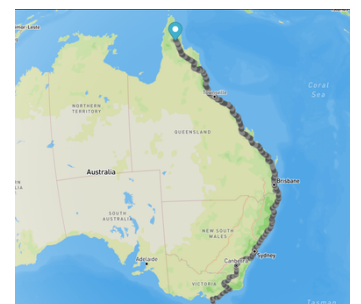
Palau has made history as the first country to endorse the Cap and Share Pledge, a bold initiative linking climate justice with economic equity. The policy caps fossil fuel extraction, holds polluters accountable, and redistributes revenues as climate grants and a global UBI. With rising sea levels threatening its existence,



Palau's leadership sets a precedent for urgent, transformative action ahead of COP30. This milestone signals a call for other nations to adopt innovative solutions for a just and sustainable future. Learn more about Cap and Share and its potential impact on global climate policy.

## Daniel Hart finishes 4,500 KM Basic Income Walk Across Australia

Daniel Hart, founder of [You B I](#), successfully completed his 4,500 km walk across Australia in January 2025 to advocate for universal basic income. Starting at Wilsons Promontory in Victoria and finishing at Cape York in Far North Queensland, his journey highlighted the need for addressing economic insecurity. Despite challenges, including being swept into the sea near Sydney, Hart persevered, sparking national conversations on basic income. His campaign gained widespread support, inspiring further advocacy efforts, including You B I initiatives in Thailand. His journey stands as a milestone in UBI activism. To know more about his journey go to [@basicinowalk](#) on Instagram.



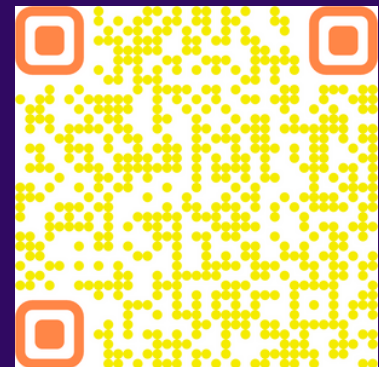
## ReCivitas is in Asia

ReCivitas is currently on an expedition across Asia with an open agenda for meetings and collaborations. Their focus spans key areas such as Universal Basic Income (UBI), circular economy, intellectual property, ReFi (Regenerative Finance), DeFi (Decentralized Finance), DDD (Decentralized Decision-Making), ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance), and AI. If you are interested in discussions or potential collaborations, this is a great opportunity to connect with a pioneering Brazilian institution driving global social and economic transformation.



## Stay Connected with UBI Times – Sign Up Now!

UBI Times, the newsletter of the Asia-Pacific Hub of BIEN, brings you the latest updates, insights, and discussions on Universal Basic Income (UBI) across the region. Currently shared through a mailing list, BIEN's website and our social media platforms, we would like to offer readers the option to receive it directly in their inbox.



Scan the QR to Sign Up

If you'd like to stay informed about UBI research, events, and advocacy efforts, sign up by filling out [our Google form](#). Subscribers will receive the newsletter as a PDF via email. Don't miss out—be part of the conversation on the future of UBI in the Asia-Pacific!

## Yi Yin from Taiwan wins Raffle #7 of UBI4ALL, becomes the first global winner

UBI4ALL has announced its first-ever winner outside Europe—Yi Yin from Taiwan! With lot number 13011, she has won a year of Basic Income (€9,600 / €800 per month), marking a milestone in UBI4ALL's expansion.

Initially met with skepticism from her family, Yi Yin proved the legitimacy of the raffle and embraced the opportunity to reshape her life. She is using her Basic Income to explore new interests, such as enrolling in a wool knitting course at a community college—something she previously couldn't afford. The financial security also allows her to consider a career shift, moving away from work she did only for survival.

Her story highlights the transformative power of UBI, reinforcing its potential to grant individuals the freedom to pursue their passions. UBI4ALL continues to bring real-life experiences into the debate on economic security and social justice, demonstrating how Basic Income can create opportunities for people worldwide.



### Next UBI4ALL Raffle on March 30th, 2025

The next UBI4ALL raffle will take place on March 30, 2025! Anyone aged 16+ in Europe and select partner regions can register for free to win a year of Basic Income. The initiative aims to spark conversations around UBI by offering real-life examples of its impact. [Sign up now and join the movement!](#)



# up next.

Click on the image to know more details 

**FUTURE MOVEMENT**    **BIEN** Basic Income Earth Network 

# BASIC INCOME TRAINING 2025

Best practices and lessons learned from UBI pilot experiments worldwide

**KEYNOTES**

**A. Muhaimin Iskandar**  
Coordinating Ministry for Social Empowerment, Republic of Indonesia

**Guy Standing**  
Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN)

**Sarath Davala**  
Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN)

**Bruna Augusto Pereira/Marcus Brancaglione**  
Director of ReCivitas, Brazil

**Bogor, West Java**  
April 25 – 27, 2025

**Speakers:**

Elisse Klein | John Michael | Neil Howard | Jonny Douglas | Jonatan Lassa | Sugeng Bahagjo | Wahyu Susilo | Yanu Endar Prasetyo | Hamong Santono | Ah. Maftuchan | Victoria Fanggaldae | Henni Ramdianingrum | Anwar Sastro Ma'ruf | Dika Muhammad | M. Sena Lufhdika | Sonny Mumbunan | Bambang Harymurti | Petra Schneider | Aris Arif Mundayat | Teguh Haryono | Amrul | Aloysius Gunadi Brata

**Register Now** 

[www.futuremovement.id](http://www.futuremovement.id) [indobignetwork@gmail.com](mailto:indobignetwork@gmail.com)

\*Up to 20 selected participants will receive scholarships (full or partial)

The Basic Income Training 2025 will take place at Bogor, West Java, Indonesia from April 25–27, bringing together policymakers, researchers, activists, and grassroots leaders to explore Universal Basic Income (UBI) as a tool for social justice and economic resilience. With rising inequality, informal employment, and limited social assistance, Indonesia faces urgent challenges that UBI could help address.

The training will feature key Indonesian policy leaders, and basic income advocates from across the world offering insights from global UBI pilots and facilitating the design of context-specific projects for Indonesia. Participants will engage in interactive sessions on UBI theories, best practices, and pilot development.

Organized in collaboration with BIEN Asia Pacific and key Indonesian organizations, the event aims to strengthen networks and advance UBI advocacy. Up to 20 scholarships will be available based on merit and financial need. This is a crucial opportunity to shape Indonesia's approach to inclusive economic policies.

## Invitation to Workshop & Conference ||

# Universal Basic Income in Malaysia: Insights and Possibilities

The workshop and conference explores the concept of Universal Basic Income (UBI) and its implications for Malaysia. Prof. Geoffrey Williams, alongside representatives from the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN)— Global Chair Dr. Sarath Davala, Executive Committee member Lee Seng Kiat, and Asia-Pacific Hub Manager John Michael—will lead the training and facilitated dialogues on Day One. The second day will be a conference and engagement with policy makers of the country through keynote addresses and panel discussions. The two-day event will cover a global overview of UBI, insights from pilot programs, economic considerations for funding, and the role of UBI in strengthening Malaysia's social protection framework.



**Day 1**

**18th April, 2025**  
**Training & Workshop**

**Day 2**

**19th April, 2025**  
**Conference**



**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

A collaboration between  
Prof Geoffrey Williams &



**BIEN**

Basic Income  
Earth Network

Building on the advocacy work done through explainer papers, newspaper articles and podcast interviews, we now aim to take the advocacy on UBI in Malaysia one level up by engaging directly with the economists and policy makers in the country. The event will be a great platform to bring together those interested in UBI in Malaysia.

# publications from the hub

Click on the images to read the articles 



**DAWN**  
E-PAPER | FEBRUARY 26, 2025

HOME LATEST BREATHE **GAZA SIEGE** PAKISTAN OPINION BL Q

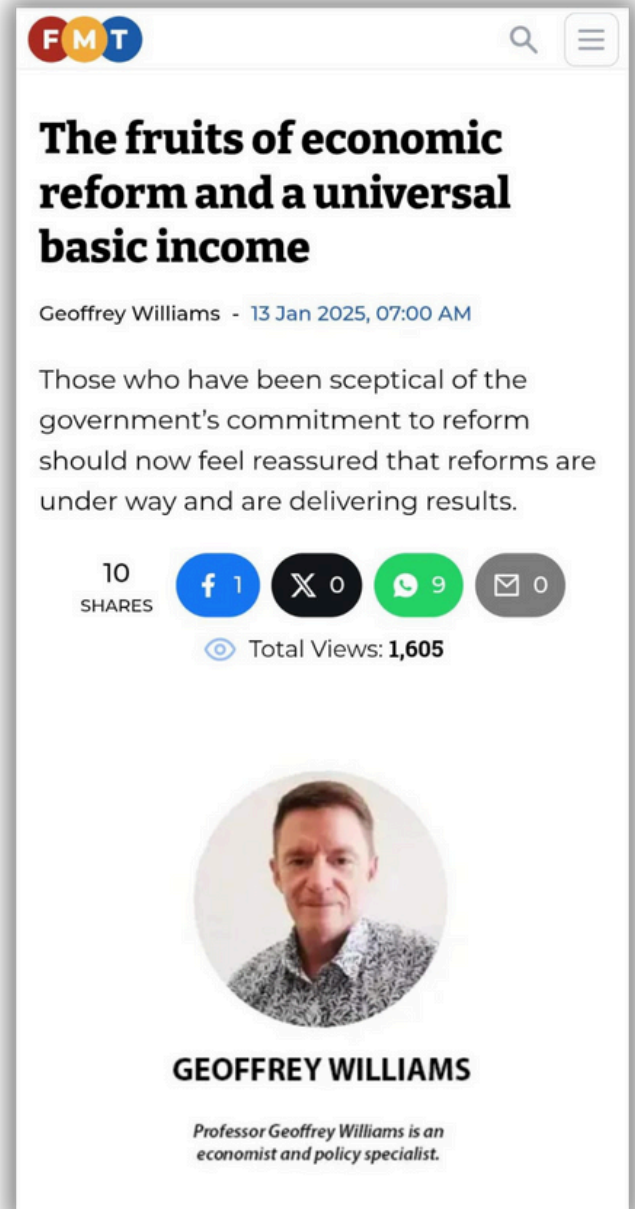
## Is it time for basic income in Pakistan?

Neil Howard | Published January 17, 2025

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The writer teaches at the University of Bath, UK, and has led basic income pilots across South Asia.








F M T


## The fruits of economic reform and a universal basic income

Geoffrey Williams - 13 Jan 2025, 07:00 AM

Those who have been sceptical of the government's commitment to reform should now feel reassured that reforms are under way and are delivering results.

10 SHARES  1  0  9  0

 Total Views: **1,605**



**GEOFFREY WILLIAMS**

*Professor Geoffrey Williams is an economist and policy specialist.*



# Call for Papers – Extended till March 20th, 2025

**BIEN** Congress 2025

## BASIC INCOME & SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

New Horizons for Social Protection

Universidade Federal Fluminense  
Maricá and Niterói (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)  
**27-29 August 2025**

**PRE-CONGRESS EVENTS:**  
*Latin America Day:* 25 August  
*Early Career Day:* 26 August

Realização: **cede** (Centro de Estudos em Desenvolvimento e Administração), **uff** (Universidade Federal Fluminense), **IBDS** (Instituto Brasileiro de Desenvolvimento Social), **MARICÁ** (Município de Maricá), **NITERÓI** (Município de Niterói), **Sintese Eventos**

## BIEN 24th Congress - 2025

### Submission Categories:

- Basic Income & the Solidarity Economy
- Environment & Fair Transition
- Race & Ethnicity & Gender & Care & Vulnerability
- Pilots & Experiments & Policies & the Welfare State And Related Topics
- Social Movements & Grassroots & Activism

## meet the BIEN Asia-Pacific team.



**John Michael**

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[BIEN Asia-Pacific](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bien-asia-pacific)



[@bien\\_apac](https://twitter.com/bien_apac)



[@BIENAPAC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

*‘In terms of finance, understanding people without any boundaries can give power to any individual. In a conversation with finance department people, I told them ‘not to give a pension but to give it as a basic income for the transgender persons.’ Government always tries to creatively set filters. First, they will ask ration card then some identity card with gender confirmation making a lot of the transgender community ineligible for things. That’s why, I say, ‘unconditional is powerful’.*

**- A participant of Basic Income and Care for Transgender persons (TG-BIC) Project, India**