



ASEAN YOUTH BYTES

Stories on successful initiatives of ASEAN Youth



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The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

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ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All

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Foreword

HE Dato Lim Jock Hoi | Secretary General of ASEAN

Bits, Bytes, and the Importance of Youth

I am very pleased to present 'ASEAN Youth Bytes', a magazine that showcases stories and successes of initiatives aimed at youth development in ASEAN and promotion of their role in the ASEAN Community.

The title of this publication is apt, since the performance of a computer is dependent on the integrity and workability of a byte. Similarly, the role of youth in our ASEAN Community is crucial in fostering dynamism and in ensuring our future.

This publication provides real-life accounts of the achievements of ASEAN youth programmes and activities, including those involving our partners. These are presented to serve as inspiration and examples of youth engagement through an array of exciting activities such as camps, community immersion programmes, workshops, study visits, and even boat cruises!

Over the years, ASEAN has developed and implemented a variety of youth-focused initiatives. Many began as national youth development initiatives of the ASEAN Member States to address issues confronting young people. A number were designed and launched with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, United Nations agencies, and other international and regional partners. Some were also products of the creativity of our region's young people themselves, conducted through youth-led organisations affiliated with ASEAN and beyond.

It is my hope that this publication will serve both as a reference and as encouragement to the youth of

ASEAN and our partners, to take on a more active role in ASEAN Community building.

I would like to congratulate the Education, Youth and Sports Division of the ASEAN Secretariat, and all contributors and writers for their hard work in realising this publication. I would also like to extend appreciation to Japan for the support provided through the JENESYS Fund.

The future of ASEAN belongs to our youth. Let us forge ahead together and leverage the strength and potential of the ASEAN youth 'byte'.

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CONTENTS

00 FOREWORD

ARTICLES

- 01 The future and the development of youth in ASEAN
- 05 Awards for outstanding youth of the region
- 09 Friendships flourish under JENESYS youth visits to Japan
- 12 CoP and the youth of ASEAN
- 13 Combatting the dangers of cyberspace
- 15 A platform for student leaders
- 16 Learning the art of diplomacy
- 19 New ideas from young peacebuilders
- 21 Going green and greener
- 23 Promoting ecotourism in Lao PDR
- 25 Speaking out for a better future
- 27 Young entrepreneurs join the club
- 29 Friendship beyond the ship
- 31 Sport for tomorrow
- 33 New frontiers of friendship
- 35 Capturing Seoul on film



- Secrets of K-beauty 37
- Culture on show at Youth Expo 38
- Youth as agents of change 39
- ASEAN goes to school! 41
- Creative impact 43
- Change with passion 45
- Investing in social entrepreneurs 46
- Strengthening leadership skills and an ASEAN identity 48
- Visualising the spirit 50
- Stars speak the language of music 51
- Out of crisis comes unity 52
- Accessing sexual health services 53
- An educational opportunity for Myanmar's teashop children 55
- The First ASEAN Youth Development Index 56
- Youth Development Index for Cambodia 58
- Youth Development Index for Indonesia 59
- Funding the future 60



The future and the development of youth in ASEAN

Abigail C Lanceta, Former Head of Education, Youth and Sports Division, ASEAN Secretariat

The youth is the hope of our future
- Jose Rizal

A year begins with spring. A life begins with youth. Youth is the spring of society
- Ho Chi Minh

Over the years and as ASEAN has evolved into a strong regional grouping, leaders of its member states have continued to place youth and youth development as a key priority in the agenda, mindful of the potential of the young as a dynamic resource for development.

ASEAN youth embodies the aspirational goals of the ASEAN Community. Young people represent a large proportion of the region's vibrant population, making them a real force that it would be unwise, and indeed impossible, to ignore.

Since the establishment of ASEAN more than 50 years ago, leaders within the grouping have invested in initiatives aimed at preparing youth for leadership, employment, and resilience. A prime mover is the Declaration of Principles to Strengthening ASEAN Collaboration on Youth of 1983, which affirmed the promotion of the best educational, professional and living conditions for young people in ASEAN to ensure their active participation and integration in national and regional development.

Following this and born out of the need to promote greater youth development and participation through a dedicated ASEAN platform, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) were established in 1997 and 2002 respectively. The objectives here were to promote positive and active participation of young people in pursuit of continuous peace, solidarity, progress and prosperity in the ASEAN region, preparing and empowering them to meet the challenges of globalisation in the 21st century while

reinforcing an understanding of sustainable and balanced development.

The ASEAN ministers responsible for youth development in the respective ASEAN Member States framed this course of action in the Kuala Lumpur Agenda on ASEAN Youth Development of 1997.

ASEAN pursues these objectives through formulation of programmes and activities to strengthen regional solidarity and identity, as well as inculcating responsibilities and a common vision among youth. To prepare for the challenges of rapid globalisation, ASEAN Member States assist in equipping the young generation with relevant competencies such as leadership, human values, and life skills.

Further, the ASEAN Member States endeavour to encourage perpetuation of ASEAN moral and cultural values to help the young people cherish their regional roots, while at the same time focusing on strengthening ASEAN awareness. These efforts are all coupled with research, networking, and involving participation of non-government organisations in youth activities in ASEAN.

FORGING AHEAD TOGETHER

Fast forward two decades, and the ASEAN youth sector has blossomed into a robust and vibrant cooperation within the regional community, marked by state-of-the-art youth programmes and activities, multiple transnational exchanges, cross-sectoral collaboration on youth issues, participation of youth and grassroots organisations in ASEAN sectoral and high-level meetings, representation of young people in global events, and exploration of new knowledge through advanced information and communications technology.

Now, more than ever, ASEAN has placed its people, especially its young people, at the apex of its efforts and ambition for the future.

Along with the buzz of modernisation and the fast-paced changes in the region and the world, ASEAN propels itself to greater service and resolve as a people-oriented, people-centred, vibrant and socially responsible regional grouping. Against the backdrop of this post-2015 vision of the ASEAN Community, the grouping embarked on a new roadmap called ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, which comprises blueprints for ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

Subsequently and anchored on this, the ASEAN AMMY and SOMY formulated the Post-2015 Vision on Youth and the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020, a five-year programme that focuses on four areas.

1. Sustaining the focus on **youth entrepreneurship** through structured capacity building programmes.
2. Enhancing **youth employability** through skills training and lifelong education.
3. Enhancing **awareness and appreciation of an ASEAN Community** through mutually beneficial people-to-people exchange programmes.
4. Strengthening **youth involvement and participation** in building an ASEAN Community through volunteerism opportunities and leadership programmes.

These ASEAN priorities on youth are responsive to about a third of the 169 targets of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which highlight the role of young people and the importance of their empowerment, participation and wellbeing.

The ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020 comprises 45 initiatives led by ASEAN Member States and in cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, international organisations, and other development partners.

ASEAN established the ASEAN Youth Programme Fund in 2003 and this was made operational in 2017 with the purpose of supporting youth-related activities in ASEAN. To beef this up, Singapore set up the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund in 2007 to promote greater interaction among youth in ASEAN Member States, foster ASEAN unity amongst ASEAN youth, and promote international awareness of ASEAN.

Moving in parallel with current global and regional dynamism, recent key achievements of the ASEAN



youth sector include the development of the first ever ASEAN Youth Development Index, establishment of the First ASEAN University Student Council Union, and institutionalising the ASEAN Youth Award and ASEAN Ten Outstanding Youth Organisation (TAYO) Award.

Furthermore, ASEAN sustains annual implementation of more than 60 ASEAN youth-focused programmes and activities benefitting over 10,000 youth annually. These programmes and activities are initiated by the ASEAN Member States with support of ASEAN Dialogue Partners such as China, Republic of Korea, India, Japan, Russia and the United States of America, as well as international organisations and United Nations agencies.

Youth leaders and youth organisations are involved in the design, development and implementation of youth initiatives in ASEAN. The Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation (CAYC) Volunteers is the authorised coordinating body by ASEAN SOMY for all national youth organisations in the ASEAN region. The CAYC Volunteers is a network of ASEAN youth organisations with focus on leadership and volunteer opportunities in ASEAN.

The ASEAN SOMY established the ASEAN University Student Council Union (AUSCU) to support the work of ASEAN through university-based initiatives. Moreover, the ASEAN SOMY welcomed the ASEAN Youth Forum (AYF) to collaborate with ASEAN in the



development of the ASEAN Youth Development Index and implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020. Various youth-focused and youth-led organisations in ASEAN and beyond approach ASEAN for collaboration. Many apply to become an entity associated with ASEAN.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Attentive of the fast-paced development in the region and the world, the ASEAN youth sector will continue to promote a community that recognises the importance of youth as the future of ASEAN, and one with an enhanced awareness of the ASEAN Community.

This enduring vision of ASEAN cooperation on youth reverberates through time and has been affirmed over and over again by great leaders of ASEAN Member States. The Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, in his welcome address to the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth in Singapore in April 2007, stated that:

Our young people must have a greater awareness of their interlinked destinies, for they will be our future captains to steer the direction of ASEAN, and secure its place in the world. The possibilities are limited only by the creativity and imagination of our young people.

The Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia and the current chairperson of the ASEAN AMMY, Imam Nahrawi, in his welcome address to the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta in July 2017 affirmed in his speech that:

The youth is the most important segment of our society. They are the ones who are high on energy, gifted with the brightest minds, the backbone of our society, the future generation of the ASEAN Community. The youth must exercise a more active participatory role in constructing a community that is cohesive, strong, vibrant and prosperous. They are the ones who will reap the benefits. It is important for the youth to develop a stronger sense of ownership towards the region. This intangible connection will seal the bond of our identity as an ASEAN Community. Only then will our common goals be achieved.

Affirmed by the ASEAN leaders of the past and the present, there is indeed no doubt surrounding investment in the development of ASEAN youth, who are the torchbearers of ASEAN's future.

Awards for outstanding youth of the region

Education, Youth and Sports Division, ASEAN Secretariat



ASEAN YOUTH DAY MEETING IS AN ANNUAL EVENT FOR CELEBRATING VISION AND ACHIEVEMENT OF YOUTH

Every year on 8th August, the day ASEAN was founded in 1967, the ASEAN Youth Day Meeting (AYDM) is observed to highlight the role and contribution of young people toward the development and continued prosperity of the region.

The theme and programme of the AYDM is coordinated between the host country and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The AYDM in 2017 had a special resonance, being held on the 50th anniversary of ASEAN. Staged in Jakarta and hosted by Indonesia, the theme of the event was Proliferating Youth Entrepreneurship in the ASEAN Community.

All ten ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries were represented:

- * One awardee of the ASEAN Youth Award from each ASEAN Member States;
- * One awardee of the TAYO ASEAN Award from each ASEAN Member States;
- * Two other youth leaders from each ASEAN Member States;
- * Four youth leaders from the Plus Three countries, China, Japan and Republic of Korea;
- * Youth leaders and mentors from partner organisations.

Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) representatives also attended.

Each ASEAN Member States was requested to make a presentation on the theme, with the presenters being either the ASEAN Youth Award or the TAYO ASEAN Award recipients. Each presenter answered three key questions:

- 1. What is the role of youth in nation building and ASEAN Community building, and what examples and experiences can you offer?**
- 2. How can youth entrepreneurship be encouraged in the ASEAN region?**
- 3. How can you, or ASEAN youth, promote deeper cooperation to forge ahead together in ASEAN?**

The ASEAN Secretariat provided a presentation template for all presenters.

ASEAN YOUTH AWARD

In 1997, the Second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth agreed to the presentation of awards in recognition of the outstanding contribution of ASEAN young people towards regional cooperation and development.

These awards enhance ASEAN awareness and allow for the exchange of experiences, views and ideas among ASEAN youth. Further, the awards are designed to strengthen regional solidarity, stability and prosperity among young people in ASEAN.

In 2001, the ASEAN Youth Award was integrated into the ASEAN Youth Day Meeting.

OBJECTIVES

1. To recognise the outstanding contributions of ASEAN youth towards regional development and cooperation.
2. To enhance awareness of youth in ASEAN towards regional understanding.
3. To promote cooperation and solidarity among ASEAN youth towards national and intra-ASEAN regional harmony and cohesiveness.
4. To provide ASEAN youth with opportunities in developing their individual capacities by interaction with regional and international partners, in the light of the new realities of a global village.

ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD

An individual is eligible for the ASEAN Youth Award based on the following criteria:

1. Be a national of an ASEAN Member State.
2. Demonstrate excellence in a chosen field.
3. Make a significant contribution to his/her community and nation.
4. Be an inspirational role model for the community.
5. Be within the age limits defined as a youth in his/her respective ASEAN Member State.

SELECTING AN ASEAN YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT

Each ASEAN Member States is free to develop their own set of parameters to nominate the award recipient who will represent their country. The ASEAN Member States, however, is encouraged to keep the following considerations in view when making a nomination.

1. Award recipients may be selected from any reasonable background and field of endeavour including education, community service, humanitarianism, business, science and technology, arts and entertainment, sports, and environment.
2. It is recommended that SOMY in the respective ASEAN Member States coordinate with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to select candidates for the ASEAN Youth Award.
3. Nominations become official when endorsed and signed by the SOMY leader in the respective ASEAN Member States, using the ASEAN Secretariat's nomination form.
4. Nominees and awardees for the ASEAN Youth Award are given recognition in a ceremony and as part of the series of youth related meetings annually.



THE ACCOMPLISHED YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN ASEAN AWARD

The Accomplished Youth Organisations in ASEAN (TAYO ASEAN) Award aims at promoting a culture of peace through youth participation, volunteerism, and replicating good practices and initiatives of the youth and youth organisations in ASEAN.

The award gives recognition to outstanding youth and youth serving organisations in the ASEAN Member States that implement sustainable programmes, projects and activities that may be replicated by other organisations in the country or other countries in ASEAN and beyond.

The TAYO ASEAN Award was launched in 2006 by the Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation (CAYC), a voluntary organisation that seeks to uphold the ASEAN ideals, values and prosperity in the region through coordination of national youth organisations in the ASEAN region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To recognise outstanding efforts of youth organisations that are worthy of emulation in harnessing the potential of youth.

2. To encourage maximum participation of youth in various aspects of development, especially in the ASEAN region.

3. To promote a culture of peace and mutual understanding in the ASEAN region and the spirit of volunteerism among ASEAN youth.

4. To inculcate universal values for youth leaders in their programmes, projects and activities.

ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD

A youth or youth-serving organisation is eligible for the TAYO ASEAN Award based on the following criteria.

1. Be managed by an ASEAN youth and/or serving ASEAN youth, and be based/located in ASEAN. The applicant/representative of the organisation must be a national of an ASEAN Member State.

2. Have a positive impact on the community through its programme/project/activity.

3. Involve the community especially youth in all stages of the programme/project/activity.



Participants and awardees during the ceremony for AYOM and TAYO held as part of SOMY VII, at Siem Reap, Cambodia, in 2016. Photo : Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand.

4. Present innovativeness and introduction/ application of new technologies/uniqueness of services or products/promotion of unique or indigenous ways and materials.
5. Present a model of operation that is sustainable and possesses probability of duplication

SELECTING A TAYO AWARD RECIPIENT

Each ASEAN Member States is free to develop their own set of parameters to nominate the award recipient who will represent their country. The ASEAN Member States, however, is encouraged to keep the following considerations in view when making a nomination.

1. Programmes and projects of nominated organisation may focus on any of the following: education, youth volunteerism, youth entrepreneurship, environment conservation, good citizenship, health or healthy lifestyle, employment, culture and arts appreciation, social welfare and development.

2. It is recommended that SOMY in the respective ASEAN Member States coordinate with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to select candidates for the TAYO ASEAN Award.
3. An organisation may be awarded regardless of the sources of funding of its programmes and projects.
4. Nominations become official when endorsed and signed by the SOMY leader in the respective ASEAN Member States, using the ASEAN Secretariat's nomination form.
5. The nominees and awardees for the TAYO ASEAN Award are presented in a ceremony and as part of the series of youth-related meetings annually

OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen regional solidarity, stability and prosperity among ASEAN youth.
2. To enhance ASEAN awareness, exchange experiences, views and ideas among ASEAN youth.
3. To achieve the goal of pursuing continuous peace, progress and prosperity in the ASEAN region, through active participation of the youth of ASEAN.

Friendships flourish under JENESYS youth visits to Japan

Abigail C Lanceta, Former Assistant Director and Head of Division and Tanya Edwina, Former Project Assistant for JENESYS, Education, Youth and Sports Division, ASEAN Secretariat



Close cooperation between ASEAN and Japan has over the past decade included a significant youth element, with groups of young people visiting Japan throughout the year, every year, under an exchange programme that promotes mutual understanding on everything from sport to culture to economics.

The popularity and effectiveness of this programme can be seen in the way in which the core purpose of the visits has gradually broadened out, and in the large number of students and other young people enthusiastically taking part.

ASEAN and Japanese cooperation began on a constructive basis in 1973, only a handful of years after the forming of ASEAN as a regional grouping, when an informal dialogue relationship was established. March 1977 saw the formalisation of the relationship, and from that time onwards, continual progress has been made in political security, and in economic and socio-cultural cooperation.

It was in 2007 that Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared the Government of Japan would implement a youth exchange project involving approximately 6,000 young people each year for five years, mainly from the East Asia countries, to lay the foundations for solidarity in Asia. The announcement was made at the 10th ASEAN-Japan Summit and the 2nd East Asia Summit in Cebu, the Philippines, and marked the initiation of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS).

Japan's strong commitment came with a large contribution amounting to about USD 196 million for the first five years of the JENESYS programme, from 2007-2012.

JENESYS has been since its inception a flagship programme for ASEAN and Japan socio-cultural cooperation. Both ASEAN and Japan have placed emphasis on people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges with a view to fostering a sense of togetherness, mutual respect and understanding of each other's traditions and values. At least 14,200



ASEAN youth benefitted from the first five-year programme.

With the same spirit of deepening mutual understanding between ASEAN and Japan, the Government of Japan continued its support to the ASEAN region after the first five years with the implementation of JENESYS 2.0 for the period 2013-2015, in which as many as 10,100 youth were invited to Japan and approximately 600 Japanese youth visited the ASEAN Member States. Since 2015, JENESYS has been an annual recurring project that benefits about 1,500 participants from ASEAN and 200 Japanese participants each year. To date, the ASEAN Secretariat has coordinated the implementation of JENESYS 2015, JENESYS 2016, JENESYS 2017 and JENESYS 2018.

JENESYS invites a group of between 30 and 200 young people to visit Japan to stay for around ten days. All participants experience Tokyo, and some programmes also invite them to various prefectures in Japan. During the course of a year there will be about 40 batches of youth invited from ASEAN to Japan,

in both country-focused groups and in composite batches from across the member countries.

The themes of these batches are varied, ranging from culture and society to politics, history, technology, environment, media, and sports. The group programmes are mainly composed of school visits and homestays to promote mutual understanding, friendship and trust through first-hand exchange with Japanese students and local residents.

In 2016, the Government of Japan implemented a more thematic JENESYS programme that focused on economics. More than 1,800 ASEAN youth were invited to Japan to experience and learn from Japanese best practices in the industrial sector, and SMEs cooperation and businesses, with the aim of promoting comprehensive economic partnerships between the two regions.

Recent batches under the JENESYS programme have included a Rugby Friendly Match, the Asian International Children's Film Festival, and Peacebuilding for University Students.

THE RUGBY BATCH

A group of 236 students and supervisors from all ASEAN Member States joined a friendly match with players from the Rugby Football Union in Shizuoka, Japan. The game they played is called Tag Rugby, and is a modified and value-laden version of rugby. Sport is one of the attracting themes in JENESYS and one of the biggest events under this category is the rugby batch. The Government of Japan is also raising awareness of this game towards the anticipated 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan.

Other than joining the actual games and field matches, the students had the opportunity to form bonds of friendship with Japanese youth, and over the period of the eight-day programme were able to see much of the beautiful Shizuoka prefecture.



THE ASIAN INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

The camera mirrors the true mind of a child. When working on a project to produce a short movie, students need first to ask themselves what it is they really want to express. Based on this, the initiator of the Asian International Children's Film Festival started the annual competition with the aim of fostering children's sense of responsibility towards themselves and others in a teamwork situation. Making a three-minute short film without any help from adults has proven to be an effective tool for children's mental development and enhances their leadership qualities.

The film festival has been one of the most outstanding JENESYS batches over the years. The latest batch invited 16 Asian countries, which

comprised the ten ASEAN Member States plus Timor-Leste, Mongolia, Korea, China, and Japan. The venue moves amongst prefectures in Japan every four years, and for the past three years the festival has been conducted in Kitami City in Hokkaido. Nine students and one supervisor from each country were invited to participate in a weeklong programme whose highlight was the awards ceremony for the winners.

PEACEBUILDING FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

To commemorate 2017 as the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN, a special JENESYS batch was implemented from 14th to 21st March that year. Based in the historical city of Hiroshima, 148 university and graduate students from ten ASEAN Member States took part in a programme with the theme of peace and youth leadership. The young people looked back at the lessons of history as they relate to Japan and the world in general, and to the formation of ASEAN as a potent force in maintaining peace and promoting mutual understanding among the peoples of Asia.

This special batch also saw the establishment of the ASEAN University Student Council Union (AUSCU) and witnessed its first conference. AUSCU will function as a platform of cooperation and collaboration among university student leaders and organisations that aims to raise awareness of ASEAN.



The young people of ASEAN are at the heart of the Declaration on Culture of Prevention, or CoP, that was signed during the 31st ASEAN Summit at Manila on 13th November 2017, the year that marked our 50th anniversary.

Recognising the need to institutionalise a culture of prevention to address social issues including violence, environmental degradation and quality of life, CoP is intended to tackle these challenges at their root.

This means ensuring that our young people, who so often instinctively understand these problems exist, will mature into society fully equipped with the desire and the skills to engineer the changes.

We regard this as being an upstream approach that will address the underlying causes of social issues, especially poverty, inequality, disparity, marginalisation, social exclusion, unemployment and disenfranchisement, racial and religious discrimination, corruption, social injustice, lack of access to education and healthcare, and quality of the environment.

If the deep-rooted causes are not eradicated now, then they will continue to fester throughout the region and blight the lives of countless individuals across the entire ASEAN Community.

Our youth today have enormous advantages in terms of education, technology, travel, and knowledge of other cultures worldwide. They are also close to the problems that their parents and grandparents may have endured to understand the fundamental reasons, and this will have instilled a natural desire to change circumstances for the better.

CoP and the youth of ASEAN

Abigail C Lanceta, Former Assistant Director and Head of Division and Tanya Edwina, Former Project Assistant for JENESYS, Education, Youth and Sports Division, ASEAN Secretariat

As the young people become parents themselves, and as they become community and business leaders, they will pass on their ideals and their experiences to their own children, and so it will continue.

There are six thrusts to the Culture of Prevention, namely promoting a culture of peace and intercultural understanding; of respect for all; of good governance at all levels; of resilience and care for the environment; of a healthy lifestyle; and of supporting the values of moderation.

This has as its backdrop the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the latter with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that focus on key areas such as education, empowerment of youth, intercultural dialogue, poverty eradication, gender equality and empowerment of women, and use of the internet and social media.

The CoP represents a crucial crossroads for ASEAN. For the first time we will see the word “prevention” figuring prominently in all aspects of our work, and in a positive way.

Digging out harmful roots is essential if the building blocks of our society are to rest on solid ground, and it is to the ingenuity, strength and intelligence of our

young people that we now turn. The many youth programmes that are conducted throughout ASEAN each year, whether in individual member states, across the grouping, or in association with partners, are all aligned with and in support of the objectives of CoP.

The year 2017 was a particularly active one in terms of youth programmes, and the following pages detail much of the diversity that occurred during this most significant of years including concrete examples how upstream measures are promoted in youth development. In the next few years, a number of CoP targeted initiatives will be launched to fully concretise CoP in the work of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

Combating the dangers of cyberspace

Sangdao Aree, Social Development Officer, Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand

Young people are enthusiastic users of the internet but along with the many benefits of being online come the risks of contact or conduct that leads to harm.

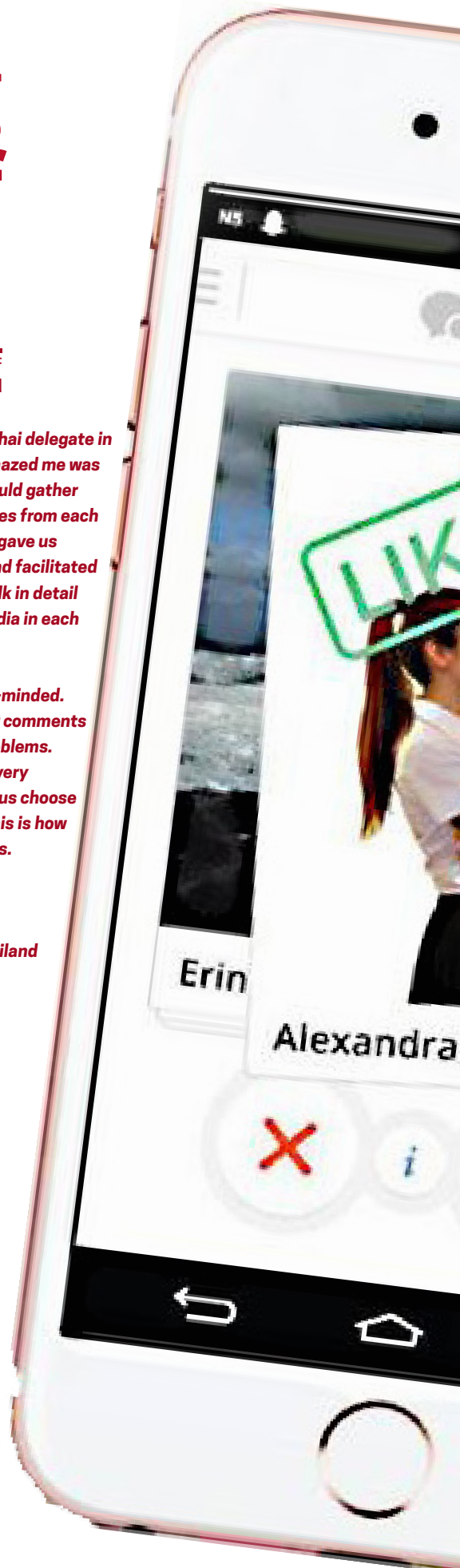
Knowledge and understanding of the internet and social media is important in protecting children and youth from the more dangerous aspects of cyberspace.

Thailand's Department of Children and Youth, at the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, organised a workshop to raise awareness of online media literacy among young people.

I participated as a Thai delegate in the forum. What amazed me was the information I could gather from all the delegates from each country. The forum gave us enough free time and facilitated conversations to talk in detail about issues on media in each country.

The team was open-minded. They listened to our comments and solutions to problems. I think this point is very important. They let us choose and voice things. This is how media literacy works.

*Varis Likitanusorn,
Academic Director,
Newground Lab, Thailand*



Creative work from brainstorming was modelled by participants themselves. Photo: Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand



Throughout the years I have been into numerous advocacies that help voice out the problems of society. However, I have never had a first-hand experience - not until I was bashed online. The experience made me know better and made me realise a lot of things.

Being in the shoes of a victim made me conclude that the problem should be addressed as soon as possible.

With the things I learned from the workshop and with the knowledge I had with my own experience, it has challenged me to be a prime mover of extending my service to other young individuals and creating a youth network for cyber safety in the Philippines.

In order to reach this goal, I have to work hard and to never give up in the learning process.

Dun Oliver Concha Abiera, President, United States Government Alumni Association, Davao, Philippines

The department staged the ASEAN Youth Workshop on Media Literacy from 25th to 27th April 2017 in Bangkok. The objectives were to raise awareness on online risks, to promote youth participation in media literacy, to exchange ideas on the use of social media, and to strengthen collaboration between ASEAN young people that would build a strong defensive mechanism against the negative effects of cyberspace.

Participating in the workshop were youth representatives and SOMY Focal Points representatives from ASEAN Member States, along with representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat.

Guest speakers and experts led lectures and discussions on media literacy and media production. Country presentations were given on the situation of online and mobile technology users among children and young people in their respective countries. Preventive measures were explained, and there was a panel discussion on online safety.

A brainstorm session resulted in the suggestion to set up an online watch network at five levels, namely individual, community, governmental, regional, and international levels. The participants also produced four video clips and eight print advertisements for an online safety campaign.

The participants paid a study visit to a local television station, Thai Public Broadcasting Service, where broadcasters explained how the station connected people and acted as a channel to communicate challenges they face in their daily lives.





A platform for student leaders

ASEAN University Network, Bangkok, Thailand

Community service programme with a knock-down house project in Bangkok. Photo: Chulalongkorn University

A plenary session is held as a joint session between officers of the student affairs unit and the student leaders, and describes the foundation and overall theme of the forum by inviting guest lecturers who are experts in their field.

Breakout sessions are the key feature as a platform for discussion and exchange. This is where student leaders discuss, share, and exchange ideas and best practices on the student association/council operations in their respective universities, and plan for the activities that they can take home and implement later.

Teambuilding is designed to create bonding as well as build leadership among the student leaders of ASEAN.

A community engagement programme aims to provide an illuminating hands-on experience that reveals the kind of issues the region faces, and a cultural immersion programme provides an opportunity to learn from other cultures, thereby encouraging mutual understanding and appreciation.

At the end of the forum, the student leaders are asked to present their project proposals or outcome of the discussions to showcase their creative ideas and learn from others.

Developing leaders among the youth of the region is seen as a very important step in ensuring a bright future not only for their respective countries but in effect the whole region, and this was the reasoning behind the launching of the ASEAN Student Leaders Forum in 2012.

Organised by the ASEAN University Network with the initiative from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, the ASLF is envisioned to serve as a platform for student leaders in ASEAN to share their experiences and opinions relating to their organisations and young people in general.

The forum seeks to promote cooperation among student leaders to encourage exchange of ideas and best practices, and to form bonds among the future leaders of the region.

Three representatives and one faculty staff member from each AUN member university participate, and the forum is structured to provide flexibility for the flow of ideas within a framework.



Friendship in AFMAM at 1st AFMAM 2015, Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur
Photo: ASEAN Foundation

Learning the art of diplomacy

Uni Prayuti, Senior Programme Officer and Dianne Goh, Consultant, ASEAN Foundation, Jakarta, Indonesia

Many citizens of ASEAN may not understand how ASEAN works and how decisions made at the regional level can help them, and with so many changes taking place it is especially important that our young people are conversant with the organisation to carry its objectives forward into the next generation.

The ASEAN Foundation Model ASEAN Meeting, best known as AFMAM, is one of the ASEAN Foundation's flagship programmes targeting young people, particularly university students.

AFMAM gives participants the opportunity to understand ASEAN diplomacy through the simulation exercises of the ASEAN major meetings. AFMAM delegates play various roles of ASEAN high-level officials and simulate selected ASEAN meetings, leading to an outcome document signed at the end of the programme.

They learn too how the ASEAN decision makers address regional issues from a cross-sectoral perspective through hands-on experience.

The concept is that AFMAM is a fun educational way of learning about ASEAN, and it welcomes students from any education background to take part.

In a six-day AFMAM programme held annually, the competitively selected participating delegates have the opportunity to go through a series of coachings/briefings/lectures on ASEAN delivered by persons from the ASEAN Secretariat, Ministries of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN Member States, and relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies.

This is my first experience joining an ASEAN youth event, so far I really have enjoyed it as I have a chance to expand my ASEAN knowledge. The 2017 AFMAM's theme is very important for us, the Filipinos. We have experienced challenges regarding environmental displacement of people caused by global climate change. I believe my participation in this event will help me know more about ASEAN mechanisms and how it works plus this simulation certainly will improve my negotiation, diplomacy, and influencing skills.

Neil Joseph Lisondra Esperanza
Alumni of 3rd AFMAM 2017 from Ateneo de Davao University, Philippines



All delegates of the 3rd AFMAM 2017 pose with Honourable Mme Delia Albert, Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Chairperson of the ASEAN Society, Ambassador Kok Li Peng, Singapore Ambassador to the Philippines, and Ms Elaine Tan, Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation at 3rd AFMAM 2017, De La Salle University, Manila
Photo: ASEAN Foundation

Experts from think-tank organisations and educational institutions are also invited to share their practical knowledge on the specific issue that becomes the central theme of the AFMAM.

Lectures on ASEAN provide an intensive introduction to the organisation and its history, the ASEAN organs and sectoral bodies from the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to the ASEAN Summit, and how the work of these are interconnected with each other.

Also introduced are the regional coordination mechanisms and processes, and the ASEAN protocols and procedures, and how all these elements are integrated in a Model ASEAN Meeting activity. The lectures include explanations of the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

ASEAN Foundation inaugurated the 1st AFMAM in 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, with the theme of trafficking in persons. There were 76 participants. Vientiane in 2016

was the location for the 2nd AFMAM that featured the theme of migrant workers in ASEAN, involving 88 participants. Manila in 2017 saw the 3rd AFMAM, with the topic of environmental displacement of people, with 85 participants attending. AFMAM moves around each year to the ASEAN country holding the ASEAN chairmanship.

From 2015 to 2017, 1,240 undergraduate university students applied for AFMAM by forming a team of seven to eight persons. Up to 88 students from the ten ASEAN countries are selected each year. AFMAM now has 249 alumni region-wide and is counting, as AFMAM is going to be organised in the remaining ASEAN countries for the next seven years.

AFMAM has proved to be one of the perfect avenues to promote ASEAN to the young people and involve them in the development of ASEAN. Having completed the AFMAM programme, the alumni are better exposed to the inner works of ASEAN affairs,



and the political, economic, and socio-cultural situation of their neighbouring ASEAN countries. They have had the opportunity to polish their soft skills in diplomacy and widen their networking with their peers from across the region.

On average, 86 percent of the participant respondents viewed their overall AFMAM experience as positive.

Interest in getting to know ASEAN keeps growing, including from the ASEAN dialogue partner countries such as New Zealand and China. The AFMAM alumni also cascade down their AFMAM experience by organising their university and national level Model ASEAN Meetings.

Through the AFMAM approach, from 2015 until mid-2017, Model ASEAN Meetings had rippled and benefitted 913 students from 89 universities and schools in ASEAN, China, and New Zealand, not only in understanding ASEAN, but also in self-enrichment.

Overall, AFMAM has resulted in the formation of a group of future young leaders in ASEAN and dialogue partner countries who are outward looking, conscious of its history and cultural heritage, and bound by a common regional identity through developing networks to collaborate and work together.

Indeed, the event has opened my eyes to new ways of collective decision making, such as those ASEAN has employed. It is without any doubt that my experience in the event reflects the 'we feeling' within the ASEAN community. Getting to know fellow delegates from all ten member countries, together participating and enjoying the session, illustrates the very essence of togetherness. Not to mention the consensus-based decision-making process that guides decisions made collectively and with a common interest.

*Kim Soon Tan
Alumni of 1st AFMAM 2015 from Universiti Malaysia
Sarawak, Malaysia*



Group photo during the introduction where participants describe themselves with their work and advocacies written on their self-made ponchos
 Photo: Tim Jenkins/Momoko Hoshino

Living together in harmony regardless of religion and ethnicity is my definition of peace. I am going to apply the experience in the future activities of my organisation in my academic and volunteer clubs, including the Vietnam National Model ASEAN Meeting 2017.

A youth participant from Vietnam

New ideas from young peacebuilders

Erika Isabel Yague, Consultant on Adolescent and Youth Programmes, UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand

“Living together in harmony regardless of religion and ethnicity is my definition of peace”

Peace and security is of great concern throughout the world due to continuous tension, conflict and violent extremism, and in many countries and regions strife presents great difficulties for young people to achieve their full potential.

This in turn affects the stability and progress of

communities, a situation that can permeate through to the national level.

The United Nations Security Council recognises the important and productive role that young people can play in the maintenance and promotion of international peacebuilding, and on 9th December 2015 adopted resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

UN SCR 2250 mandates a global progress study that looks at evidence on the positive contribution of youth to peace processes and conflict resolution in the local, national, regional, and international levels.

The resultant Asia-Pacific Youth Peace and Security Regional Consultation took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 16th to 17th May 2017, the organisers being UNFPA, UNV, UNDP, Peacebuilding Support Office, UN Women, UNICEF, and other UN agencies.

Five main thematic areas were developed as recommendations and validated in November 2017 in New York and presented to the UN Security Council in early 2018:

- Support for youth organisations and initiatives on youth peace and security.
- Creation of mechanisms for the implementation of UN SCR 2250.
- Political inclusion of young people in decision-making and policy-making processes.
- Education systems to include peacebuilding.
- Social media to be used as a platform for peace.

After the consultation, some youth peacebuilders started actualising the recommendations in partnership with the UN, government institutions, youth organisations and other peacebuilding organisations.



Asia-Pacific Youth Peace and Security Consultation participants together with representatives from the United Nations, government, peacebuilding organisations, CSOs, and other stakeholders
Photo: Tim Jenkins

Participating were 40 outstanding young peacebuilders, with 15 of them from ASEAN countries. An opportunity was opened for them to share their work and have a strategic dialogue with other young activists, diplomats, civil society organisations, regional partners, and institutions working on peace and security.

The ASEAN youth participants came from diverse backgrounds. Some were from conflict-affected areas, and shared experiences of displacement and armed unrest; and some were from cities where they have experienced a different form of violence related to gender and socio-economic status. Exchanging experiences revealed the interconnectedness of issues across the borders of the ASEAN Community, and indicated ways of mutual support through the creation of networks to build unity and understanding.

Youth-led initiatives such as capacity building activities, national and community level campaigns, project development, and network building were carried out in different parts of the region, all in response to the issue of youth peace and security.

Acting in this fast and energetic way is helping to spread the realisation that young people have a positive contribution to make in building and sustaining peace.

There are currently 213 million youth (15-34 years) in ASEAN countries, constituting the largest ever cohort of ASEAN youth. From this demographic is emerging an enormous potential in ideas and innovations to prevent violent extremism and conflict, and to help shape a more peaceful and secure future.

Going green and greener

Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia

The forum was held in conjunction with the annual Youth for the Environment Day (YED) Singapore, which is the NEA's key platform for youth to lead, organise and participate in environmental activities to show their passion for keeping Singapore clean and green.

AYEF 2016 was the third in the series, following the previous two AYEFs held in 2010 and 2012, both hosted by Brunei Darussalam.

AYEF aims to encourage youth in ASEAN to think of their ideal future environment, make a plan, and take



Young people are environmentally aware, and becoming even more so as the global movement towards a cleaner future gains momentum and technology provides practical ways of ensuring the environmental safety of our home planet.

But how do the young of today, who will form the leaders of tomorrow, picture the kind of environment they want, and do they see how this can be achieved?

This was the concept behind the ASEAN+3 Youth Environment Forum (AYEF), which was staged with the theme Imagine, Create, Change, and held between 8th and 10th April 2016 in Singapore.

The National Environment Agency (NEA) Singapore and the ASEAN Secretariat co-organised the event, which was supported by the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Fund and the Hanns Seidel Foundation Jakarta Office.

action to make the changes required.

The Imagine, Create, Change theme acknowledged that today's youth would play an important role in shaping ASEAN regional cooperation in the years ahead, particularly in achieving environmentally sustainable cities in ASEAN.

A total of 184 young participants attended the event, including representatives and chaperones from nine ASEAN Member States and China, as well as local youth and volunteers as part of Singapore's YED.

Singapore's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Masagos Zulkifli, graced the event. Keynote presentations were given on waste minimisation initiatives from three speakers representing the youth, corporate and community sectors, namely Amal Afifah Rusali (President of Environmental Youth Envoy of Brunei Darussalam), Dr Angela Lee Hui Mien (Head of Sustainability of IKEA Singapore, Malaysia,

and Thailand), and Low Min Chye (Vice Chairman, Environment Functional Group, Southwest Community Development Council of Singapore).

The forum provided experiential learning. There was a field trip to Tuas South Incineration Plant, where participants learned of the challenges that Singapore faces in solid waste management, and a trail in Jurong to showcase lessons from Singapore's initiatives in including eco-friendly features in a housing estate.

A workshop on design thinking was held to equip delegates with the tools to develop projects that

they could carry out in their home countries, schools, or communities. Upon completion of the workshop, the participants proposed the following ideas and solutions using their acquired design thinking tools.



Participants visited Tuas South Incineration Plant in Singapore where they learned how Singapore manages its solid waste and experienced the waste management process first-hand. Photo: NEA Singapore and ASEAN Secretariat

COUNTRIES

PROPOSED PROJECT IDEAS

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Installing a recycling automatic machine

CAMBODIA

Education through the provision of recycling kits

INDONESIA

Social programme from profits of recycling

LAO PDR

Interactive mobile phone game application

MALAYSIA

Mobile platform on environmental protection

MYANMAR

Upcycling education through an eco-village

PHILIPPINES

Summer camp to empower children

SINGAPORE

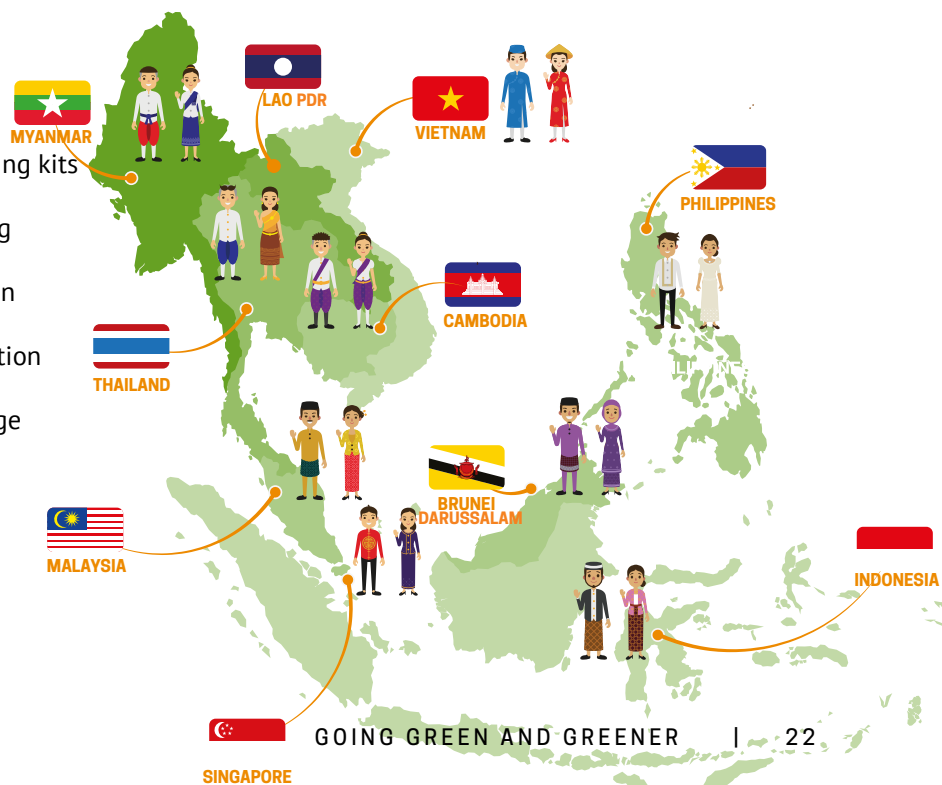
Customised lunchboxes

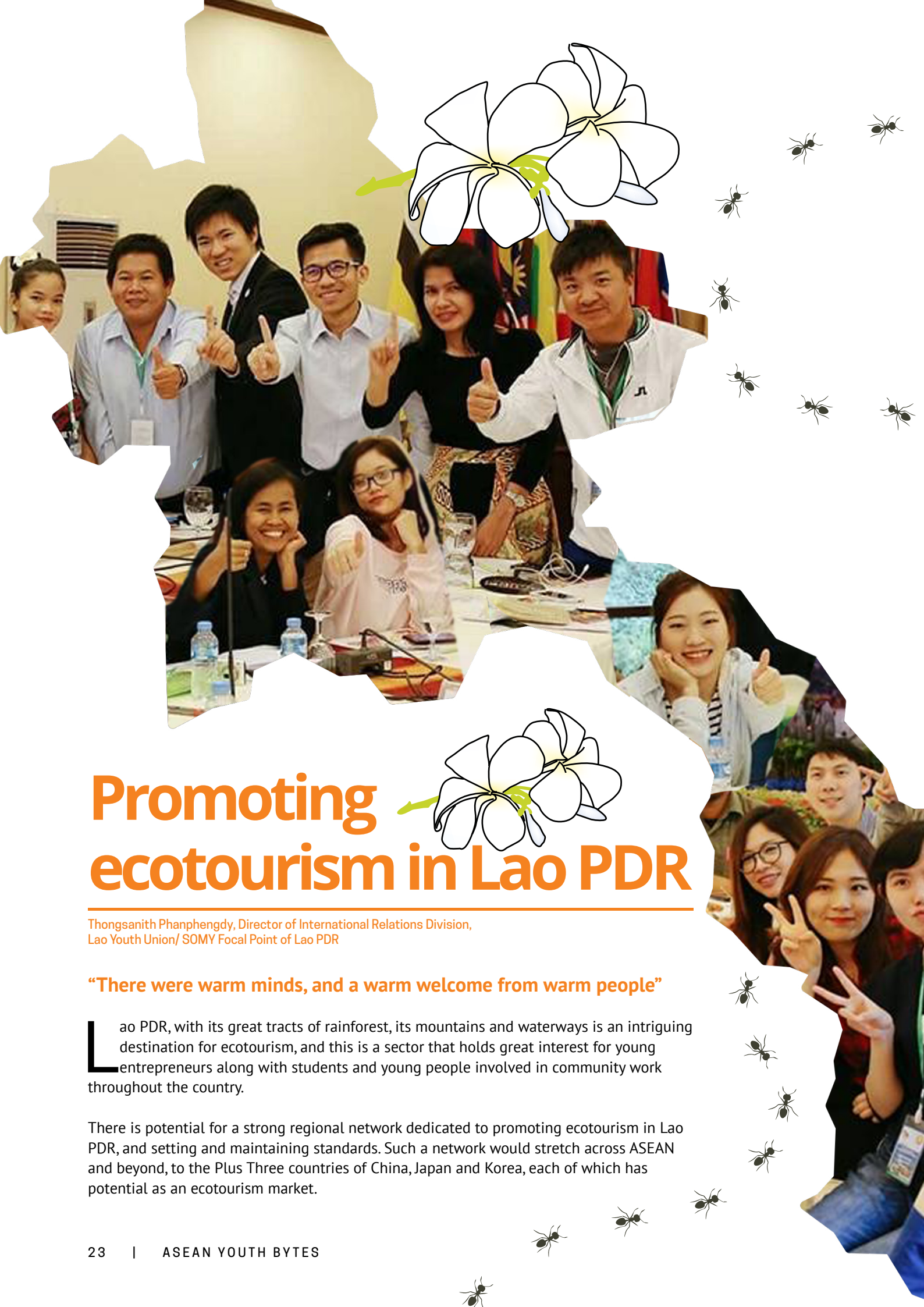
THAILAND

Provision of special lunchboxes

VIETNAM

Recycling redemption machine








Promoting ecotourism in Lao PDR

Thongsanith Phanphengdy, Director of International Relations Division,
Lao Youth Union/ SOMY Focal Point of Lao PDR

“There were warm minds, and a warm welcome from warm people”


Lao PDR, with its great tracts of rainforest, its mountains and waterways is an intriguing destination for ecotourism, and this is a sector that holds great interest for young entrepreneurs along with students and young people involved in community work throughout the country.

There is potential for a strong regional network dedicated to promoting ecotourism in Lao PDR, and setting and maintaining standards. Such a network would stretch across ASEAN and beyond, to the Plus Three countries of China, Japan and Korea, each of which has potential as an ecotourism market.



More than 60 youth participants from all ten ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries gathered at Villa Santi Hotel, Luang Prabang Province in Lao PDR from 13th to 16th December 2016 for the ASEAN+3 Ecotourism Event.

Saisamone Khomthavong, President of the National Assembly Zone 6th in Luang Prabang Province, presided over the opening as a representative of the Governor of Luang Prabang, along with Alounxai Sounnalath, member of the National Assembly and Deputy Secretary General of the Lao Youth Union.






The programme was organised by Lao Youth Union with funding support from the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Fund, and with assistance from the ASEAN Secretariat. Activities included presentations on successful sustainable ecotourism projects in the ASEAN+3 countries; ecotourism site visits in Luang Prabang; and group discussions on how to run an ecotourism business.



I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the organisers who have made this very good programme happen. Being one of the participants, I have learned about cultural heritage. Discussing and interacting with participants from different countries regarding ecotourism was not only about building personal relationships, but also learning other perspectives on how to protect our own valued traditions and cultures. I also learned about cross-cultural skills in a globalised world. From different cultural backgrounds, we have learned to work together to build up our network. The work and travel programme allows us to make new friendships and strengthens our relationships; they also improve our communication and interaction with people from different cultures and communities. This was a very good chance for promoting our own tourism sites in respective countries in order to boost our awareness of maintaining eco-systems. Last but not least, I highly evaluate and recommend that this is a very good programme and should continue to be hosted annually.







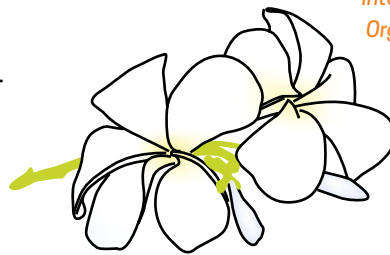
Sovathvitou LY, Leader of youth delegates from Cambodia






A good opportunity for network building between ASEAN+3 youth delegates
Photo: Lao Youth Media Department, Lao Youth Union, Lao PDR

Through this ecotourism event, I found that the main key of ecotourism is people, and I am sure that we youth can help develop sustainability through ecotourism. First, we shared and discussed knowledge and activities of ASEAN+3 youth, the motivation being that youth power will lead ASEAN or even Asia in the near future. Second, Luang Prabang, the site of this event was very nice to study sustainability. Lao PDR tourism office in Japan says, 'Something nostalgic that Japanese forget is still there.' That's true, as there were warm minds, and a warm welcome from warm people. They keep beautiful traditions there and protect amazing nature.




*Megumi Wada
International Youth Exchange
Organisation of Japan, Japan*



The two-day event aimed to promote information sharing on various best practices in the region, greater awareness by youth of ecotourism through focusing on the advancement of leadership skills, and for providing a network building opportunity for the ASEAN+3 youth delegates.



Participants were inspired by the possibilities of enhancing their own respective communities, and appreciated the importance of mutual understanding and trust in laying the foundation for future partnerships in ecotourism activities.



The exchange of information, knowledge and experience during the event encouraged participants to express the wish that it become a regular programme, taking place every year in Lao PDR in order to create more opportunities for youth to learn and share information on ecotourism.

SOMY Lao PDR as host in turn expressed the hope that all ASEAN Member States, and the Plus Three countries, would continue to support this programme as an annual event in Lao PDR.



Students enjoy photo booth activities at the farewell dinner of the event
 Photo: ASEAN University Network/National University of Singapore.

Public speaking and the ability to present one's views with clarity and logic during public debate is an essential part of leadership, and for young people it helps in forming and honing ideas.

Promoting ASEAN awareness through cooperation among students in a way that encourages familiarity and friendship is one of the over-arching objectives of the ASEAN University Network (AUN), and public debate is an important part of this process.

The AUN Educational Forum and Young Speakers' Contest, launched in 1998, is one of the flagship activities in building in-depth awareness across what is a diverse region, in order to prepare the next generation of leaders.

In 2011 the forum was expanded to the dialogue partners of ASEAN, which include China, Japan and Republic of Korea, also known as ASEAN+3. This allows ASEAN students to become familiar with their own community of nations and also our neighbours, who have a strong impact upon ASEAN in terms of politics, trade, culture, and security.

Additional development came when the forum introduced the ASEAN+3 Youth Summit, where a group of students assume roles of the key policy makers of their respective countries and discuss major issues on the regional agenda in a simulated ASEAN+3 Summit setting.

The forum concludes with a Youth Joint Statement that contains various recommendations on key issues affecting the region, and which is then tabled at related ASEAN meetings such as the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) through the ASEAN Secretariat.

There are three main activities for each forum, namely the Educational Forum, the Young Speakers' Contest, and a special lecture. Three representatives from each university take part, namely one accompanying faculty staff member, one undergraduate student for the Educational Forum, and one undergraduate student for the Young Speakers' Contest.

An award following the Educational Forum is presented to the most outstanding working group, and another to the most outstanding delegate. The winner of the Young Speakers' Contest receives an award, and awards also go to the five runners up.

The 17th AUN and 6th ASEAN+3 Educational Forum and Young Speakers' Contest was held from 22nd to 26th May 2017 at the National University of Singapore under the theme, ASEAN+3 in an Era of Global Uncertainty: Responses and Optimism.

Speaking out for a better future

ASEAN University Network, Bangkok, Thailand

The overall programme exceeded my expectations. I have nothing but compliments and utmost appreciation to the people who planned and executed this conference. Everyone involved was very amiable, friendly and approachable.

*Chok Ke Bin, Christopher
Student, National University of Singapore*

I have to say that the overall programme was much beyond my expectations. I enjoyed how everyone came up with different ideas with different perspectives. I felt the diversity of ASEAN+3 really is our strength when considering different awareness people have discussed. It was also good since many of the participants have related the issues with their own country. This helped me to gain further understanding towards each country. It would have been great if the discussion time for the forum could be extended and the topic to be a little narrowed for the next year's programme. I believe different people coming up with different topics for presentation was good, however I also believe that one of the interests of having interaction among students from different countries is because every single person has different values and perspectives. Since we had the occasion to exchange ideas, the discussion session seemed that we could profit a little more from this situation.

*Naoka Mitsubayashi
Student, Kyoto University, Japan*



The winner of the Young Speakers' Contest, Cris Danielle M Villanueva, of De La Salle University, Philippines
Photo: ASEAN University Network/ National University of Singapore.

Young entrepreneurs join the club

All-China Youth Federation, Beijing, China

Young entrepreneurs throughout ASEAN and China have the opportunity to exchange views and experiences through their own club.

The China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneur Club was established in July 2016, with Pan Gang appointed as the president. Pan Gang is also president of the Chinese Young Entrepreneurs' Association and CEO of Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group Limited by Share Ltd.

The club consists of eight councils covering fields of industry and trade, energy and environmental protection, culture industry, finance and investment, infrastructure construction, food and medicine, service consultation, and innovation and entrepreneurship.

Through providing such enriched activities as business promotion, programme cooperation, exchanges, information sharing, and exhibitions,

the club aims to achieve resource integration of its members and promote practical cooperation among young entrepreneurs in various fields.

Following a series of pragmatic measures since 2017, the club has been playing an increasingly significant role in providing a platform for deepening practical cooperation among young entrepreneurs.

In May 2017 the club hosted Belt and Road – A China-Malaysia Economy and Trade Exchange Activity for Young Entrepreneurs. The event was held at Anhui Province, China. In July of the same year, in Yunnan



Province, the club organised Belt and Road - A China-ASEAN Economy and Trade Exchange Activity for Young Entrepreneurs.

Cooperation has been successfully promoted in a variety of fields, involving the carrying trade, modern agriculture, real estate industry, ore resources, media, and education.

The club in 2017 had a working consultation with young entrepreneurs from ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar, reaching a consensus in terms of building a cooperation platform and deepening the cooperation mechanism.

In September 2017 the club led a delegation of young entrepreneurs from China to attend the China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Summit in Manila, Philippines, further advancing friendship and cooperation among young entrepreneurs from ASEAN countries.

Other collaborative programmes were launched in

2017. Advancing investing and building logistics of the iron and steel programme of a Chinese company in the Philippines was one programme; another was offering guides for club members to establish industrial parks in Myanmar; a third was helping Singapore young entrepreneurs launch an educational project at Zhangjiagang City.

Promotion of social responsibility and green development are integral to the club, and it also strongly supports the provision of ASEAN young entrepreneurs with innovation and business start-up guidance. For example, the club organised university students from Brunei Darussalam to visit Tsinghua University and provided them with field trips to companies in China.

In general direction the China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneur Club is building a platform of communication and collaboration under the ASEAN+3 cooperation framework, and is committed to encouraging young entrepreneurs in actively contributing to regional economic construction.



A delegation of ASEAN youth visits an industrial factory during the ASEAN Young Leaders Training Programme in China
Photo: All-China Youth Federation

Friendship beyond the ship

Arief Rizky Bakhtiar, Deputy President; Wira Respati, Director of Communication and Information; and Raden Icu Surtini Marwati, Director of Social Contribution Activities, SSEAYP International Indonesia

“Friendship built in SSEAYP lasts forever”

More than 300 young people from ASEAN countries and Japan have the opportunity each year to live together on board the ship *Nippon Maru* for at least 52 days in a programme carried out by the Japanese Government with the active participation and cooperation of ASEAN Member States.

During the voyages and the various ports of call, the young passengers undertake an active and satisfying schedule of activities that not only broadens their international outlook but also fosters friendships and greater understanding.

The Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP) started in January 1974 and was based on Joint Statements issued between Japan and the then five ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia joined in the following years.

The programme during the voyages includes discussions on social and youth matters in selected topics, such as globalisation, information and media,

ASEAN-Japan cooperation, education, sustainable city design, entrepreneurship, and energy. On board the ship they also have cultural introductions, sports, seminars, and other solidarity activities.

In each port of call, participants make courtesy calls on dignitaries. Some high officials that have met the participants include Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen, and former President Megawati Soekarno Putri of Indonesia. Participants also undertake institutional visits, interaction with local young people, as well as community service and homestay experience.

Once the programme ends, the Participating Youths (PYs) are expected to design and implement social projects in their respective countries. For example, in 2017, PYs through their alumni organisation staged Project 30/50, a series of social contribution activities in the eleven countries to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of SSEAYP International and the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.

Participants from the ten ASEAN countries and Japan photographed on board MS *Nippon Maru*, a cruise ship that took them on their friendship journey travelling Japan and ASEAN
Photo: SSEAYP International Indonesia

It feels surreal but it is real! When I found out that I was selected as one of the Indonesian Participating Youth for SSEAYP 2014, I had no idea what it would be like. I thought we would only have fun on board the ship, but what we did was more than that. We learned how to strengthen our mutual understanding as a whole ASEAN-Japan community. We also learned, discussed and implemented action to solve social issues in our surroundings. Beyond that, this programme gave me a family in ASEAN and Japan that I never imagined before, a family who always support each other no matter how busy and how far apart we are. For me that's the most precious legacy of SSEAYP.

Anindya Kusuma Putri

Indonesia Participating Youth 2014, currently spokesperson to the Ministry of Youth and Sports Indonesia and Top 15 Miss Universe 2015

SSEAYP experiences have broadened my mind, especially to explore different cultures, to meet brilliant minds from ASEAN and Japan, and working with various types of people. However, the most remarkable advantage of the SSEAYP experience is that I can open my mind and heart to accept the differences in various aspects. Friendship built in SSEAYP lasts forever. Distance may be far, but our hearts are still close to each other. We learn how to share ideas and to stay together with peace among different ways of life and beliefs. We have a saying: 'Once a PY, Forever a PY'. My SSEAYP experiences will always be on my mind and kept in my heart forever.

Asst Prof Dr Siripong Preutthipan

President, Association of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth of Thailand

LIST OF THE PROJECT 30/50 SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION ACTIVITIES

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM - JASEAN Fusion Food: Introducing Japan and ASEAN foods to show the strong friendship between ASEAN and Japanese communities in the ASEAN Food Fair.

CAMBODIA - Preserving the Mangroves: Planting mangroves in Kampot province, with 500 mangrove trees planted for the restoration project.

INDONESIA - Retype for Brighter Literacy: Involving 300 participants to retype and convert nine books into an audio format, aiming to support better access for blind and partially sighted people.

JAPAN - Kumamoto Tour: Visiting the affected area of the Kumamoto earthquakes in order to learn the current condition and challenges.

LAO PDR - Hand in Hand Project: Providing basic knowledge and awareness on sex and HIV/AIDS issues to the local community in Sangthong district, Vientiane.

MALAYSIA - 20K Kit of Hope: A fundraising initiative aiming to collect hygiene kits for disaster relief activities in the region.

MYANMAR - SI-ASEAN Social Contribution Day: Providing donations and organising an interaction session in a charity high school in Pale Town, Myanmar.

PHILIPPINES - Kalinaw, A Fitness Fundraiser for Peace: Gathering and fundraising activity to support people affected by conflict in Marawi, Philippines.

SINGAPORE - SWAMI Home for the Aged: Gatherings and volunteer sessions with senior citizens at the Sunshine Welfare Action Mission

THAILAND - Sea Hero Project: Three-day camp in Siboya Island, Krabi to raise awareness on ocean waste and ocean dumping.

VIETNAM - Warm Blankets: Providing 100 gifts including blankets, stationery and winter clothes to the ethnic minorities living in less privileged conditions in Sapa, Lao Cai province.

This article is written with support and contributions from Persatuan BERSATU (SSEAYP International Brunei Darussalam); SSEAYP International Cambodia; SSEAYP International Indonesia, Inc; International Youth Exchange Organisation of Japan (IYEO); Lao SSEAYP Alumni Association (LSAA); KABESA (SSEAYP International Malaysia); SSEAYP International Association for Youth Development (SI Myanmar); SSEAYP International Philippines, Inc; SSEAYP International Singapore; Association of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth of Thailand (ASSEAY); Vietnam Alumni Club of Youth Friendship Exchange Programmes (VACYF); and SSEAYP International Secretariat.

Sport for tomorrow

Japan Sports Agency, Tokyo, Japan

Sport is a universal ambassador, and for participants, spectators and organisers at any point on the globe there is immense satisfaction and unity in any sporting event, no matter how small or how large.

The Government of Japan contributes to the international community through the Sport For Tomorrow programme (SFT), an initiative announced by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the IOC Session on the occasion of Tokyo making a bid for the 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We aim at sharing the values of sport across all generations in over 100 countries, including the ASEAN countries, in the course of seven years between 2014 and 2020.

Activities have been intense from the beginning, with 892 programmes carried out by SFT consortium members in all ASEAN countries during the period from January 2014 to March 2017.

The Japan Foundation is conducting youth exchange programmes together with the J League and the Japan Football Association, and has conducted judo exchange programmes together with the Kodokan Judo Institute, which is the headquarters of Kodokan Judo.

The judo programme is based on the spirit of *Jita Kyoei*, a concept that comes from the originator of judo, Jigoro Kano, and which can be translated as “mutual welfare and benefit”.

The Japan Sport Council and both the Japanese and the Thai rugby football unions jointly conducted a rugby clinic for young women under the perspective of women’s empowerment and culture exchange through sports. By bringing together female students from both the northern and the southern parts of Thailand, where there is a big difference in culture and customs, the clinic helped to deepen mutual understanding.

The Japanese *undokai*, or sports day, has been introduced around Asia through SFT. This traditional



Providing middle-school students in Cambodia with the opportunity to play various sports
Photo: Japan Sport Council, Japan

sports event encourages participants of any age or gender to become involved, and consists of various sports activities to develop teamwork, discipline, and cooperation within the community.

SFT promotes international cooperation and exchange through physical education at school. One of the consortium members, NPO Hearts of Gold, has worked with various organisations to assist children in Cambodia to nurture sound minds and bodies by supporting physical education at primary schools since 2006.

Using the expertise gained through that experience, a middle-school physical education curriculum and teaching manuals have been developed. The curriculum encourages programmes that provide students with the opportunity to develop positive attitudes, knowledge and skills, as well as learn the spirit of cooperation. This demonstrates to them the importance of physical education in the sound development of children who will grow into the leaders of the future.

On 11th October 2017, the first ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports was held in Nay Pyi Taw. Ministers agreed to develop further collaborative work programmes based on the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports (2016-2020), and in the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals such as developing physical education teachers and coaches, increasing participation of women in sports, advancing sports for persons with disabilities, and promoting anti-doping activities.

The intention now is to undertake more initiatives to build up a better society through sports in cooperation with the ASEAN countries.



It was a wonderful experience for the Cambodian students to be taken to a school over 100 kilometres away for a sports day organised by the Japanese students. Our teacher-trainees felt a great sense of accomplishment from the reaction they received from the young students. I would like to keep having sports festivals at elementary schools once graduating teachers are appointed to their elementary schools.

Sok Tu Bi, Principal of Sihanoukville Primary School Pedagogy Teachers Training Centre, Cambodia

I am very satisfied with this seminar. I learned a lot of things I did not know. The teaching methods of the coaches were interesting and it was a great learning experience. From now on I will learn more judo. I think that we can promote friendship between my country and Japan. I learned a lot of judo skills.

Participant in judo seminar, Indonesia

International grassroots activities with ladies' football
Photo: Urawa Red Diamonds, Japan



Last year I was lucky to be able to attend the 6th ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum. It was a ten-day experience of exchanging our knowledge and pooling our ideas on three sectors: political, economic, and socio-cultural sectors, with participants from ASEAN countries and ROK. Through this experience, I gained the opportunity to hear from participants with a number of different perspectives on how to tackle commonly faced issues together and how to move towards collective solutions.

In this regard, I would like to say that AKFF successfully served as the sharing space to encourage us to build mutual understanding, cooperation and friendship as well as develop our own visions and solutions in a cooperative way. Therefore, taking this forum as a starting point, I hope all participants could make meaningful steps forward in strengthening a joint collaboration in every field between ASEAN and Korea.

Sion Kang, Liaison at 6th AKFF, ROK

I am very happy that I was part of the 7th ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum. I have participated in numerous international conferences, but this international forum was very special for me because I could talk over and exchange views about different issues in ASEAN with my fellow delegates from neighbouring countries.

Throughout special lectures by distinguished scholars, I understood topics more deeply and heard possible resolutions for specific disputes. Thanks to the efforts of all participants, we have had our main discussion and projected our country in the debate section. I sincerely hope that through this forum, ASEAN countries and the Republic of Korea will be strategic partners. Delegates who participated in the summit hopefully will be future leaders of their countries and assist to build a strategic relationship.

Souksavay Luangxay, Delegate of the 7th AKFF from Lao PDR



New frontiers of friendship

Bohyun Kim, Project Manager, ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum, Seoul, ROK

Deepening cooperation and friendship between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea is resulting from the ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum (AKFF), formed as a multicultural platform for the young generation.

The Asia Exchange Association (AEA) has been organising the AKFF since 2010, and over the last seven years the event has provided almost 600 Korean and ASEAN young people with opportunities to exchange different views on issues regarding the ASEAN-Korea relationship.

Busan was venue for the 8th AKFF in January 2018, with 58 participants recruited by the AEA among applicants who are undergraduate or graduate students from Republic of Korea (ROK), or from the ASEAN countries and currently residing in ROK. Additionally, there were 30 more participants from ASEAN, selected by the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth (SOMY).

At the AKFF, each participant plays a role as a delegate, chair, liaison or media staff. Chairs and delegates are divided into three committees and each committee deals with economic, socio-cultural, and political and security cooperation.

Based upon special lectures, independent researches, committee and country meetings, each committee is required to draw up a Joint Statement at the Model ASEAN-Korea Summit. All participants were to join a study visit to the ASEAN Culture House, along with cultural exchange activities and city tours in Busan.

Busan, the second largest city of ROK, is growing as a hub for ASEAN-Korea cooperation after hosting the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in December 2014. Also the ASEAN Culture House opened in Busan in September 2017. So the city is an ideal place for the AKFF, where the youth from ASEAN and ROK gather, establish a friendship network, and discuss the future of ASEAN-ROK relationships.

Participants learn and share diverse cultures through traditional music and dance at a cultural night
Photo: Asia Exchange Association, ROK

Capturing Seoul on film

Kyungyool Lee, Officer of External Cooperation Team, NCVOK, ROK

Shooting a film on Seoul was a novel but effective way of drawing together young people from ASEAN and Republic of Korea, and fostering along with the spirit of creativity a sense of camaraderie.

The project formed the theme of the 18th ASEAN-Korea Future Oriented Youth Exchange Programme, held between 25th to 30th November 2016, with 76 participants from ASEAN countries and 18 ROK participants and staff.



The National Council of Youth Organisations in Korea (NCYOK) has implemented the programme, sponsored by the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund, since 1994.

There are three main objectives, beginning with reinforcement of future oriented youth cooperation as a basis of promoting mutual prosperity between ASEAN and ROK. Developing communal kinship between ASEAN and Korean youth, and enhancement of cultural understanding through social interactions are the other two main elements of the programme.

The theme **“ASEAN-Korea Youth, Capturing Seoul on Film!”** proved an exhilarating project.

Visualising and shooting the film together was a creative example of mutual cooperation between Korean and ASEAN young people, and an evaluative understanding through collaborative and cultural experiences.

The 19th ASEAN-Korea Future-Oriented Youth Exchange Programme was held from 11th to 17th January 2018 in ROK, with the organisers inviting 70 young people from the ten ASEAN Member States and 30 Korean participants and staff. Participants visited Pyeongchang, host city of the 2018 Winter Olympics.

“I am glad that the event was completed without any issue and also appreciate the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund for their unstinting support. ASEAN-Korea Youth has showed their responsibility as a representative of the nation and accomplished all missions with their excellent performance. I hope this event improves communication and networking between ASEAN-Korea Youth from eleven different countries and helps them to expand their experience. All participants are ambassadors to share their experience and memories during this event to their friends and families. Furthermore, based on this experience, develop yourself as a future leader and construct an era of Asian prosperity.”

Cho Dal Hyun, Secretary General of NCYOK, ROK

The participants captured the beauty and dynamic aspects of Seoul. I am sure our exchange has helped future oriented cooperation in making a new era for Asia. I believe that if ASEAN and Korean youth go forward together with a common target, which is Asian prosperity, then this will help Asia enter the new age, as these are the next generation of leaders. Thank you all for your passionate participation despite the sudden cold weather.

Hahm Jong Han, Former president of NCYOK, ROK



ASEAN-Korea youth exchange programme
Photo: National Council of Youth Organisations in ROK



Secrets of K-beauty

Joon-Young Choe, Programme Director, Professor of Social Welfare, Gwangju University, Republic of Korea

A new Korean beauty skills training programme opened in 2018 at Gwangju University in South Korea for ASEAN young women.

Funded by the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund (AKCF), the course aims to provide K-beauty vocational training to selected women in ASEAN countries who wish to improve their career in the beauty business.

K-wave broadly refers to the global popularity of Korean entertainment and culture, and the term K-beauty relates to skills such as hair, makeup and skin care.

Trainees undergo eight-week training at Gwangju University, in Gwangju Metropolitan City. This intensive K-beauty programme greatly enhances their skills, both in practice and in business.

The classes are composed of four areas of beauty art: hair design, makeup, skin care, and nail arts. Upon successful completion, the trainees receive a certificate from the university as well as from a respective association, which will help them to find satisfying work and possibly start up a new business in their respective countries.

Gwangju University is venue and host of the K-Beauty Programme
Photo: Gwangju University, ROK

Culture on show at Youth Expo

Fitra Tri A, Analyst at Multilateral Partnership, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Indonesia, and Rezza D Brammadita, Senior Associate, Anakmuda.net

Cultural displays and performances formed a colourful background to the discussion sessions that were held during the ASEAN Youth Expo 2017, which was staged in Jakarta in July 2017.

This was the fourth year for the event, which was attended by youth representatives from all ten ASEAN countries.

AYE was established in 2013 as a youth development platform to enable ASEAN young people to Assemble, Cooperate, and Thrive (ACT), and to promote

country and exhibited to Indonesian youth. They also staged a cultural performance and there was a public discussion session on cooperation between ASEAN countries.

Participants of AYE were involved in the ASEAN Youth Day Meeting as part of the regular programme of the AMMY X and related meetings. Here, participants discussed entrepreneurship, and how social issues in their own country could be overcome through effective projects. They described the most beneficial project they have helped to create and how it worked



Selected young people from each country were involved in public discussion. Photo: Anakmuda.net, Indonesia

entrepreneurship as a solution to combat global problems.

Since its inception, AYE has been held four times, in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2017, each time with a different theme.

AYE in 2017 was especially outstanding in that it was merged with the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY X) and attended by youth representatives who had been winners of the ASEAN Youth Awards (AYA). Also attending were award winners of the Ten Accomplished Youth Organisations (TAYO), together with two Youth Participants, and four awardees of the ASEAN Youth Video Contest.

The event was dedicated to ASEAN youth from each ASEAN Member State and had a concept in which participants opened a cultural stand from their

to the advantage of society, and shared their best practices and worst failures.

All participants had the opportunity to visit Jakarta Creative Hub in Jakarta where a Platform Room has been devised by DKI Jakarta Province to display the creativity of Jakarta citizens, especially young people. AYE in 2017 was special because outstanding youth participants from each country were given the opportunity to meet the youth of Indonesia, of which 200 enrolled for the public conference.

The result of this public conference was an ASEAN Youth Joint Statement, reflecting what is on the minds of ASEAN young people for the future of ASEAN. The statement was read out during the AMMY X gala dinner in front of ASEAN Youth Ministers and officials of the Senior Official Meeting on Youth (SOMY).



Youth as agents of change

Miu Kimura, Organisational Development Delegate for Youth, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Malaysia

Young people are a powerful source of change, and their energy and skills need to be harnessed to promote a culture of non-violence and peace.

Changing a global mindset away from fear and intolerance requires a behavioural shift from the way in which we currently think, react and interact, towards understanding our shared humanity and valuing diversity.

Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) is a global flagship initiative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), created in 2008 to empower young people around the world to take up an ethical leadership role.

YABC aims at inspiring a positive transformation of mindsets, attitudes and behaviours within the young and their community.

This changing of culture towards that of non-violence and peace will then be carried through as young people mature into the leaders of the future.

To date, the programme has been implemented in 135 countries thanks to a global network of 2,800 trained peer educators. In the ASEAN countries, YABC has seen a rapid growth through the presence of 300 active peer educators in various Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies.

These young people have been trained on various topics using a participant-centred and experimental learning approach.

Focusing on feelings, experience, or the physical body as the entry points for learning, rather than intellectual analysis, this approach contributes to a long-lasting positive inner change.

Young people are able to develop their awareness and understanding of social issues such as discrimination, violence and exclusion as well as interpersonal skills using attractive ways of learning such as serious

YABC is a powerful tool to reduce the exposure of youth to the risks of drugs and alcohol abuse, violent extremism, biased judging, racism and discrimination, gender-based violence and domestic violence.

Its focus on non-cognitive learning is conducive to the surfacing of prejudice and bias, and teamwork allows individuals to re-shape individual reading of the basic principles of peaceful coexistence.

I have seen it in action in very challenging environments, and I hope that it will continue spreading throughout the ASEAN countries as a contribution to making people more resilient in ASEAN.

Giorgio Ferrario, head of country cluster and representative to ASEAN, Italy

games, role-plays and simulation. They learn to build empathy, be an active listener, and to be a critical thinking and non-judgmental person. They learn too about non-violent communication, collaborative negotiation and mediation, personal resilience, and inner peace.

Those taking part develop their own perspectives and awareness on how to create a non-violent world. YABC learning also comes from exchange with peers. Knowledge is not “conveyed” unilaterally, nor “taught down” by adults. Young people are more receptive and open to learning from other young people, and peer education favours exchange at a level of equality, trust and thought provoking learning where solutions are explored together.

By joining in the YABC and learning such topics as gender equality, critical thinking, active listening, non-discrimination and social integration, I felt that I started looking at life differently – with more sympathy and understanding of others, including parents and friends.

I realised that the YABC activities helped me in self-development and to become better and more flexible in dealing with problems. Previously, I was not able to communicate calmly with people, and I was avoiding openness.

I think the YABC experience has brought me considerable benefits. I feel that I have a better understanding and assessment of different life situations, so that I learn to restrain myself from negative emotions, understand the problems of others, and use this experience in my own life.

Artem Iikov, university student, Red Cross volunteer from Vietnam

POSITIVE IMPACT

A YABC impact study was conducted in 2012 and showed an overwhelmingly positive impact, including:

* 96.6 percent reported that the YABC programme impacted them positively at an individual level, and they are able to identify specific behaviour changes that are still evident at the present day, months or years after their first exposure to the programme.

* 97 percent reported that YABC develops a highly enhanced sense of ethical leadership, meaning a greater capacity and confidence to inspire positive change in others.

By leveraging the Red Cross Red Crescent fundamental principles and humanitarian values, the YABC initiative is a model of best practice for peer education locally and internationally, and a worthy benchmark for behavioural change intervention inside and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Labelled! In this activity, participants receive post-it notes mentioning people who are commonly stigmatised and/or discriminated against, and stick them on their foreheads. Without communicating what is on their labels, participants act and react towards one another according to what is written on the post-it. Participants learn how stereotypes and prejudices based on physical characteristics or personal identity traits may affect people and result in marginalisation and discrimination.
Photo: IFRC

ASEAN goes to school!

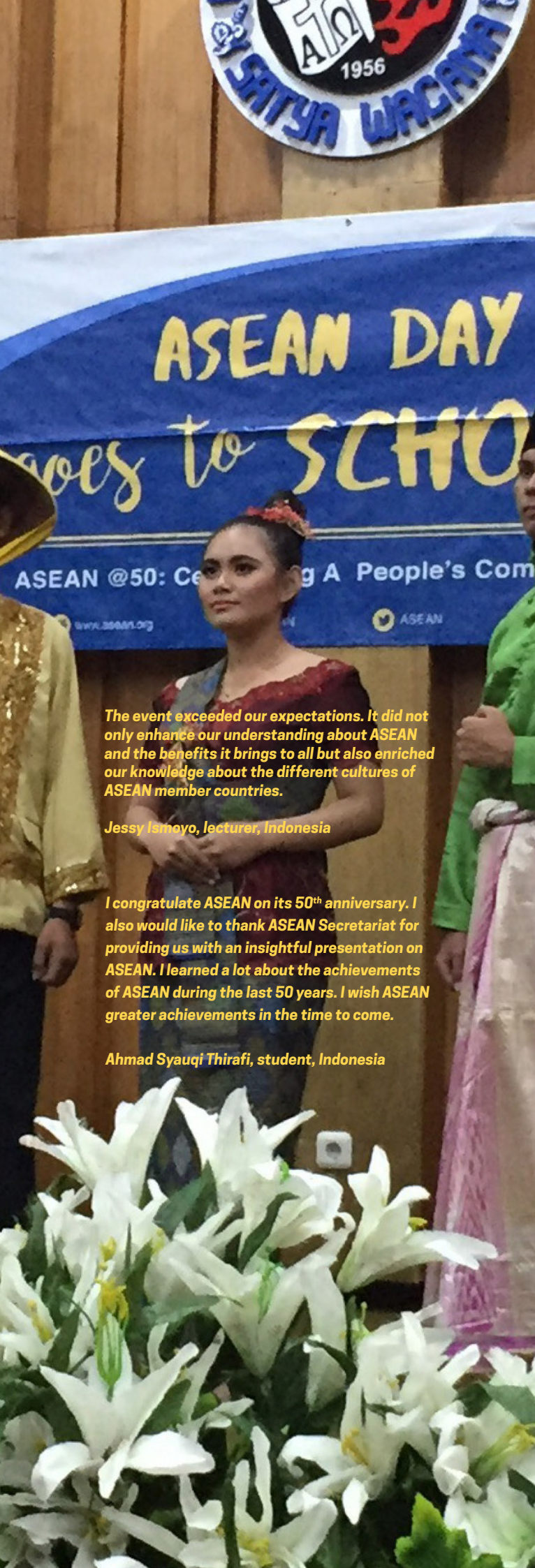
Community Relations Division, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia

In strengthening ASEAN's community building efforts we recognise the importance of students and youth in supporting ASEAN to realise our vision, which is to build a community that is just, democratic, economically integrated and socially responsible.

With a population of 635 million people, over 30 percent of which are youth, the future of ASEAN is in the hands of the young. Therefore, it is our responsibility to make sure they understand ASEAN.



Students of Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga took part in the celebration of ASEAN's 50th anniversary by showcasing the diverse cultures of ASEAN through a traditional costume parade at ASEAN Day Goes to School
Photo : CRD ASEAN (Community Relations Division, ASEAN Secretariat.



The event exceeded our expectations. It did not only enhance our understanding about ASEAN and the benefits it brings to all but also enriched our knowledge about the different cultures of ASEAN member countries.

Jessy Ismoyo, lecturer, Indonesia

I congratulate ASEAN on its 50th anniversary. I also would like to thank ASEAN Secretariat for providing us with an insightful presentation on ASEAN. I learned a lot about the achievements of ASEAN during the last 50 years. I wish ASEAN greater achievements in the time to come.

Ahmad Syauqi Thirafi, student, Indonesia

The ASEAN Secretariat regularly receives group visits. Every year, we receive over 100 institutions with a total of over 4,000 visitors consisting of students, teachers, business professionals, diplomats, and researchers.

Most of the visitors visit ASEAN Secretariat to learn about ASEAN and the three pillars of the ASEAN Community. This is an opportunity to show young people what the ASEAN Community can give to the people, and what opportunities are available for them, the younger generation.

The ASEAN Secretariat shows them how they can contribute to the advancement of the ASEAN region, both as youth and as the future leaders.

As part of the activities in 2017 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN, the Community Relations Division (CRD) held ASEAN Day Goes to School events in various universities and high schools across Indonesia.

CRD held eight ASEAN Day Goes to School events at two senior high schools and six universities. At least 250 students attended each event. The highlight of each event was a presentation on the ASEAN Community and what benefits it brings to the citizens, followed by a Q&A session. As a demonstration of ownership, the students also took part in the celebration by showcasing the diverse cultures of ASEAN through a traditional costume parade.

Each student wore the traditional costume of one ASEAN country and presented interesting facts about that country. At the end of the session, representatives of the students shared their hopes and aspirations for ASEAN in the next 50 years.

Recognising that a people-centred and people-oriented ASEAN community requires a strong sense of ownership by its peoples, the task of raising awareness and promoting understanding about ASEAN and its agenda of regional integration is becoming increasingly important to ensure the effectiveness of ASEAN's community building efforts.

The ASEAN Secretariat will consider expanding this outreach to the rest of the ASEAN region in coordination with the relevant ASEAN national secretariats.

September 2015 saw the world agree to 17 Sustainable Development Goals that will guide global development for the next 15 years. These goals, or SDGs, offer a chance to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for us all.

In Southeast Asia, almost half of the region's population will be younger than 30 by 2020. Young people possess the energy, creativity, flexibility and the power to drive change that brings innovation and inspires governments, international organisations, NGOs, and individuals.

What if we combine these and ask young people to localise the SDGs through their own social innovation projects? The engine for positive change could be fast and effective.

With this in mind, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) partnered with the SAP, ASEAN Foundation, ASEAN Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the Government of Germany to organise the Youth Volunteering Innovation Challenge (YVIC) under the name, Impact ASEAN.

The innovation challenge focused on how young people can engage the community in social innovation projects and use this as a tool to support volunteer initiatives and promote the idea of "leaving no-one behind".

With support through seed funding and mentoring from the organisers, the winning teams of youth have gone through stages of growth of their social innovation projects, growing them into successful social enterprise models.

Over 220 teams with members between the ages of 18 and 30 from the ASEAN countries submitted their ideas to the competition, all aiming either to leverage volunteering for the localisation of the SDGs, influencing sustainable behaviour through youth volunteering, or developing skills for life and work through volunteerism.

The proposals spanned from projects focused on using information communications technology for inclusion of the most vulnerable, from rural areas to mega-cities, from cultural heritage to elderly care.

After a series of national workshops in Myanmar and Indonesia, a regional workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand in June 2017. Twenty-nine young women and men from ten teams across the ASEAN region came

to pitch their ideas for scaling up their projects to increase their impact.

Opportunities to learn more about managing projects efficiently, building stronger partnerships with other organisations, and extending the capacities of their teams were provided through discussions with experts on volunteering, sustainable development, and entrepreneurship.

The participants improved their ideas and made energetic presentations on the final day. Three finalists were selected by votes of the judges and the participants. The finalists were Ecofun, with their Ecofunopoly environmental board game from Indonesia; Nino Nina Co, a socially-oriented business that connects poor communities to markets in the Philippines; and Tune Map, a mobile platform powered by volunteers who identify accessibility for the visually impaired in Indonesia. They received a total of US\$22,000 in financial support, as well as mentorships from SAP.

Three SAP mentors in Indonesia and the Philippines are meeting regularly with the teams to share advice and support the organisations in building their strategies to scale up the projects. As a direct result of this challenge, for example, team Ecofun is establishing new partnerships with the local government of Bogor in Indonesia and its citizens in growing environmental awareness through the Ecofun Go! festival. Tune Map is listed as one of Tech in Asia's favorite startups, and have been invited to the Indonesia Presidential Staff Office to introduce their venture and describe their activities in the disability sector.

There is still a long path to achieve the SDGs in all countries, and certainly in the ASEAN region, by 2030.

Harnessing the innovation and creativity of young people, and helping foster within them the important values of solidarity, empathy, critical thinking, social engagement and meaningful civic participation, will continue to be essential for the region.

The Impact ASEAN partners are looking forward to more exciting results and community impact from these young volunteers championing the SDGs.

Creative Impact

United Nations Volunteers Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

The lessons learned during the workshop were really insightful, especially on how to build and evaluate a project in a more structured way. I learned a lot about volunteerism and how it can impact different areas for progress and development. I enjoyed how our mentor helped us integrate volunteering in our social enterprise.

Workshop Participants

I love how this event gathered youth organisations that are in various stages. I had a chance to learn from those who are already in the next level, yet I was also able to articulate my suggestions.

Workshop Participants

YVIC participants learning about each other in the icebreaker session
Photo: UNV



Youth Volunteering Innovation Challenge

Change with passion

Mignonette Dela Paz-Reposar, Presidential Staff Officer IV/ Head Communications Unit, Office of the President, National Youth Commission, Quezon City, Philippines



The following awardees who were selected by their respective governments received specially handcrafted trophies, certificates of excellence, and cash prizes worth US\$5,000 each.



Haji Syed Mohd Yassin bin Haji Syed Anayatullah Shah: Founder, Battle Pro Marketing and Management Services



Sreat Mom Sophear: Director, SOPHIYA Travel and Tour



Rizal Fahreza: Founder and CEO, EPTILU Fresh From Farm



Dr Khamsen Sisavong: Founder, SV Education Group



Dr Lufti Fadil Lokman: Founder, Hospital Beyond Boundaries



Thet Zin Myint: Founder, Living Irrawady Travel Services



Henry Motte-Munoz: Founder and CEO Edukasyon.ph



Jamon Mok: Co-founder, Backstreet, Inc



Prawit Kruasarp: Owner, Phetchburri Thai Dessert Co Ltd



Truong Ly Hoang Phi: Director, Business Startup Support Centre

Celebrations are inherent in the ASEAN culture, and we celebrate life, love, achievements, accomplishments, and victories.

During the 2017 Philippines chairmanship, ASEAN celebrated the contributions of our living heroes in science, rice technology and social entrepreneurship to serve as inspiration for this generation and beyond.

The first ASEAN Youth Social Entrepreneurship Awards (AYSEA) was preceded by a conference held at Hotel Sofitel Manila from 6th to 9th August 2017.

As a showcase of the creativity and innovative ideas of the young, the event aimed to promote growth and development through providing employment for people in the marginalised communities.

AYSEA brought together young social entrepreneurs who have relentlessly pursued their passion as change makers by turning their

ideas into tangible projects that eventually changed the economic landscape.

Organised by the Philippines through the National Youth Commission Philippines in collaboration with Impact Hub (a social enterprise hub identified as a country partner of the ASEAN Foundation), the Department of Foreign Affairs and the 2017 ASEAN National Organising Council with funding support from the ASEAN Secretariat's operational budget, AYSEA is envisioned as a springboard to promote social entrepreneurship amongst young people.

The intention is that AYSEA can transition from an ASEAN founding anniversary activity into an annual event incorporated in the ASEAN Youth Day Meeting under the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY).

Investing in social entrepreneurs

Supang Chirattanawanna, Facilitator and Project Coordinator, the ASEAN Youth Workshop on Social Entrepreneurs, Bangkok, Thailand

It is always wise to invest in potential, and young people offer the greatest potential of all, as they are the future.

As an organisation that is directly involved with youth, the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand has been organising a large number of youth programmes focused on grooming the new generation for success in both work and life.

The ASEAN Youth Workshop on Social Entrepreneurs, held in Bangkok during 22nd to 25th January 2017 was one such programme.

As there had already been many programmes with an objective to develop certain skills such as leadership potential, the DCY realised the importance of providing more opportunities for young people to practice and make use of their skills.

Smiles and tears at the closing ceremony
Photo: DCY, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand

The workshop, then, was designed to allow the 80 young participants from the ten ASEAN Member States to get their hands, head, and heart to come up with social business plans.

Primarily the intention was to encourage participants to take part in creating a better community, to recognise the difficulties in their community, and find solutions to such difficulties while being able to earn a living as young entrepreneurs.

The activities began with icebreaking, which was vital for an effective learning environment. Lecture sessions included an introduction to social business,

While chatting online with one of the participants the other day, this is what she wrote: “I learned so much that my whole drive and approach changed. In the last three months I did more than I had done over the last three years. Really I think the credit goes to you and your team for putting things together. Such a relatable programme.”

To create a successful result, there is always more than just one factor. I was grateful to the DCY for allowing me to design this workshop while providing advice and doing the needful for the smooth execution.



and marketing, branding, and digital communications. There were country presentations, visits to social businesses, a panel discussion by successful young social entrepreneurs, interaction with local students, a workshop on the qualifications of an entrepreneur, and business ideation and modelling.

Consultation took place with mentors, business plans were pitched, and an award and certificate ceremony ended the event. Each session was carefully crafted to ensure the learning was both fun and fruitful.

Having been conducting camps and workshops for youth at both domestic and international levels for over two decades, I can honestly say that this ASEAN Youth Workshop on Social Entrepreneurs was the most impactful in terms of inspiring the participants to take action.

We were fortunate to have open-minded and eager-to-learn participants who did not hesitate to express their opinions and listen to others. Being flexible as something better might come up during the programme, and being able to make quick decisions without any red tape were also crucial elements.

What really matters is that everything had been done wholeheartedly to drive the young potentials to make positive changes in their societies. We might have to wait for a while to see what changes they effect, but we see and hear often about how they have positively changed.

It is after all a very wise choice to invest in them!

Strengthening leadership skills and an ASEAN identity

Public Affairs Section, US Mission to ASEAN, Jakarta, Indonesia

Through YSEALI I was able to meet friends from Southeast Asia and realise that disability employment is a common issue across the region. Now I am working with friends from different ASEAN countries to create a more inclusive region and world.

Dissa Ahdanisa, Founder, Fingertalk Café, and YSEALI Professional Fellow, Indonesia



YSEALI offers two exchange programmes to the United States. YSEALI Academic and Professional Fellowships offer the opportunity to participate in intensive academic or professional programmes at universities or workplaces across the US.
Photo: YSEALI



The future looks bright in Southeast Asia thanks to great programmes like YSEALI that help prepare future business and civic leaders. US Vice President Mike Pence told YSEALI alumni at the ASEAN Secretariat during his visit to Jakarta in April 2017. Photo: YSEALI

An estimated 65 percent of people in the ASEAN region are under the age of 35, and from this enormous and very diverse pool of talent and energy are emerging the entrepreneurs and leaders of tomorrow.

With ASEAN now entering a new era and forming a distinct identity of its own, harnessing the extraordinary potential of our young people requires a structured approach to address critical challenges and to expand opportunities throughout the region.

The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) was launched by the United States Government in 2013, and includes a variety of programmes and engagements, including US educational and cultural exchanges, regional workshops, and seed funding.

YSEALI aims to strengthen partnerships with emerging leaders in Southeast Asia, expanding their skills as effective civic, economic, and non-governmental leaders. At the same time the intention is to nurture an ASEAN community of leaders who work together to solve common issues.

In the brief time since it was founded, the YSEALI network has grown to more than 126,000 members in all the ASEAN Member States.

More than 1,700 young leaders have participated in YSEALI educational and professional exchanges in the US, and over 2,400 have attended 31 skills-building regional exchange workshops in Southeast Asia.

YSEALI has granted more than one million dollars in seed funding to multinational teams for projects addressing YSEALI development and foreign policy themes.

In practical terms YSEALI is helping create an ASEAN identity from the ground up, focusing on critical topics identified by youth in the region: civic engagement, education, environment and natural resources

management, and entrepreneurship and economic development.

The year 2017 marked the 40th anniversary of the United States' engagement with ASEAN as Dialogue Partner, the ASEAN 50th birthday, and YSEALI's fourth anniversary. In celebrating this special year, YSEALI hosted six regional workshops concentrating on specific themes such as eco-entrepreneurship, urban planning, ocean conservation, technology to address transnational crime and security challenges, and women's leadership development.

YSEALI organised the third annual YSEALI Summit in the Philippines, inviting 250 emerging leaders between the ages of 18-35, representing all ten ASEAN Member States. The young delegates underwent a five-day advanced leadership training programme, equipping these rising leaders with the training and mentorship necessary to address the complex and dynamic political, social, economic, and environmental issues confronting ASEAN.

Delegates focused on the role of youth and YSEALI in addressing ASEAN development and in strengthening US-ASEAN relations in the next 40 years. They collaborated in multinational teams to design service projects and compete for seed grant funding to support their project implementation across ASEAN in December 2017 as part of YSEALI YOUunified.

The 2017 YSEALI YOUunified programme is YSEALI's third annual youth-led community service campaign marking the initiative's fourth anniversary.

More can be learned about the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative at www.yseali.state.gov and by following #YSEALI on social media:

-  Facebook @yseali
-  Twitter @yseali
-  Instagram @yseali_official

Young filmmakers in ASEAN have their own annual competition that enables them to express their ideas, interact with their peers from across the region, and hone their own production skills.

The ASEAN Youth Video Contest was launched in 2015 and in its three years has attracted over 300 submissions from all ten ASEAN Member States.

Designed to enhance youth leadership and civic engagement through the production of short videos highlighting the perspectives of young people, the contest has a different theme each year, based on the priorities of ASEAN.

As 2017 marked ASEAN's 50th anniversary, this year's theme centred on the meaning of the anniversary to young people, and what might the next 50 years bring.

participate in a four-day technical training workshop where they learn new skills to further develop their short videos for final submission.

More specifically, under the guidance of a video production specialist, participants learn about story development, scriptwriting and filming, post-production, and social media strategies in order to effectively tell their stories to the public through a short video. After the workshop, finalists polish and submit their final two-minute videos for evaluation.

Following a technical evaluation of the final submissions, the top three winners are selected and receive cash awards. Contest winners are invited to attend the annual ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth where their winning videos are shown and they receive additional recognition.

Final videos from each of the contestants over the first three years have been uploaded to the ASEAN Secretariat's YouTube channel.

The ASEAN Youth Video Contest is supported by the United States Government through the ASEAN-U.S. Progress project in collaboration with ASEAN, the ASEAN Foundation, and the National Youth Council of Singapore.

Each year, ten finalists are competitively selected from a pool of applications from aspiring filmmakers from all ten ASEAN nations. This year's applicants numbered 137 from across ASEAN!

Once identified as finalists, selected youth



Visualising the spirit

Nenden N Fathiaestuti, Programme and Communication Specialist at ASEAN-US Progress, Jakarta, Indonesia

It was a great experience that my first trip abroad was to represent my country. During the training I learned about ASEAN and can better understand that the role of youth is essential to achieving the goals of the ASEAN Community.

Leonard Anthony S Vallido, finalist of the 2nd ASEAN Youth Video Contest, Philippines

Filming practice for finalists of 1st ASEAN Youth Video Contest in Singapore in 2015
Photo: ASEAN-US Progress



Young artists in front of the Patuxai Monument
Photo: Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism of Lao PDR

Stars speak the language of music

Patricia Yuanita, Former Technical Officer, Culture and Information Division, ASEAN Secretariat, Indonesia

It was Friday night and the streets were busy. People were arriving in flocks, with families and friends entering the Lao National Culture Hall together. Some had roses in their hands with the hope of presenting them to their favourite artists.

Backstage was noisy and busy. The girls were putting on their makeup and complimenting one another's beautiful costumes. The boys were warming up their vocal chords and teasing each other while fixing their hair. This was indeed a special Friday night for the citizens of Vientiane, where it seemed the entire population had turned out to see live performances of ASEAN's music stars.

The ASEAN Young Contemporary Music Concert is a landmark project funded by the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information's Sub-Committee on Culture, and was funded using the ASEAN Cultural Fund.

The event was one of the commemorative activities for the 50th anniversary of ASEAN, and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Lao PDR's ascension to ASEAN.

A total of 20 young professional and outstanding singers from all ASEAN Member States performed both English pop songs and national contemporary songs at the Lao National Culture Hall in Vientiane on 25th August 2017.

The concert was initiated and hosted by the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism of Lao PDR, and was open to the public and broadcast live on Lao TV Channel 3.

For many of these young artists it was their first time to meet other youth from ASEAN countries who shared the same passion and profession. Despite the short duration for rehearsals together, the performers displayed exceptional professionalism by creating a spectacular show. Some of them are well-established singers

in their respective countries, including Sam Concepcion and Tippy Dos Santos from the Philippines, and Issarapong Dorkyor from Thailand.

Others were emerging talents and are new faces in the music industry in their home country, including Sarah Ismail and Aruel from Malaysia, and Tussy and Ade Firman from Indonesia.

Apart from sharing their music and culture, the young talented singers also had a chance to get up close with Laotian culture. The performers visited various places of cultural interest including the That Luang Temple, Si Saket Temple, Haw Phra Kaew Temple, and Patuxai Monument.

Music is indeed a universal language that can bond us and raise the shared ASEAN identity among youth. With this programme, the performers shared readily that they are proud to be citizens of ASEAN.

Out of crisis comes unity

Liew Y R Alyssa, Programme Coordinator, ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme, University Community Transformation Centre, National University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Albert Einstein and Sun Tzu, two very different people, both said that in every crisis lies great opportunity.

This was precisely what ASEAN witnessed when volunteers from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand came together to help communities rebuild in the aftermath of the devastating Cyclone Nargis.

This successful mission that brought ASEAN citizens closer together had everyone asking the same question: How do we preserve such purposeful collaborative initiatives? With that notion, what had begun as any other one-off effort transformed into the spark for what the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme is today.

On the 20th of October 2011, Malaysia through the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Malaysia presented a proposal to the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) and the ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Youth (AMMY), which was inspired by the Cyclone Nargis relief mission, for the establishment of the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme. In this way, the AYVP was born.

The AYVP Secretariat is permanently based at the National University of Malaysia, housed under the University Community Transformation Centre under the guidance of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Malaysia.

Participating in AYVP was one of the greatest experiences and memories in my life. Although AYVP was the longest programme that I have participated in, I enjoyed every single moment. Even though there were some language barriers, body language and friendly smiles were the effective solution to communicate with people in the community. What I have learned from this programme was not only the knowledge and awareness on DRR, but also community service, Indonesian culture and tight friendship. Twenty-six days of learning, eating, living and working together displayed our deep bond. We became not just friends; we are family. Moreover, I have enhanced many skills such as leadership, teamwork, time management and public speaking. I strongly believe what I have learned from AYVP will benefit my future pathway in terms of life, studying, and working.

Nutnicha Limboonngam

AYVP Indonesia 2017 volunteer/student at Khon Kaen University, Thailand

Volunteers work together with local villagers, including this man, to assess the hazard in Kelurahan Cigadung, an urban village in Bandung, Indonesia which was selected as one of the two community sites for AYVP's 5th programme in August 2017

Photo: AYVP Secretariat



Volunteers learn about each other's cultures and share what makes each ASEAN country unique.
Photo: AYVP Secretariat

AYVP has the support of key strategic partners: the US Agency for International Development, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Malaysia, the ASEAN University Network and others.

Fast-forward five programmes, 18 community sites and 57 multi-stakeholder partnerships later, and AYVP is now one of the most sought-after youth programmes in the region.

“There are many talented young people in ASEAN today who are serious about making a difference,” says Professor Datuk Dr Rokiah Haji Omar, Director of the AYVP Secretariat.

“Our job is to empower youth by providing a training ground for them to create and lead sustainable solutions to shared regional challenges. While doing so, they connect with like-minded youth across ASEAN and unite to build a strong ASEAN community that moves forward together.”

AYVP focuses on one of its eight thematic areas each year, all of which are shared regional concerns that matter to the young generations of ASEAN.

These areas are the environment and climate change, protecting ASEAN’s heritage, disaster risk reduction, education development, rural development and poverty eradication, social entrepreneurship, youth-friendly health services, and sports and recreation.

Fifty carefully selected volunteers aged between 18 and 30 participate every August in the four-week programme to train as ASEAN youth leaders.

Volunteers spend the first week learning through a series of modular workshops as they prepare for deployment to the local community site. Armed with the knowledge learned, they go hands-on for the

next two weeks to work on local issues with the selected community. In the final week, along with the theoretical and practical knowledge gained in the first three weeks, volunteers equip themselves with project management skills to develop their own project.

Continuing the multiplier effect, volunteers return home to conduct the community projects in their home countries, while sharing the ASEAN community spirit along the way.

Since its inception, AYVP has impacted 104 communities in ASEAN through the 86 community projects implemented by AYVP alumni. Many of the projects are still running, and some of them go on to form independent non-governmental organisations.

Professor Dato’ Dr Imran Ho Abdullah, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Industry and Community Partnerships at UKM remarks, “We see the same pattern every year - our volunteer goes home, recruits a group of her friends, and collaborates with one or two organisations to run the alumni project.

“Then the people in the community who have benefited from the project begin spreading the word around, and suddenly they find themselves with more organisations, government agencies, private companies, universities, and even the media who are interested to help expand their project. It’s contagious.”

Back at the AYVP Secretariat, there is much work to be done. But the team is hopeful of a sustainably resilient, united, and socially responsible regional community in the very near future.

Faith is strong in the power of youth to achieve a citizen-centred ASEAN of **“One Vision, One Identity, One Community.”**



Breaking barriers to access sexual health services for young people

Gaj Gurung, Regional Coordinator for Youth LEAD

Asia-Pacific regional partners with the leadership of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have undertaken the first systematic review of the ways in which laws and policies affect young people's access to sexual and reproductive health information and services.

The study, *Young People and the Law in Asia and the Pacific*, authored by various United Nations agencies and published by UNESCO in 2013, recommended capacity development of young people to comprehend their rights of access to sexual and reproductive health information and services.

As a result, DLA Piper, a multinational law firm located in more than 40 countries in collaboration with UNESCO and UNFPA, developed a training toolkit on sexual and reproductive health information and services targeting the policy makers and young people. Input to the toolkit was provided by other United Nations agencies and entities such as UNAIDS, IDLO, UPR-INFO, UNICEF, UNDP, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Youth LEAD, and Youth Voices Count.

The training toolkit was first piloted in 2016 in the Philippines by Youth LEAD with support from UNFPA and UNAIDS Asia-Pacific Regional Office. The aim was to address the policy and legal barriers to adolescent access to sexual and reproductive health information.

There was a recommendation to have a parallel youth-friendly version within the main toolkit, and after a series of consultations in 2017 this was developed and attached with the main legal advocacy toolkit.

The youth-friendly module was piloted in Yangon, Myanmar from 19th to 22nd October 2017 with support from UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office.

Youth LEAD in partnership with Myanmar Youth Star, the national network on young key populations, and Phoenix, the national NGO working on HIV convened the training to help participants improve their knowledge on sexual reproductive health, HIV, legal/policy context, and design advocacy action planning.

Twenty-six youth participants (15 girls and 11 boys) from six different regions in Myanmar joined the training, which has five modules aiming to address the sexual and reproductive health of young people in the country and the Asia-Pacific region through the domestic legal system, human rights treaty bodies, and complaints mechanisms.

Although the training was technical, the modules were youth friendly with lots of games, discussions, and motivation of the participants.

The pre- and post-analysis of the training reflected a huge increase in the knowledge on human rights, legal system and barriers, and national and international treaties amongst the participants. The training was also attended by UNFPA and UNAIDS country representatives who provided motivational advice to the participants.

At the end of the training, the participants and local partners developed a follow-up plan, which included widening the discourse amongst other involved organisations, rolling out the training elsewhere, and translating the manual into other languages.

All the follow-up activities are funded through the UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office.

Group work with the participants
Photo: Myanmar Youth Star

An educational opportunity for Myanmar's teashop children

Tim Aye-Hardy, Co-founder and Executive Director, Myanmar Mobile Education Project, Yangon, Myanmar

Similar to many developing nations of the world, Myanmar is home to pockets of young population that have left school and are unskilled. This makes them vulnerable and unable to cope with many social ills around them.

In many cases and out of desperation, the parents of these children send them to crowded towns and cities to work in order to help sustain their families back in rural hometowns.

There are many children between the ages of five and sixteen in Myanmar who are out of school and working at various informal sectors. Myanmar has many teashops located all over the country, small roadside or alleyway restaurants where the local people come regularly for daily sweet tea and snacks.

Many children and youth work for hours in these teashops, their meager earnings sent back to their families and villages in the countryside. In this system, the children do not have an opportunity to study.

While the government of Myanmar started to implement a five-year comprehensive education reform process in 2015, it will take some years to realise its benefits. Thus, it is important for other parties such as non-government organisations to support the government in attending to the needs of out-of-school children and youth such as those children working in teashops.

What these children need is an opportunity for an alternative education where they can learn some

technical and vocational skills at their workplace, as well as functional literacy, numeracy, basic computer and lifeskills.

The Myanmar Mobile Education Project (myME) is an alternative education scheme that helps fill in this critical gap and provide these working children with basic literacy and skills that would give them a chance for a better future when they graduate from the programme. With education, these children would have increased chance to be more gainfully employed. This benefits not only them and their families but also their communities as a whole.

The myME project provides free literacy, numeracy, lifeskills and vocational subjects along with computer classes to teashop children after their working day is done. Old buses and trucks are converted into mobile classrooms and equipped with teaching and learning materials. These mobile classrooms come to the teashops at the end of each working day. By providing free classes, the children are able to keep their income from the teashop work.

This is the first attempt at a mobile education solution in Myanmar targeting working out-of-school children and youth. The pilot project was started with 60 youngsters in two teashops in early 2014. Less than three years later, myME has expanded to serve more than 3,000 children and youth from various teashops, roadside restaurants, monastic schools, and underprivileged communities in major cities, with over 60 staff and five mobile classroom buses.

Fun classroom on the myME bus
Photo: myME

The future and the development of ASEAN youth in ASEAN

Abigail C Lanceta, Former Assistant Director and Head of Division and Revina Indra Putri, Former Technical Assistant and ASEAN YDI Phase 1 Project Coordinator, Education, Youth and Sports Division, ASEAN Secretariat



First ASEAN
Development Index

One of the answers to unemployment is to position youth entrepreneurship as a driving force of our economy. Empowering our youth with entrepreneurial skills is critical to anticipate the changing nature of the global market and ensure sustainable economic development in our region.

Gatot Sulistianoro Dewa Broto, Secretary to the Minister of Youth and Sports of Indonesia and Chairperson of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY).

Representing the ASEAN youth, Ms Aghnia Dima, a member of UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel in Indonesia appreciated the commitment of ASEAN to the youth sector through the ASEAN YDI. She assured that the youth would play a leading role in moving a forward-looking ASEAN Community through sharing creative ideas and experiences across countries and continuing the partnerships to ensure the achievement of SDGs and the ASEAN Vision 2025 particularly the ones affecting young people



The Cambodia YDI workshop reviewed a series of questions to define the scope of each domain
Photo: Ung Ratha, MoEYS Cambodia

The ASEAN Ministers of Youth launched the First ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI) Report in Jakarta on 2nd July 2017 following the conclusion of the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY X). Overall, the report indicated improvements in youth development in the region between 2011 and 2015.

As the flagship project under the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020, the First ASEAN YDI Report aimed at evaluating the outcomes and effectiveness of youth programmes in ASEAN, thus providing a basis for informed decision making and planning new interventions for the youth. The ASEAN YDI looked at various indicators in the domains of education, health and wellbeing, employment and opportunity, and participation and engagement.

The Report found that the youth of ASEAN is 6.4 times more likely to be unemployed than their adult counterparts in the labour force. Consequently, and consistent with the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020, youth entrepreneurship takes a centre stage as a priority focus under the ASEAN Youth Sector Chairmanship of Indonesia in 2017 and 2018. Moreover, the First ASEAN YDI Report found that

education improved significantly across the region but employment and opportunity slightly declined. This result indicates the importance for these two domains to work in concert as having a high number of educated youth who are unemployed can lead to negative social problems.

The First ASEAN YDI Report also calls for future consideration to strengthen the ASEAN YDI and include relevant areas such as gender, inclusiveness and youth as a demographic dividend in the hope that improved data will become available for future ASEAN YDIs both at the regional and national levels.

The second phase of ASEAN YDI focuses on ASEAN Awareness, Values and Identity, and is planned for release in 2019.

The development of the First ASEAN YDI Report is under the guidance of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) consistent with the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia and the Pacific Regional Office supported the development of the first Report.

Cambodia is home to the largest youth and adolescent population in the Southeast Asia region. With one in five Cambodians currently between the age of 14 and 24, and almost two-thirds of the population being under the age of 30, young people embody a great potential to drive economic and social development in the country.

UNFPA Cambodia together with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) of Cambodia are working together for the development of the Cambodia Youth Development Index (YDI).

The report on Cambodia YDI will focus on the context of Cambodia and is aligned with global and ASEAN YDI. The participatory process includes consultative meetings with national stakeholders working on youth development, including youth networks and youth representatives.

The first Cambodia YDI stakeholder workshop was held on the 30th August 2017. Thirteen ministries and 31 NGOs attended the workshop, including youth leaders and representatives. Ministries and NGOs were divided into groups and discussed potential indicators under four domains, namely education, health and wellbeing, employment and opportunity, and participation. Youth led and facilitated small group discussions for each domain.

During the workshop, a special session was conducted with youth exclusively and focused on the question, “What is impacting youth in Cambodia.”

Youth were given an open and safe space to anonymously and freely express their views to the consultants. A number of youth began to express their concerns regarding freedom of speech and information, emphasising a need for an unbiased media in addition to a safe environment to express their views.

Participants also touched upon the need to change culture perceptions regarding peace leadership on all levels, from family to national. A number of other concerns were raised including the importance of promoting volunteerism in a positive light, inclusion of vulnerable youth in youth organisations and conversation, as well as reducing barriers and increasing access of all youth to quality education and job opportunities.

The first National Task Force meeting was held on the

Youth Development Index for Cambodia

Michaela Forte, UNV and UN University Volunteer, UN Youth Task Force Coordination, UNFPA Cambodia

As a member of the National Task Force on Cambodia YDI, I attended the first stakeholder and task force meeting. It was a great opportunity for me to contribute as well as deepen my understanding of both the purpose and process of developing the YDI. I discussed different indicators that needed to be developed based on four identified domains. During the discussion, participants worked in teams and responded to specific questions under each domain. It was essential for me as a youth to voice out current social issues that Cambodia is facing as well as positive and sustainable changes we wish to see in both the near and far future. The diversity of youth membership reflects the broad participation and engagement of youth. I hope to be continually given opportunities to engage in all levels of decision making in Cambodia.

Kao Sokunpharady, a member of the United Nations Youth Advisory Panel in Cambodia

31st August 2017. Ministries, NGOs and youth reviewed comments made during the stakeholder workshop and made preliminary decisions on specific indicators under each domain that were both available and applicable to Cambodian youth.

In both meetings, both publicly and privately, youth leaders took opportunities to speak up and voice out their opinion, bringing their own as well as other youth concerns and priorities to the forefront, creating a CYDI that is tailored to Cambodian youth themselves.

A total of 23 youth participated in the stakeholder workshop and a total of three are members of the National Task Force.

In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal, UNFPA continues to strengthen partnerships with the government, NGOs, youth-led organisations and civil society to empower youth and make sure that their potentials are fulfilled throughout Cambodia.

Youth Development Index for Indonesia

Margaretha Sitanggang, National Programme Officer for Youth and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH), UNFPA Indonesia



Participants at the Cambodia YDI stakeholder workshop discussed indicators that were most appropriate to reflect the progress of Cambodian youth
Photo: Ung Ratha, MoEYS Cambodia

There are 66 million young people between the age of 10 to 24 years in Indonesia, which is one of the biggest stakeholders needed to include in the different process of development such as creating programmes and formulating policies that affect society and their lives.

The importance of the Indonesia Youth Development Index (YDI) in assisting the government's agenda to further increase youth development and for setting the youth strategic agenda for the future is clearly demonstrated by Indonesia commissioning the YDI 2017 and National Action Plan for Youth Development.

UNFPA has partnered with the Ministry of National Development Planning, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Indonesia, the two government agencies which led the development of both the National Youth Development Index and National Action Plan on Youth Development in Indonesia.

The Indonesia YDI represents the first national scale data analysis, with the results creating a strong basis for future improvement in national youth

development. It consists of five domains: education; health and wellbeing; employment and opportunity; participation and leadership; and gender and discrimination.

The Indonesia YDI has been developed to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Indonesian youth policy priorities and the globally and ASEAN agreed constructs of youth development indexes.

A participatory and evidence-based approach for national policies and planning is essential for youth development. This is acknowledged by UNFPA through the different researches and knowledge products also through involving young people through consultations, capacity building and youth participation mechanisms such as the UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel.

Funding the future

National Youth Council, Singapore

The Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF) was launched by the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, at the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth in April 2007. Administered by the National Youth Council of Singapore, the fund supports joint youth activities in the ASEAN region.

The main aim of SAYF is to promote greater interaction among youth in ASEAN Member States. The fund supports partnerships among ASEAN Youth Sector Organisations (YSOs), thus contributing to greater understanding and closer ties within the ASEAN community.

As part of Singapore's commitment to supporting youth initiatives in the region, the SAYF was topped up with an additional S\$5million in 2018, in line with Singapore's Chairmanship of ASEAN.

Two examples of projects funded by SAYF are the Southeast Asian Global Undergraduate Leaders' Programme (SEAGULL) and the Ardour Myanmar.



SOUTHEAST ASIAN GLOBAL UNDERGRADUATE LEADERS' PROGRAMME (SEAGULL)

Contributed by the National Youth Council

The Southeast Asian Global Undergraduate Leaders Programme (SEAGULL) is a societal leadership development programme by the Institute for Societal Leadership (ISL) at the Singapore Management University. ISL is a specialised institute set up for the understanding, application and amplification of societal leadership in Asia.

ISL gathers around 25 undergraduates each year from various ASEAN countries for the SEAGULL programme, which offers:

- Workshops to develop higher level thinking, analytical and leadership skills;
- Site visits to award winning social impact organisations;
- Exclusive fireside chats with inspiring societal leaders from various sectors;
- Opportunities to exercise the skills and insights acquired with actionable consultancy projects for meaningful causes.

The first immersion is typically held in Singapore. It focuses on introducing participants to the concept of societal leadership, the complexity of societal issues in ASEAN, and the need for cross-sector collaboration to address these issues. During the five to seven-day immersion in Singapore, participants would attend site visits to award-winning social impact organisations, interact with inspiring leaders, and undergo training to enhance their leadership capabilities.

The second immersion, which is typically held in another ASEAN country, will allow participants to put what they have learned into practice. Participants will work with social impact organisations and complete a consultancy project using design thinking.

Between the first and second immersion, participants will participate in online discussion and exercises to deepen their

knowledge and skills on leadership and design thinking. Post the second immersion, participants will be expected to share what they have learned with their community back home. This may be done via a half-day workshop.

Most SEAGULL participants shared that the programme was useful and that they had gained broader perspectives on values-based societal leadership, having developed greater empathy and understanding of critical societal issues. They felt that their understanding of complex challenges faced by ASEAN had been enhanced through the programme.

Participants also became more motivated and confident to lead their own teams and organisations back in their home countries.



ARDOUR MYANMAR

Contributed by the National Youth Council

Team Ardour is a society comprising like-minded and passionate youths who wish to give back to society. In 2017, Team Ardour led a team of 14 youths from Singapore, Malaysia, India and Myanmar, who collaborated with Smart Kids College Mandalay to carry out a community service project in Myanmar.

Prior to embarking on the trip, they received training in problem solving and self-reflection. These skills were put to good use when they were engaging in the service activities in Myanmar.

Team Ardour trained around 170 Myanmar educators in the following areas: teaching content and pedagogies, critical thinking, hygiene practices, public speaking, basic computer literacy, and English. These were carried out in the form of boot camps and involved teachers and head monks from Zin Nya Kan Baw Za

Post Primary Monastic School and other educational institutions in Mandalay and Sagaing.

In addition, 15 young people from Myanmar participated in the boot camps as translators, which allowed them to practice their conversational English skills.

Through the initiative, Team Ardour was able to elevate the standard of education in Myanmar, as the educators were now able to apply what they have learned to enrich the educational journey of their own students at Mandalay and Sagaing. The project has created a multiplier effect that allowed the Myanmar students to have a better stead in life.

The project also had a meaningful impact on Team Ardour, as they were now more aware of the social issues that Myanmar is facing. They appreciated the opportunity to contribute back to society through the collaboration.

In addition, the project facilitated the youth from different backgrounds and countries to forge closer bonds, and gain greater understanding and respect of each other's culture, thereby leading to better appreciation of the ASEAN heritage and identity.

As this is my first overseas community involvement project, and my maiden experience in Myanmar, it is really an eye-opening experience for me to understand what true service entails and how our small actions can make a huge impact on the lives of the community we serve.

The 11 days have certainly taught me about mindfulness, that we should be living in the present and not be distracted by the worldly things around us. Seeing the other volunteers being fully immersed in service is a real life example of what 'flow state' is truly all about, and that is giving your all, such that nothing else really matters. I am definitely coming again next year!

Liu Zhengyang, a participant from Singapore





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