

SSEAYP NEWS NO.43 2021

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SHIP FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND JAPANESE YOUTH PROGRAM

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SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference



Due to the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19, the 47th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) scheduled in 2020 was decided to be postponed until next year with careful consideration of the situation of COVID-19. Instead, **SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference** was carried out in January and February, 2021 to promote friendship and youth exchange between Japan and ASEAN member countries continuously even in the era of COVID-

19 pandemic. SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference consists of two online conferences, the Next Generation Leaders Conference and the SSEAYP Conference for Considering its Role and Significance.

(1) Next Generation Leaders Conference

Participants discussed the nine topics (Policy, Diplomacy, Education, Global Company, Entrepreneurship, ICT, NGO/NPO, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, and Infrastructure), based on the situation of COVID-19 pandemic. Each discussion group was led by a facilitator and the discussion activities included a virtual field study.

(2) SSEAYP Conference for Considering its Role and Significance

Ex-Participating Youths (PYs) of SSEAYP discussed how the SSEAYP had contributed to foster friendship between Japan and ASEAN member countries and youth development, how the program could contribute to the friendship and youth development in the future, and made proposals from the standpoint of Ex-PYs how they could enrich and make a meaningful program in the future.

Date	SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference
January 24, 2021	Opening Ceremony Remarks by Mr. Sakamoto Tetsushi, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office
	Keynote Speech Speaker: Mr. Haji Muhamad Iqbal Fakhri bin Haji Damit (Brunei Darussalam PY of SSEAYP 2009, Brunei Darussalam National Leader of SSEAYP 2018)
	Group Discussion I (by Discussion Group (DG))
January 31, 2021	Field Study and Group Discussion II (by DG)
February 7, 2021	Group Discussion III (by DG)
February 21, 2021	Presentation of Discussion Results

COUNTRY REPORTS

Persatuan BERSATU (SI Brunei Darussalam)

The Legasi Youth Camp, held in September 2019, was a PPA project organized by the 45th batch. It was held in the Temburong district with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. The camp aimed to inspire future youth leaders and a second edition has been in the planning.



The second Dine in the Dark Project, held in October, was organized to raise awareness on the visually impaired community due to the success of the first one in 2018. The event attracted 50 participants including the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports with the support of Community Development Department and the Brunei Darussalam National Association of the Blind.

To end the year, a friendly bowling tournament was arranged by the 45th batch. The sporting event managed to gather a huge number of ex-PYs as it also served as a mini reunion for most of them.

In March 2020, BERSATU supported and welcomed the

Malaysian Future Leaders Group during their visit to Brunei where BERSATU arranged homestay opportunities for the participants. BERSATU members also showcased local food and traditional costumes during the closing ceremony at the local Youth Center.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of activities scheduled by BERSATU were halted and most of BERSATU members became active volunteers in helping the government and front-liners including distribution of food and basic necessities to the families under home quarantine as well as the elderly. To date, BERSATU members are still working voluntarily at airports, mosques and whichever institutions that require assistance.



SI Cambodia

In 2020, SSEAYP International Cambodia (SIC) successfully conducted two big projects amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

[SSEAYP International Cambodia Library]

One of the fundamental contributing factors to growth and development is reading. For this reason, we decided to construct a SSEAYP International Cambodia Library for Ping Pong Primary School, located in Damnak Rang Commune, Oudong District, Kompong Speu Province. The school's former library was constructed in 1979. As the years passed by, its wooden structure had deteriorated, and the roof leaked during rainy season.



All students were required to evacuate the building for safety when it was raining because parts of roofs and ceilings could fall on them. Construction of the new library (size: 8.5m x 16m) is expected to be completed by January 2021. The library will be ready to serve the new academic year 2021-2022. Since this primary school does

not have enough classrooms, the new library will also serve as the classrooms. The construction costs USD30,000.

[SIC Joins Hands with the Government in Fundraising to Purchase COVID-19 Vaccines]

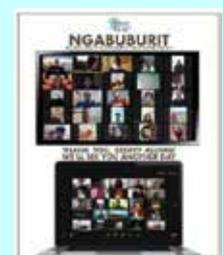
Even without the Royal Government of Cambodia's appeal for funds to purchase the COVID-19 vaccines, SIC believes that every Cambodian is entitled to vaccination. We believe that vaccination not only helps protect Cambodian lives, but also that it helps the economy to recover.

SIC thus appealed to all ex-Cambodian PYs from SSEAYP batch 1997 to 2019 through social media (SIC Facebook Page and Groups of Telegram) to voluntarily donate their fund to help the government purchase the COVID-19 vaccines to provide to all Cambodians. SIC has created a bank account named 'SSEAYP INTERNATIONAL CAMBODIA' to raise fund to support various social causes with the aim to cultivate the culture of sharing in our communities and to inspire the future generations to contribute to social development. SIC collected USD4,000 in total and donated it to support the government's COVID-19 vaccination fund.

SSEAYP International Indonesia Inc. (SI Indonesia)

In March 2020, SSEAYP International Indonesia Inc. has already planned and prepared several programs and projects, part of the organization's annual agenda e.g. webinar for Discussion Facilitators and selection of Candidates - PYs for the awaited 47th SSEAYP in 2020. However, due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the plan and preparation have to be adjusted to the occurring situation. From April to June 2020, SII Inc. was focusing on the food aids donation program to help victims of COVID-19 in rural areas, as well as support medical workers in several hospitals by donating hazmat and masker.

Among the 3-month donation program, SII Inc. has managed to conduct virtual reunion with SSEAYP Alumni all over Indonesia in May 2020; continued with a virtual tour (foreign & domestic) which was scheduled in sessions by our alumni. With such limited condition, the idea of digitalization in various importance has become essential for organizational management. In July 2020, SII Inc. managed to update the SSEAYP Indonesia Alumni database,



initiate new digital platforms, and promote the social media to increase interconnectivity between alumni and public audience.

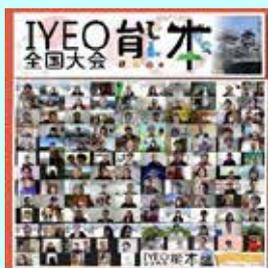
Celebration of ASEAN Day was campaigned from early August 2020, along with a sporting challenge for SSEAYP Indonesia Alumni to celebrate the Independence Day of Indonesia. The programs were participated by the various batch of SSEAYP Indonesia Alumni and compiled into a video to share their experience in one theme. With the longing pandemic of COVID-19, SII Inc. encouraged the daily implementation of “new normal” protocols by launching SII Inc. new



product: SSEAYP Mask which has been delivered to regions all over Indonesia and SSEAYP Alumni overseas.

While the whole month of September was mostly filled with our re-promotion of SIAGA (SSEAYP Indonesia Alumni Grant Activities), which will be conducted again in early 2021 as SIAGA 2, SII Inc. celebrated the 33rd anniversary on 13 October 2020. Despite all the events, for the first time in 46 years, SSEAYP Indonesia Alumni couldn't conduct Pre-Departure Training in such period; converting them into the virtual program and online project, recently the selection of candidates for SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference.

International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)



IYEO National General Assembly is organized annually, and 47 prefectural branch organizations usually take turn to host the event. Under the situation of COVID-19 pandemic, IYEO held the virtual National General Assembly on December 5, 2020 for the first time in its history, hosted by

137 participants enjoyed the event, including the keynote speech, workshops, post-program activity report, and virtual social gathering. A keynote speaker from Ajisen Ramen, which is a Kumamoto-based chain of Ramen noodle restaurants, shared their experiences on how they started their business and built it into a world-famous Ramen noodle chain with more than 800 outlets all over the world, including Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

IYEO Kumamoto.

KABESA (SI Malaysia)

As a kick-start of 2020, SSEAYP International Malaysia (SI Malaysia) has organized a synergy workshop to brainstorm alumni almanac for the 2020 session. This workshop was participated by SI Malaysia management board members and the SSEAYP 2019 participants.



In February 2020, SI Malaysia has welcomed IYEO Sapporo - Malaysia Friendship Tour delegates to Kuala Lumpur on 14 - 18 February 2020. This program was handled and coordinated by our alumni members from Kuala

Lumpur Chapter. In solidarity with the COVID-19 response, SI Malaysia had been involved in a street charity program in March 2020, in collaboration with the Malaysian Youth Council (MYC). Among the activities held are food packs to homeless people around Kuala Lumpur city center; and also the front liners (policeman, etc.) who were on duty during the Movement Restriction Order (MRO) phase.

On 19 April 2020, a virtual sharing session on “Discussion Facilitator Application 2020” was conducted to help the

preparation of the interested applicants on the application guidelines. The participants were also exposed to the real experience sharing by the latest batch Facilitator, Mr. Khairuddin Othman.

As part of community service, SI Malaysia had team up with Malaysian Humanitarian Movement (MHM) to build a basic water supply system for the villagers and school in rural Sarawak (Ulu Baram, Miri). MHM had completed two major projects recently involving SI Malaysia members as secretariats, volunteers and also technical crew members.

Despite the challenges and limited opportunity to organize physical activities during this pandemic, SI Malaysia members remain connected and positively in touch through social media and online platforms; to maintain the relationship and to provide social support for each other.



SSEAYP International, Association for Youth Development (MYANMAR) (SI Myanmar)

There was port-of-call activity of SSEAYP 2019 (4th time) at Port of Yangon, SI Myanmar with a large number of ex-PYs put in every effort for the welcoming and sending off ceremonies and Reunion Onboard (ROB). As expected our ROB was a great success with so many attendees from abroad - 13 from Japan alone. We agreed to meet again in February 2020 for our Post-Program Activities.

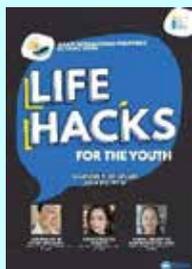
In March 2020 WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Myanmar also declared COVID-19 a pandemic - the Central

COVID-19 Response Committee and Ministry of Health and Sports issued declaration for the public to “stay at home and avoid crowds.” The restrictions was extended month by month, but we had the General Elections on November 8, 2020, the eligible voters are very keen to cast ballots and pre-election campaigns to vote started. The Central COVID-19 Response Committee and Ministry of Health and Sports had to declare that gathering of more than 30 will be dispersed by Police.

“Stay at home and travelling restrictions” were there till December 5, 2020 so it was totally impossible for our AA to

carry out our activities. We will try our best to make up with our Post-Program Activities after all this mess.

SSEAYP International Philippines, Inc. (SI Philippines)



[Life Hacks for the Youth]

Webinar on handling mental health issues and dealing with stress during the pandemic

Date: October 10, 2020, 5PM to 7PM

Location: via Zoom

Participants: Open to the public, especially to ex-PYs

Background: The webinar focused on handling one's

mental health especially during the coronavirus pandemic. This webinar had the following topics discussed by experts who are also ex-PYs from the Philippines:

“Survival Kit for College Students in Online Education” by Ting Valdepeñas-Patriarca, PhD (PY 1996)

“From Stress to Stability” by Gail Reyes-Galang, PhD (PY 1994)

“Animal Therapy as a Response to Wellness” by Carmela Sanchez-Arreola, PhD (PY 1992)

SSEAYP International Singapore (SIS)

Biennial General Meeting: SSEAYP International Singapore conducted its Biennial General Meeting on 19 September 2020. It recounted the achievements of the 3rd Executive Board (EB) and elected the 4th Executive Board. 1st EB President Mr Alvin Lee presided as Chairman of the Elections Committee. 184 ex-PYs participated in the virtual meeting and voted for the new team. The new EB comprised veteran alumni members with more than half of the team coming from the recent 10 batches. Singapore PY of SSEAYP 2010 Fong Yoong Kheong (34 years old) was elected to lead the 4th EB.

SSEAYP Day: How does one commemorate SSEAYP Day in a COVID-19 world? We celebrated via a virtual Noodle Party on 7 October 2020. A total of 42 participants, including 38 SIS members and 4 foreign PYs joined in the session.



Onboard, every PY would attest that Noodle Parties were a great way to bond and hang out at the end of the day. With a little SSEAYP Kahoot! quiz to trigger the memories,

and a breakout session to share their experiences with other members, everyone's excitement was palpable to reminisce the onboard memories with the noodle party! How nostalgic!

One such member, Singapore PY of SSEAYP 2016 Francis Goh brought four caps that he received during SSEAYP to share his memories. One was a gift from his NL, a cultural headgear, a SSEAYP sailor cap merchandise gotten from his Indonesian host family and a cap received from Vietnamese PY of SSEAYP 2019 when he was a SSEAYP Liaison Officer in 2019.

At the Noodle Party, SIS unveiled an exclusive SSEAYP Cup Noodles t-shirt that participants could purchase. Mr Isaac Chung, Director, Merchandising and Digitalisation shared that SIS members could look forward to more SSEAYP SG merchandises.

Courtesy Calls: The 4th SIS Executive Board also held meetings with partners, such as the National Youth Council and Japan Creative Centre and representative from Japan Embassy in Singapore, to discuss on potential collaborations.



Association of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth of Thailand (ASSEAY Thailand)



In early 2020, ASSEAY Thailand had focused its effort on the preparation of the 32nd SIGA (SSEAYP International General Assembly) in Pattaya. After much planning and preparation, the association informed and invited the

various embassies of the ASEAN region and Japan to participate in the event, and surveyed the event venue to ensure the participants will have the most enjoyable and memorable experience possible.

Meanwhile, we were honored to participate in the dinner

reception celebrating the 60th Birthday of H.M. the Emperor of Japan on February 20, 2020 at the Athenee Hotel, with H.E. Nashida Kazuya, the Ambassador of Japan to Thailand, as the host.

However, when the COVID-19 pandemic was escalating into an international threat, ASSEAY made the heavy but necessary decision of postponing the 32nd SIGA indefinitely to protect the health and safety of the SSEAYP community above all else.



Lao SSEAYP Alumni Association (LSAA)



In October 2020, LSAA organised 'LPY Badminton Friendship Tournament 2020' to promote solidarity and friendship amongst Ex-Lao PYs. There were more than 55 Ex-Lao PYs from batch 2000s - 2019

who participated in the tournament.

In late 2020, LSAA supported the Lao Youth Union to organise the Lao Youth and Child Festival 2020 at the Lao International Exhibition and Convention Centre (Lao ITEC) in Vientiane Capital, Laos. Local and international youth, individuals, business operators and investors were interested in the event, and ambassadors of ASEAN and Japan to Laos were invited to the opening ceremony as well. At the festival, LSAA and its members set up three booths to display photos, VDOs and souvenirs of each batch of Lao PYs from 2010 - 2019 to promote the SSEAYP for



local youth and event's visitors. Many students, youths and visitors were attracted by SSEAYP Booths, Lao PYs' announcements and games.

On December 12, 2020, LSAA and Ex-PYs organised the 3rd LSAA Congress at Lao Youth Union to evaluate the performance of the 2nd LSAA Committee and elect the 3rd LSAA Committee's members. The congress was led by Ms Keo Oudone SENGANYVONG, acting president of the 2nd LSAA, honourably attended by H.E. Alounxai SOUNNALATH, the alternative of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, member of Lao National Assembly (Parliamentarian), Secretary-General of Lao Youth Union, and joined by more 120 Ex-Lao PYs from batch 1998 - 2019 and INDEX from 2008 - 2018. As the congress's outcome, Mr Yangpao PAYEVUE (Ex-Lao NL 2004 of SSEAYP and Ex-vice president of the 2nd LSAA) was elected to be the 3rd LSAA's President, and the new 13 LSAA's committee members were voted into the association's administration.

Vietnam Alumni Club of Youth Friendship Exchange Programs (VACYF)



December 17-18, 2019: Right after turning back to Viet Nam, Vietnamese PYs (VPYs) of SSEAYP 2019 immediately carried out their first PPA namely "Sạch sành sanh" at Muong Men

Primary and Secondary School in Van Ho, Son La province. This PPA was held with the participation of 295 students. VPYs and sponsor had built new toilets besides guiding children to take care their personal good health and hygiene.

February, 2020: VPYs of SSEAYP 2019 organized their second PPA - Dear Tet (Tết thân thương). Those main activities include visiting, giving gifts and sharing love with

the lonely elderly at Phu Binh leprosy camp, Thai Nguyen province.

April 2020: VPYs of SSEAYP 2019 hosted the SSEAYP TOUR to provide updated and most recent information regarding SSEAYP to potential candidates. Due to the COVID-19, this tour was conducted online via live stream and webinar.

October 2020: VPYs of SSEAYP 2019 continued to carry out PPA activities which intended for children. They spend whole day playing, teaching and giving gifts to unlucky children at Hope Center, Ha Noi.



POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES (PPAs) of PYs of SSEAYP 2019

Brunei Darussalam

A total of 128 youth (100 participants, 28 Bruneian PYs), ranged from 16-29 years old, took the challenge to volunteer and cared for 30 senior citizens for almost 4 months. Project QAWA aims to promote quality care and bridge the gap between the youth and senior citizens.



A series of facilitated workshops were conducted by Ministry of Health, Dementia Brunei and KESAN (a local NGO), to equip volunteers and the general public with necessary skills and provide more understanding in quality care towards the elderlies. The workshops demonstrated the participants how to create awareness on social exclusion and abandonment amongst the elderlies. Topics on dementia as well as risk and health hazards were presented.

The 13 teams are assigned according to the residence catchment area and visitation to the elderlies were once or twice a month per team between 11 October 2020 - 6 February 2021. Part of their tasks were to clean their residences, assist the elderly in physical and recreational activities

such as shopping and light exercises. On hand during the closing ceremony and appreciation dinner was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports who urged the youth to take a good lesson from the project. He hoped that the project will be a starting journey to all of the participants and a reminder to them that senior citizens required care especially from the younger generation. Such community support and awareness on the elderly are also necessary due to their important role in community development.

Cambodia

Planning for the future is such an indispensable skill for youth, especially in their teenage years when most of them are not sure whether or not to pursue higher education, what majors to study, or what career path to follow. Through the **Future Discovery Day** held on January 5, 2020, Cambodian PYs of SSEAYP 2019 helped 70 high school students in Banteay Meanchey province expand their perspectives, explore a large variety of options in life beyond what they observed in their small villages, and

attain practical skills to plan, analyze, and decide on their future with better information and critical assessment. Moreover, since we had a large pool of resource persons and connections with other educational institutions, we also provided a **4 months mentoring support** to the students in order to help them plan, manage and lead a more successful academic life as well as to advance their personal growth and leadership development journey.

Indonesia

Indonesian PYs (IPYs) of SSEAYP 2019 returned to the homeland by carrying out a social activity titled “All of Us Matter” Project. This program is a manifestation of the delegation's social contribution to the community which is also an annual agenda of the SSEAYP contingent called “Go and Grow.” This program is based on the awareness of IPYs who are aware of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On this occasion, IPYs visited the Class II Special Child Development Institute (LPKA) Jakarta. IPYs conducted the activities by interacting with students in place. “Hopefully this activity is not just once, it will be very good if it can be sustainable. Especially if the students can be taught about certain useful skills so that they can be accepted once they're back to the community and lead an independent life. I am also very supportive if the activities here (LPKA Class II Jakarta) can be used as an example to be continued in other regions in Indonesia,” said Akhmad H. S., Head of Development Section.



Through this 2020, due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the implementation of All of Us Matter Project has been shifted into a virtual event; present amid Indonesian society to help create a harmonious life between people and is oriented towards self-development and the environment. The webinar series discussed four main sectors that are most

affected by the current situation and conditions: Education, Mental Health, Entrepreneurship, and Environment. The webinar series was conducted from 21 to 22 October 2020; two virtual sessions each day. With Zoom as a digital platform, the webinars were hosted by many experts and activists who have various ideas and experiences on the related sector. From the Founder of Floating School and education enthusiast, Co-Founder of an emerging psychology digital platform, the staff of Coordination Board of Investment of the Republic of Indonesia, then many more for the environment sector such as Co-Founder of Sea Soldier.

Japan

Japanese PYs of SSEAYP 2019 organized a PPA called “TOUCH” on July 5, 2020. It was an online event that gave Japanese youths the opportunity to learn about ASEAN member countries and to discuss social issues in English. Thankfully, five ex-PYs from Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand joined us as guests.

The event had two parts. In the first half, the guest ex-PYs from Southeast Asia had short presentations and introduced their countries. In the second half, the participants and guests discussed one of the four topics

based on their interests: environment, education, social media, and COVID-19. Many participants said that they enjoyed exchanging opinions with the guest ex-PYs.

Currently, it is difficult to visit foreign countries due to COVID-19. However, the success of the event shows that we can still interact with people from all over the world online. We hope that Japanese youths become more interested in international exchange and feel closer to ASEAN member countries.

Lao P.D.R.

During February 2020, Lao PYs of SSEAYP 2019 conducted two social contribution activities called ‘GARBAGE MATTER’. The first social contribution activity was conducted on February 10, 2020 at Don Nune High School, Xaythany District, while the second was carried out on February 14, 2020 at Park Torn High School, Sangthong District, both are located in Vientiane Capital, Laos. There are four main activities such as; the presentation about the non-separation garbage and its drawbacks; Sharing the four



R's Principles (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse); Raising the awareness on youth-children knowing how to separate, recycle and creatively reuse some types of garbage; and promoting SSEAYP. More than 260 local teachers, children, and youth actively joined the programmes for the attendees, including the Q&A session for knowledge and prizes. The programmes were also attended and supported by the representatives of the Lao Youth Union, LSAA, and business donors.

Malaysia

"MaPY Wanderlust" was the PPA generated following the announcement by the government to only allow inter-state travelling due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, Malaysian PYs (MaPYs) of SSEAYP 2019 decided to carry out PPA by promoting interesting and unique places in every state within Malaysia as a tourist destination, on MaPYs' social media platforms.

This PPA served as a substitution and betterment plan for the originally planned PPA; "Warisan Kita" at Lenggong which was not able to continue because of the lockdown implementation due to the COVID-19 outbreak. In



addition, this PPA will serve as one of the ways for MaPYs to show a full support to the campaign of Visit Malaysia 2020 event which was due to take place later this year.

Sustainability in tourism industry generally addresses two main categories which are the effect business has on the environment and society. MaPYs took this seriously and

worked with it diligently. Let us promote travel local to boost the local economic and market. However, we hope for the COVID-19 to ease a little bit so that we can travel abroad as well.

Myanmar

After arriving back from SSEAYP, Myanmar PYs of SSEAYP 2019 decided to carry out the very first phase of the PPA at the Ngat Aw San Borstal, where underaged offenders are confined under certain rules and regulations. Our aim for this PPA is for it to be in alignment with SSEAYP's main theme which is "Youth participation



in social activities". In order to do so, we held discussions on personal dreams in which we tried our best to motivate the youngsters to continue chasing their dreams and did fun activities such as playing games and storytelling in small groups. We also made a necessary donation to the borstal.

Philippines

[Isip, Salita, Gawa]

Knowledge Exchange Program by Batch 2019

Date: December 15, 2019

Location: Tagaytay City, Philippines

Participants: Youth Government Officials from Tagaytay City

Background: Isip, Salita, Gawa (Mind, Speech, Deed) is a knowledge exchange program conducted by Philippine PYs (PPYs) of SSEAYP 2019 in partnership with the City Government of Tagaytay City. The participants are various youth government members of the legislative body



of the various barangays in the city. The program consists of talks about community development and civic engagement. The participants were grouped according to their selected topics taken from the nine discussion topics during SSEAYP 2019. The PPYs mentored the groups related to their respective Discussion Groups during the program. participants are tasked to propose a project for Tagaytay City. On the pitching session, the project proposals were critiqued by the PPYs together with the city officials who attended the activity.

Singapore

A group of 28 young Singapore ambassadors contributed to COVID-19 assistance efforts through their PPA. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Singaporean PYs (SPYs) of SSEAYP 2019 organised on an online fundraiser "RaiseLoveRaiseFunds" for charity. The beneficiary was

Boys' Town which serves young Singaporeans from disadvantaged families, and who may have faced domestic abuse and neglect. Several of Boys' Town's youth were not able to stay in their own homes during the Circuit Breaker (a partial lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19), and relied on Boys' Town for shelter.

The contingent set a target to raise S\$5,500 to commemorate Singapore's 55th year of independence. The fundraiser was also dedicated to the memory of the late Andy Iskandar, facilitator of SSEAYP 2019 and a strong believer in the power of youth, especially in supporting disadvantaged youths. Andy had succumbed to cancer in June 2020.

From 30 August 2020, SPYs set out as advocates for Boys'



Town, engaging friends and family on the challenges faced by Boys' Town, and canvassing for donations. They did it through the #Walk4Love initiative, which saw 19 SPYs clocking 1,310km over 11 long distance walks; and the #YoudoIdonate Squat Social Media Challenge where individuals made

donations on behalf of friends who were nominated to perform simple squat exercises to the tune of the "Macarena" song. The Squat Challenge videos generated a combined reach of more than 300 on Instagram. The SPYs also crafted tokens of appreciation to gift to campaign donors. These gifts were either handmade by SPYs or born from tie ups with local businesses as part of Singapore's efforts to #supportlocal. Donors could #spreadthelove and gift the item to their friends.

Over six weeks, the 46th SPYs fundraiser raised a total of S\$6,299 for Boys' Town. This was supplemented by an additional S\$3,539 from the SPYs contingent fund, resulting in a total of S\$9,838 contributed to charity.

Thailand

Thai PYs of SSEAYP 2019 conducted One School One Project (OSOP), at the 2nd Municipal School, Kapang Surin temple, Trang, from February 29 – March 1, 2020 with aims to promote young entrepreneurship in local communities. The main activity was to educate the 60 students from 4 nearby schools on Online Marketing, Design Thinking, Personal Finance, Presentation Skill, and also, the students

have the opportunity to present their ideas on business development in a market simulation. The best of all, we found that the activity can encourage the students to add value in local resources by using entrepreneurship skills we taught. ASSEAY is proud to support the empowerment of Thai youths and their communities.

Viet Nam

“How to stay hygienic from top to toe” project, their PPA, was implemented at Muong Men school located in Son La a rural province in Viet Nam with the aim of equipping nearly 300 mountainous students with the knowledge in terms of sanitation and environment for the sake of sustainable development. For providing better studying conditions, new restrooms were built for the health betterment of

children. By creative tools that Vietnamese PYs (VPYs) designed including hand-washing songs and approachable lessons, children who had been coping with the lack of environmental and hygienic knowledge were educated how important keeping hygienic is with structural lessons. Last but not least, VPYs already handed over the teaching materials to local teachers.

THE PROMINENT EX-PYs

Brunei Darussalam



Hj. Rozan is a retired Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Lifelong Learning (C3L), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He also taught at the Academy of Brunei

Studies and Institute of Policy Studies. He joined C3L in 2017 after serving 30 years in the Brunei Government where among others he was Permanent Secretary at Prime Minister's Office.

He has a degree in Law and Economics from Keele University; a Masters degree in Public Administration from

Harvard University; and a second Masters degree in Business Administration from Heriot-Watt University. He has published more than 10 books and was a columnist for 10 years at the former national newspaper, The Brunei Times writing on culture and history.

His research is on public policy, government studies and Islamic Governance. He currently owns and manages his own independent publishing house "Qasrun Nafis Publishing House" where he helped academicians and authors to publish their works and his own consultancy "Qasrun Nafis Consultancy & Training Services" where he assisted companies in consultancy related to Public Policy, Government Studies and Islamic Governance. Hj. Rozan was a Youth Leader in SSEAYP 1990.

Cambodia



Dr. Chan Sophal (former President of SIC 2011-2012, and Cambodian National Leader of SSEAYP 2004), is currently working as the Deputy Director of the Radio and TV Station of the Ministry of Interior

of Cambodia. He is also the owner and chairman of Newtown International School (NIS) and Brachnasatra

Technology Institution (BTI) located in Kampong Speu province. As the owner of NIS and BTI, he has offered a lot of scholarship opportunities to poor students every year. He is also well known as a successful farmer who has grown thousand hectares of coconut trees. Through the NIS, BTI and coconut farming, he has provided various capacity buildings and job opportunities to the communities. Dr. Chan Sophal is an important and trusted human resource of SIC. He continues to spend his valuable time to participate and comprehensively assist in SIC activities and projects.

Indonesia



Dr. H. Abdurrahman Mohammad Fachir or known as A.M. Fachir; was born in Banjarmasin, 26 November 1957. He joined SSEAYP in 1978 and it was an eye-opener as well as a life-changing experience for him. SSEAYP has given him the confidence to pursue his career as a Diplomat focusing on education and

humanitarian assistance. In education, he initiated the funding to build a student's boarding house at Al Azhar University and released a book titled "A Portrait of Indonesia - Egypt Relations", which was published in both Bahasa Indonesia and Arabic. As a philanthropist, he promotes the welfare of Indonesian workers abroad and contributes to many humanitarian actions. He was the Ambassador of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Cairo,

Egypt and appointed as the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs by President Joko Widodo in 2014, among one of three Vice Ministers in the cabinet. His wife, Yasmin Fachir is an SSEAYP Alumni as well. The couple is consistently

contributing to many SSEAYP International Indonesia Inc. activities. Recently, he became a speaker on SSEAYP Talk during Pre-Departure Training.

Japan



Ms. Nozoe-Parsons Mio (PY 1999, Facilitator 2006) started to work for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in December 2003. After stationed in Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Somalia, Pakistan, Lao P.D.R., Yemen, and Senegal, she currently serves as the Programme Policy Officer (Head of Resilience and Food System) at WFP Sudan. She has been engaged in a wide range of activities, including

emergency relief, nutritional support to pregnant and lactating women and children, school feeding and now focuses on resilience and a productive safety net programme. WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for its efforts to provide food and other logistic / technical assistance in disaster areas and serve people in need, and to mitigate food insecurity and prevent the use of food as a weapon of war. We are proud that one of the SSEAYP alumni works as a part of the award winning team!

Lao P.D.R.

Mr Thathsaphone LERTHATHAVONE started applying for SSEAYP as a PY in 2002 before joining the programme in 2005. During the preparation for and participation in SSEAYP, he learnt a lot about self-capacity and networking building. After SSEAYP, he keeps sharing his impressions and perceptions of program participation, inspiring Lao youth and contributing to Lao SSEAYP society. He voluntarily



devotes himself to the selection and training processes of new Lao PYs each year from 2005 until 2010. From an ordinary Lao youth and ex-Lao PY, he was elected to be the board president committee of the 2nd LSAA in April 2011. Since Laos joined SSEAYP in 1998, he is the first ex-Lao PY who decided to work for the Lao Youth Union as a government official. Due to his prominent contribution, he, currently, is the Director of the ASEAN Division, International Relations-Cooperation Department, responsible for ASEAN Youth Programmes and SSEAYP.

Malaysia



A long serving member of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) and a veteran in the Logistics and Transport Industry especially in Malaysia, with a duration of combined experience of almost 50 years locally and globally. He would always focus on the policy of everyone matters, working to build influence with governments state and federal. Collaboration with departments and agencies, NGO's, business councils and trade commissions whilst ensuring to remain open and inclusive, ready to listen and to understand differences. Ready to adapt the new normal and the new reality at the quickest time going forward for the future.

Dato' Ts. Abd Radzak Abd Malek, FCILT had gone through a complete cycle in Malaysian Railway since 1972 - 2009.

With 37 years of experience he rose up from junior to senior position and finally as MD in 2008-2009.

His involvement as a student leader from as early as 1970's brought about an excellent opportunity when Malaysian Youth Council nominated him to be a participant of SSEAYP 1978. He was then elected as Youth Leader (YL). He was so indebted to The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Malaysia for the honour and trust to lead the delegates. It was the first international platform that he considered as the testing ground to his leadership.

Today he holds the position of International President, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT). This Professional Institute was founded in 1919 with a mission to improve industry practices and nurture talent while assuming its role to be the custodian of the Science and Art of Logistics, Transport and Supply Chain. With his slogan "Stronger Together", he keep performing at his best.

Singapore



Mr Thomas Thomas is the Founder and CEO, ASEAN Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Network (ACN) since 2010. Under his leadership, ACN drove the business and human rights agenda by conducting the baseline study on CSR and human rights in ASEAN for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on

Human Rights (AICHR) in 2014 and in formulating the regional strategy for CSR and Human Rights with AICHR in 2016. ACN also worked with ASEAN tripartite partners (Governments, Employers and Trade Unions) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to formulate the ASEAN Guidelines for CSR on Labour, adopted by ASEAN Labour Ministers in May 2016.

Mr Thomas is a member of the Global Steering Committee of the ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour since 2018, and a member of the United Nations Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) Business Advisory Council (EBAC) since 2012. He is a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Council of amfori, a trade association in Europe promoting sustainable trade. He is a member of the Technical Committee on Enabling Processes at Enterprise Singapore and chairs its Working Group on ISO26000 international guidance standard on social responsibility.

Mr Thomas began his career with Shell Eastern Petroleum (Pte) Ltd in 1971 and served in the union from 1973. He was President, United Workers of Petroleum Industry (UWPI) in 1982; the first General Secretary, Singapore Shell Employees Union (1984-2008); National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) Central Committee member (1988-2007). He represented the labour movement in various government bodies, including the Economic Review Subcommittee on

Wages; National Wages Council; National Internet Advisory Council; Industrial Arbitration Court; Central Co-operative Fund; Public Transport Council. He was also a Nominated Member of Parliament (1999-2001).

Mr Thomas co-chaired the National Tripartite Initiative for CSR, which recommended the formation of a permanent organisation to promote CSR in Singapore. He led the implementation and founded Singapore Compact for CSR (now known as the Global Compact Network Singapore) as its Executive Director (2007-2013), establishing it as the leading CSR organisation in Singapore.

Mr Thomas received the Veteran of Labour (Star) from NTUC in 2008 and the Public Service Medal from the President of the Republic of Singapore in 2002.

Mr Thomas participated in SSEAYP in 1979.

Thailand



Asst. Prof. Dr. Gumpanat Boriboon has been the Secretary General of ASSEAY Thailand since 2002 - 2018. He attended SSEAYP in 1997. He has been a coordinator in several youth development activities and SSEAYP post-program projects, including the ASSEAY Thailand -

IYEO Fukushima Exchange Program and ASEAN-Japan Community events. With exceptional contribution to

ASSEAY Thailand and SSEAYP related activities, Asst. Prof. Dr. Gumpanat receives an opportunity to become a Deputy Secretary General of the SSEAYP International (2009 - 2010). In addition to his strong and continuous dedication to and involvement with ASSEAY Thailand, he is the Adult Education Department Head, Faculty of Education, Srinakarinwirot University, specializing in Adult Education and Non-formal Education, particularly in Live-long Learning, with numerous extensive researches, lectures, and presentations both within Thailand and internationally.

Viet Nam



Dr. Nguyen Hai Minh joined SSEAYP as a Vietnamese PY in 2008, and then he took the role as a Vietnamese NL in 2012 while he was a lecturer of the Viet Nam National

University in Ha Noi. Currently, he is the Director General of the International Department of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee cum Vice President of Viet Nam Youth Federation, Secretary for International Affairs of the National Committee on Youth of Viet Nam. Dr. Nguyen Hai Minh is actively in charge of international affairs of the National Committee on Youth of Viet Nam and making significant contributions to the network of the SSEAYP's alumni in Viet Nam.

2020 Spring Conferment of Decorations



Mr. Visit Dejkumtorn, a former Thai PY of SSEAYP 1975 and the former President of ASSEAY Thailand, awarded "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" for his invaluable contributions to youth exchange and friendship between Japan and Thailand and the other ASEAN member states. He is the second alumnus of SSEAYP

after Tuan Haji Mohamed Auzi Bin Daud of Malaysia, who was conferred of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays in 2007.

A Message from Mr. Visit Dejkumtorn

The beautiful world is the world of friendship; is the world full of people who are positive and friendly to each other.

There is a saying which reads: After crossing the canal, do

not forget to thank the bridge. And, if there's anyone taking you across oceans, seas, crossing the equator over to lands of six countries, would you want to thank them?

The Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program initiated by the Government of Japan, on which I set sail 45 years ago in 1975, not only provided me the opportunity to spend my inquisitive younger days in six different countries getting to know fellow young minds from those lands and nurturing the blooming friendship throughout the program, but also to experience valuable and life changing encounters with both human resources and professional administration at the international level. These have resulted in the values and belief system of the person who I have become. Another flower long sprouted and grown from that seed of opportunity is our sustained friendship among the program members. It budded first in 1975 and has been blooming with sweet fragrance with medicinal qualities until this day.

I started with having friends in five ASEAN countries, now

grown into ten. I have so many Japanese friends spreading in various locations all over Japan.

In 2003, I was greatly honored to represent all the participating members of the SSEAYP Alumni Association in commemorating the 30th years of the program. The key phrase emphasized in my speech was “we are on the right track.”

Once a learned man said, “Kindness must be repaid; resentment must be forgiven.” Our living world can only become a truly happy home only when we dedicate ourselves both to repaying kindnesses given to us, and also to forgiving those whose wrongs have harmed us. Only then can we create and nurture lasting friendship.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to

the Government of Japan for bestowing upon me “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays” in recognition of my work. This is truly a great honor. And on a personal level, I am proud to know that my Japanese friends value what I have worked on and that they proposed my name for such an honor.

We are on the right track in promoting friendship by beginning at the level of the individual. I have been happy taking part in this endeavor. I hope that all of us will actively pursue the shared goal of building our world community of friendship, understanding and full of smiles!

Let’s work hard toward “Global Smiling!” Let’s build bridges crossing canals - crossing resentment, crossing misunderstanding!



Reports about ex-PYs Responding to COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Melanie Chua (Singapore PY of SSEAYP 2018)



Understanding how mentally draining and stressful it could be for those who need help with their studies but had no one to turn to, especially during the Circuit Breaker (a stay-at-home restriction measure), Melanie led her team of volunteers from Gek Poh North Residents’ Network to support students who might not have access to tuition. Her team offered

free virtual tutoring services each week for primary and secondary school students specifically focusing on those who are taking major examinations in 2020.

Melanie also initiated an online fundraising drive “Able to Click” (Link: <https://www.giving.sg/campaigns/abletoclick>) to encourage the public to perform a handful of clicks to

contribute to a good cause. Having observed people with special needs within her community and inspired by how her wheelchair-bound neighbour continues to pursue her interests in the arts, Melanie started the fundraiser to support SPD, a local charity helping people with disabilities maximise their potential and be a part of mainstream society, in light that the COVID-19 pandemic had halted physical fundraising activities.

To encourage the SSEAYP community during the pandemic, Melanie worked with a group of PYs of SSEAYP 2018 to share words of encouragement and smiles through the #SharingEncouragementAcrossTheWorld project. They gathered responses, nominated friends and posted pictures of how they had been staying at home. See video: <https://vimeo.com/414236996>

Ms. Soon Bee Siang Sherry (Singapore PY of SSEAYP 2010)

With the Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) level raised from Yellow to Orange in February 2020, a wave of panic swept across Singapore. Sherry was worried that the fear in the community would result in a me-against-the-world mentality among the public. She believed that by sparing a thought for those working on the frontline, there would be a sense of unity that the society could benefit from.

As founder of ground-up movement Be Kind SG, a ground up movement which aims to inspire acts of kindness and increase the visibility of the “invisible” communities, Sherry tapped on contacts and experience with Be Kind SG to rally Singaporeans to unite for a bigger cause, through showing appreciation for the frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19.

Within three weeks, Sherry mustered more than 4,500 volunteers from about 45 schools, organisations and agencies on board the effort to assemble 7,000 care packs for healthcare workers of Tan Tock Seng Hospital and the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) who were at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. Each care packs came with thank-you cards made by students and inmates from the Singapore Prison Service.

Sherry believes that it was a platform for the students especially, to express appreciation to healthcare workers. Their teachers also saw it as a learning experience on showing gratitude towards the people who help to keep them safe.

Sherry also continued Be Kind SG’s regular engagement with residents of welfare homes via virtual means, where volunteers play games and sing songs with intellectually disabled adults via video conferencing tool Zoom to keep them entertained.

In recognition of her efforts, Sherry received the Leader of Good Award from the President of the Republic of Singapore Mdm Halimah Yacob at the President’s Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards Ceremony 2020.

As of December 2020, Sherry and her team had distributed 11,000 care packs to frontliners, including healthcare and public transport workers, and 700 activity kits for children from over 15 different non-profit organisations.



DIRECTORY OF SSEAYP INTERNATIONAL (SI)

As of January 1, 2021

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[FULL MEMBERS]		
	Persatuan BERSATU (SI Brunei Darussalam) No. 10, Block C3, Spg. 32-5, Flat Angrek Desa, BC 3786, Brunei Darussalam https://www.facebook.com/sseayprunei	Ms. Hjh Rosmawatiniah Pa Hj Ibrahim (1991 PY, 2006 NL, 1994 OBSC), President Mr. Haji Khairul Ariffin Bin Hj Abd Aji (2008 PY, 2017 OBSC), Vice President Mr. Haji Mohamad Paizzal Bin Haji Piluk (2014 PY, 2017 Facilitator), Secretary General
	SI Cambodia c/o Administration Building of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport 5th Floor, Street 380, Sangkat Boeung Keng Kang 1, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia https://www.facebook.com/sseaypcambodia	Mr. Sreang Kimlee (2004 PY, 2012 NL), President Mr. Hor Samnang (2005 NL), Vice President Ms. Sokun Sophakreasey (2013 PY, 2019 NL), Vice President Mr. Nay Semnarorth (2013 PY, 2018 NL), Vice President Ms. Heang Nicole (2013 PY), Secretary General
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	International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) Tokyo Nori Bldg. 6F, 2-35-14 Nihombashi Ningyocho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0013 Japan Phone: +81-3-3249-0767, Fax: +81-3-3639-2436 Email: sseayp@ieyo.or.jp http://www.ieyo.or.jp/ https://www.facebook.com/IYEOJapan	Mr. Koge Masaharu (SWY PY), President Ms. Honda Atsuko (SWY PY, 2005 Facilitator), Vice President Mr. Nagasue Tatsuya (SWY PY, SWY NL), Vice President Ms. Sasaki Yuko (SWY PY), Vice President Ms. Kojima Makiko (SWY PY, SWY NL), Vice President
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	SSEAYP International, Association for Youth Development (MYANMAR) (SI Myanmar) Room D7, Building 421, Shwegondaing Road, Middle Shwegondaing Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar Phone: +95-1-642227 Email: simyanmar2015@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/Sseayp-International-Myanmar-SI-Myanmar-2314076158647430	Mr. Khin Maung Yi (2000 NL), President Ms. Su Su Hlaing (1998 PY), Vice President (1) Ms. Aye Aye Thant (2012 NL, 2014 NL), Vice President (3) Mr. San Ko (1999 PY), General Secretary Ms. Kay Thi Win (2002 PY, 2017 OBSC), Secretary
	SSEAYP International Philippines, Inc. (SI Philippines) #17 Masbate St., Nayong Kanluran, West Avenue, 1104 Quezon City, Philippines Email: sseayp.philippines@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/SIPhilippines	Mr. Feliciano Manuel B. Manlulu II (1991 PY, 1994 OBSC), Chairperson of the Board Mr. Dennis Lawrence T. Sebastian (1994 PY, 2018 OBSC), President Ms. Melissa S. Reyes (1986 PY, 1991 OBSC), Vice President for National Affairs Ms. Darwisa A. Amilasan (1989 PY, 2019 OBSC), Vice President for International Affairs Mr. Jezreel M. Pataguan (2017 PY), Corporate Secretary
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	Association of the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth of Thailand (SI Thailand) P.O. Box 1, Education Post Office, Bangkok 10304 Thailand Email: asseay_thai@yahoo.com https://www.asseaythailand.com/ https://www.facebook.com/ASSEAYThailand	Mr. Jakraphun Thanateeranon (2004 PY, 2009 OBSC, 2014 NL), President Ms. Pattria Sriputtangkul (2010 PY), Secretary General
[ASSOCIATE MEMBERS]		
	Lao SSEAYP Alumni Association (LSAA) c/o Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union Phonthan Road, Saysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao P.D.R. Phone/Fax: +856-21-416-727	Ms. Keoudone Sengmanivong (2000 PY, 2001 NL), Acting President Mr. Thathsaphone Lerththavone (2005 PY, 2013 OBSC, 2015 NL), Board President Committee
	Vietnam Alumni Club of Youth Friendship Exchange Programs (VACYF) c/o Centre for Youth Development and International Cooperation (CYDECO) 62 Ba Trieu, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi, Viet Nam Phone: +84-4-62631935, Fax: +84-4-62631934 Email: vacyf.vietnam@gmail.com	Mr. Tran Trung Hieu (2017 NL), President Ms. Nguyen Y Van (2012 PY), Vice President Ms. Nguyen Minh Chau (2018 PY), Secretary Mr. Hoang Minh Thong (2012 PY, 2015 OBSC), Secretary
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	SSEAYP International c/o International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) Email: si.secretariat@ieyo.or.jp https://s.id/sseaypinternational https://facebook.com/sseaypinternational.org https://instagram.com/sseayp.international	Mr. Shiratori Masanobu (1993 PY, 2003 NL), Secretary General Ms. Tajima Yukiko (1999 PY, 2001 OBSC, 2002 OBSC), Deputy Secretary General Assist. Prof. Dr. Siripong Preutthiphan (1991 PY, 2007 OBSC, 2011 NL), Deputy Secretary General