

The 49th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program in 2026 OUTLINE

(For Facilitator Selection)

Cabinet Office,
Government of Japan
April 2025



HISTORY of SSEAYP

BACKGROUND

The Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) is a joint project between Japan and ASEAN member countries, launched in 1974. The program is carried out by the government of Japan with the active participation and cooperation of ASEAN member countries.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1974		Indonesia
		Japan
		Malaysia
		Philippines
		Singapore
		Thailand
1985		Brunei Darussalam
1996		Viet Nam
1998		Lao P.D.R.
		Myanmar
2000		Cambodia
【2024		Timor-Leste (observer participation)】

The participating countries of the 1st SSEAYP in 1974 were the following five ASEAN member countries at that time, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore and Kingdom of Thailand. And of course, Japan.

Brunei Darussalam joined in 1985, Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1996, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1998, and Kingdom of Cambodia in 2000, following their respective admission to ASEAN.

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste joined as observer in 2024



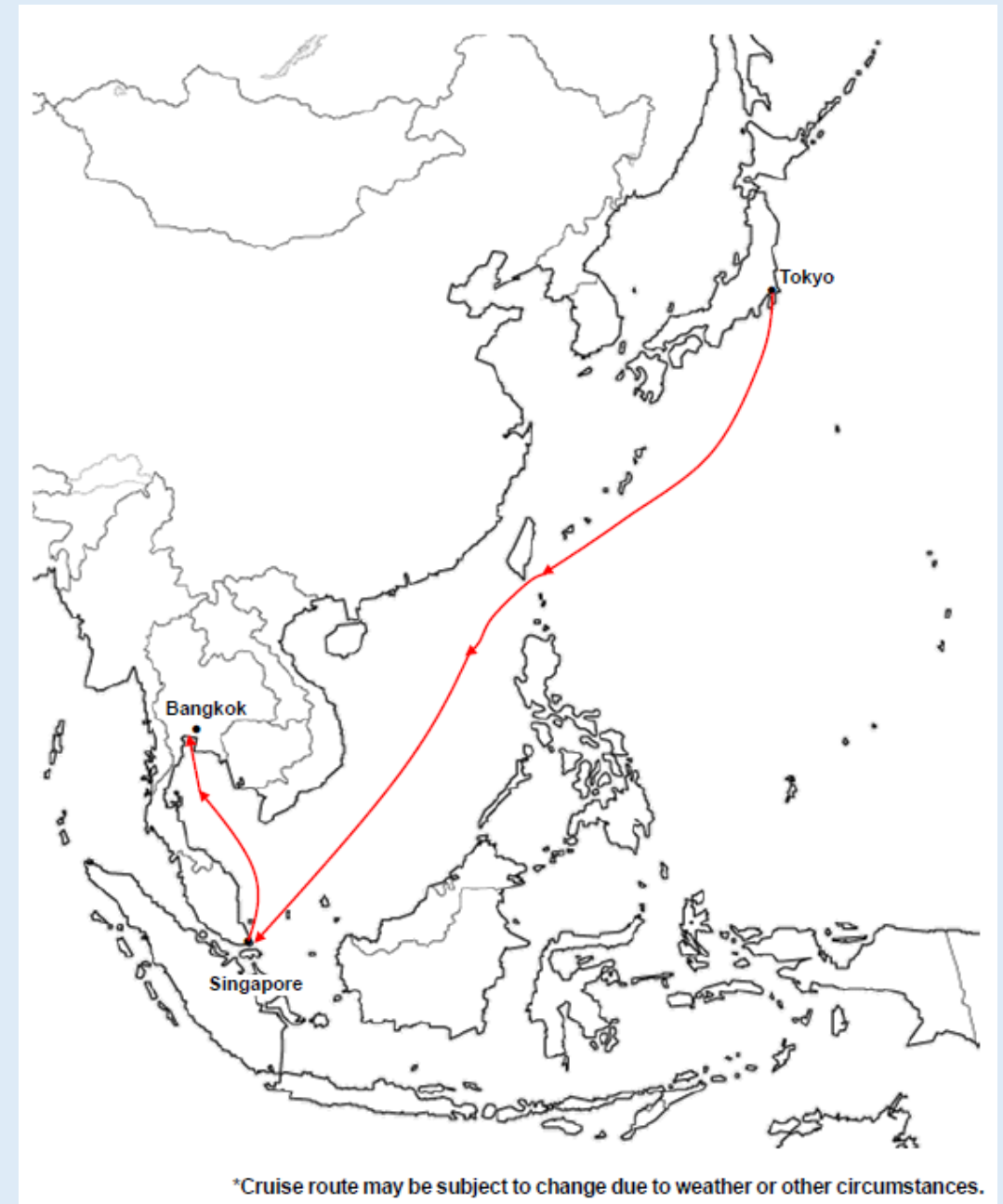
PURPOSE

The aims of the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) are to promote friendship and mutual understanding among the youths of Japan and the ASEAN member countries, to broaden their perspective on the world, and furthermore, to strengthen their spirit of international cooperation and practical skills for international collaboration. As a result, it is expected to cultivate the leaders of the next generation who are capable to exercise their leadership skills in various fields in the globalizing society and to contribute to the society in the areas such as youth development.

Cruise route and detailed program of the 49th SSEAYP

	Onboard Duration	Date		Contents
Day 1		Jan. 15	Thu	Arrival of NLs and PYs from ASEAN member countries
Day 2		16	Fri	Orientation, Inauguration Ceremony
Day 3		17	Sat	Local Program (1)
Day 4		18	Sun	Local Program (2)
Day 5		19	Mon	Local Program (3)
Day 6		20	Tue	Local Program (4)
Day 7		21	Wed	Tokyo Program
Day 8		22	Thu	Tokyo Program
Day 9		23	Fri	Tokyo Program
Day 10		24	Sat	Tokyo Program
Day 11	1	25	Sun	Embarkation to the Ship (late afternoon)
Day 12	2	26	Mon	Departure Ceremony, Set sail (16:00)
Day 13	3	27	Tue	Cruise 1
Day 14	4	28	Wed	Cruise 2
Day 15	5	29	Thu	Cruise 3
Day 16	6	30	Fri	Cruise 4
Day 17	7	31	Sat	Cruise 5
Day 18	8	Feb. 1	Sun	Cruise 6
Day 19	9	2	Mon	Cruise 7
Day 20	10	3	Tue	Cruise 8
Day 21	11	4	Wed	Berth in Singapore (9:00)
Day 22	12	5	Thu	Country Program in Singapore
Day 23	13	6	Fri	Country Program in Singapore
Day 24	14	7	Sat	Country Program in Singapore
Day 25	15	8	Sun	Departure (17:00)
Day 26	16	9	Mon	Cruise 9
Day 27	17	10	Tue	Cruise 10
Day 28	18	11	Wed	Berth in Bangkok, Thailand (9:00)
Day 29	19	12	Thu	Country Program in Thailand
Day 30	20	13	Fri	Country Program in Thailand
Day 31		14	Sat	Country Program in Thailand
Day 32		15	Sun	Country Program in Thailand
Day 33		16	Mon	Country Program in Thailand
Day 34		17	Tue	Departure

*The schedule is subject to change under the circumstances.



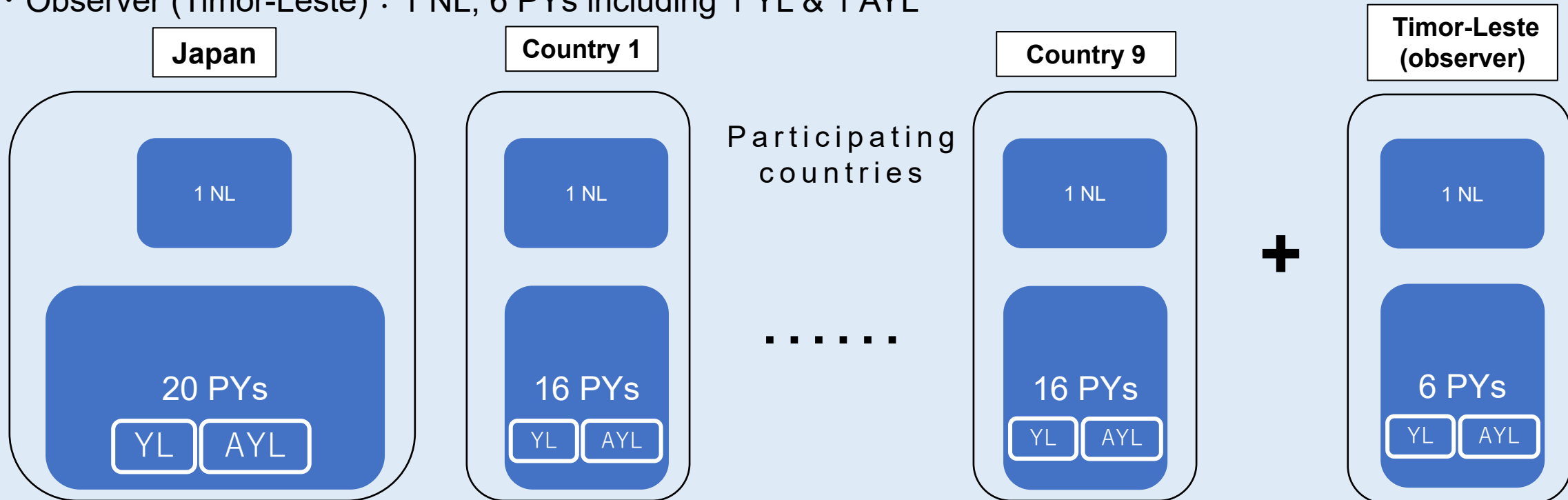
Number of Participants per country

■ Participating countries

Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia
Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Japan
※ Observer participation: Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

■ Number of participants per country

- Japan : 1 National Leader (NL), 20 Participating Youths (PYs) including 1 Youth Leader (YL) & 1 Assistant YL (AYL)
- ASEAN member countries : 1 NL, 16 including 1 YL & 1 AYL
- Observer (Timor-Leste) : 1 NL, 6 PYs including 1 YL & 1 AYL



Total Number of Participants

○ 11 NLs

○ 170PYs

Total: 181 participants

Country	No. of NL	No. of PYs	Total
Brunei Darussalam	1	16	17
Cambodia	1	16	17
Indonesia	1	16	17
Lao P.D.R.	1	16	17
Malaysia	1	16	17
Philippines	1	16	17
Singapore	1	16	17
Thailand	1	16	17
Viet Nam	1	16	17
Japan	1	20	21
Timor-Leste (observer)	1	6	7
Total	11	170	181

170PYs will be divided into six Discussion Groups according to their preference prior to the inauguration of the program. 6 Discussion themes are shown in the next slide.

Discussion Themes 2026

Discussion Themes have been selected based on the “Implementation Plan of the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation *Trusted Partners*” adopted in the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation (17 December 2023, Tokyo)

DG	Theme	No.	Contents
1	Quality Education	1.8~1.16	PYs will understand the status and issues of education in ASEAN member countries and Japan. On that basis, PYs will discuss how youth can contribute to ensuring inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all.
2	Economic Growth and Sustainable & Responsible Tourism	1.7 2.1	PYs will discuss how youth can contribute to developing economic growth while achieving sustainable society that maintains the livelihood for current generations and allows future generations to continue to live safely on the planet. PYs will understand the status and issues of tourism in ASEAN member countries and Japan and discuss how youth can contribute to the realization of sustainable and responsible tourism where both tourists and tourist spots give positive effects each other and its negative impact on the economies, cultures, communities, and environments of the places being visited can be mitigated.
3	Global Environment and Climate Change	2.4 2.6	PYs will recognize the current environmental situation and acknowledge the issues of climate change and biodiversity in ASEAN member countries and Japan. On that basis, PYs will discuss how youth can contribute to balancing developments, urbanization and the establishment of sustainable society.
4	Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery	2.7	PYs will discuss how youth can contribute and maximize the achievement of disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery in the fields of politics, society, education and others. Subsequently, PYs will discuss current disaster situation from different perspectives and recognize the challenges and opportunities held among ASEAN member countries and Japan.
5	Social Welfare and Inclusion	2.12	PYs will understand the status and issues of social welfare systems in ASEAN countries and Japan. On that basis, PYs will discuss how youth can contribute to the realization of an inclusive and diverse society where equal opportunities are guaranteed to all, including the elderly, people with disabilities and children, can have a role, support each other, and have equal opportunities to live their own lives with peace of mind.
6	Digital Society and AI	2.9	PYs will understand the best practices from around the world where digital technology is used, and the current situation and issues in ASEAN member countries and Japan. On that bases, PYs will discuss how youth can contribute to promote digital society. As the use of AI continues to advance, PYs will also discuss the expanded use of AI technology and its impact on the labor market.

Click on below URL to view “Implementation Plan of the Joint Vision Statement”

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiJl8PEtNWGAxXUs1YBHb9rCFsQFnoECBYQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mofa.go.jp%2Ffiles%2F100597130.pdf&u sg=AOvVaw3KhnlU9S313VozdZoAUaeT&opi=89978449>

Detailed Schedule of the Discussion Program (tentative)

By the end of July	Pre-program	Selection of Facilitators Japanese government will determine the Facilitators.
August 25		Facilitators Meeting (Online) The objectives of each DG shall be finalized.
By the end of October		Japanese government decides the groupings of PYs. Pre-program assignments and contact lists shall be ready.



January 19	Program in Japan	Arrival of facilitators in Japan
January 21 to 26		Discussion Group Meeting (Discussion Program Steering Committee members selected) Discussion Program Steering Committee Meeting (Discussion of the details of implementation) Introductory Program Group Discussion I Field Study (Relevant to discussion group themes)

January 27 to February 3	Onboard Program I	Discussion Program Steering Committee Meeting Group Discussion II to V Wrap-up Program (DG reports, Presentation Preparation and Self Evaluation)
--------------------------	-------------------	---



February 4 to 8	Program in Singapore	Field Study (TBC)
-----------------	----------------------	--------------------------

February 9 to 10	Onboard Program II	Introduction to post-program projects design and implementation (Project Management)
------------------	--------------------	--



February 11 to 16	Program in Thailand	Field Study (TBC) (Presentation Preparation) Presentation of Discussion Results
February 17		Departure from Thailand

*The schedule is subject to change under the circumstances.