

# SSEAYP NEWS

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# SSEAYP YOUTH CONFERENCE 2021

Youth Engagement in Achieving SDGs: A Route Map for Change



SSEAYP Youth Conference 2021 was carried out to promote friendship and youth exchange between Japan and the ten ASEAN member countries continuously even in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conference aims to promote friendship and mutual understanding among the youths of Japan and ASEAN member countries by participating in various exchange activities. As a result, it is expected to cultivate the youth who can exercise their leadership skills in various fields in the globalizing society, take the world's social agenda as their own issues, and move into action to solve those issues. The Conference was conducted online with 270 participating youths (PYs) from 11 participating countries, sharing several common activities with the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP). The activities included the Group Discussions, and the Peer Learning Sessions planned and organized by PYs.

In the Group Discussions under the theme “Youth Engagement in Achieving SDGs: A Route Map for Change,” the PYs deepened their understanding of the world's social agenda and discuss how youth can contribute to achieving 17 goals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) grouped by the following nine topics: 1. Empowerment of All People, 2. Poverty / Access to Water and Food, 3. Employment and Decent Work, 4. Education, 5. Resilient and Sustainable Cities, 6. Good Health and Well-being, 7. Life on Land, 8. Life below Water, and 9. Sustainable Energy.

In the Peer Learning Sessions, the PYs were involved in each session either as an organizer or a participant. The Peer Learning Sessions focus on sharing and discussing organizers' knowledge and experiences with a relatively small number of participants in the peer learning style.

Date	SSEAYP Youth Conference 2021
November 28, 2021	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> Remarks by Mr. WAKAMIYA Kenji, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office <b>Keynote Speech</b> Speaker: Ms. TATSUNO Madoka (Japanese PY of the 28 <sup>th</sup> SSEAYP, CEO / Founder of GiFT (Global Incubation × Fostering Talents)) <b>Group Discussion I</b> (by Discussion Group (DG))
December 5, 2021	<b>Peer Learning Session I</b> <b>Group Discussion II</b> (by DG)
December 12, 2021	<b>Peer Learning Session II</b> <b>Group Discussion III</b> (by DG)
December 19, 2021	<b>Peer Learning Session III</b> <b>Group Discussion IV</b> (by DG)
January 9, 2022	<b>Presentation of Discussion Results</b> <b>Closing Ceremony</b> <b>Self-Evaluation</b> (by DG)

Note: Lecture by Guest Speaker (by DG) was included during either Group Discussion I, II, III or IV (by DG).

# THE 32<sup>ND</sup> SIGA JAPAN 2022

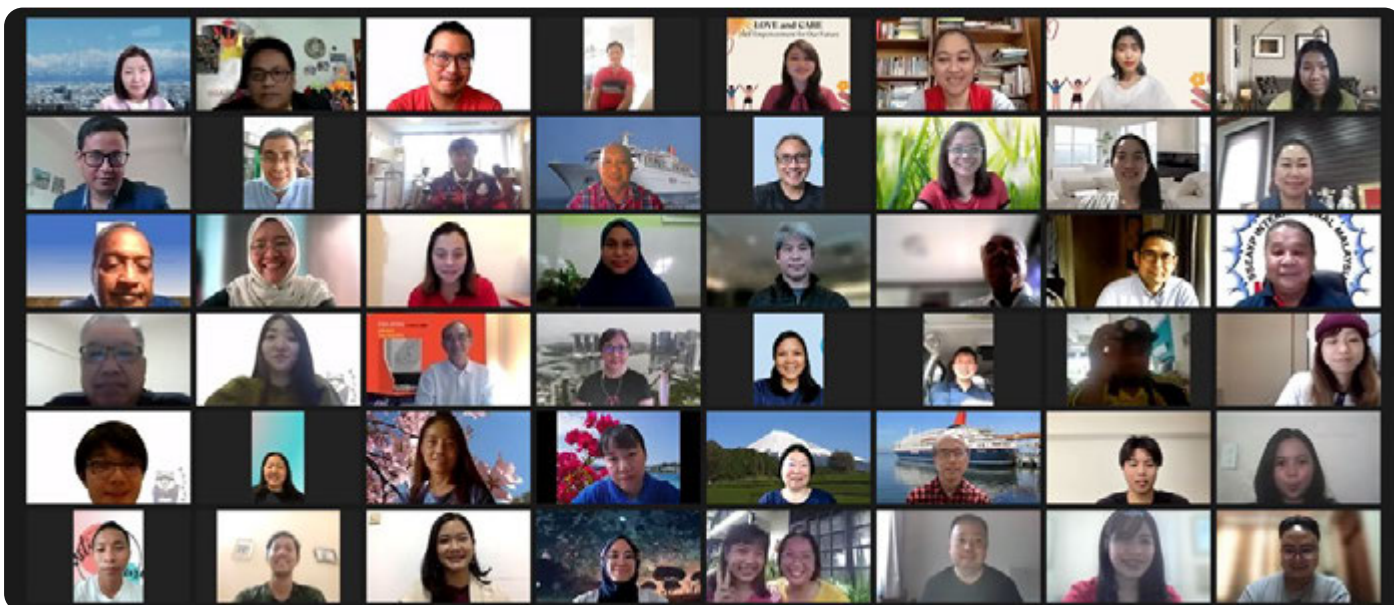
SSEAYP International General Assembly

Activate Our Future



Three years have passed since we had our last SIGA (SSEAYP International General Assembly) face-to-face in 2019 hosted by BERSATU in Brunei Darussalam, and the subsequent SIGA was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, there are hopeful signs in the situation surrounding COVID-19; however, the situation is still unpredictable. The year 2022 commemorates the SSEAYP International (SI)'s 35th year anniversary since its establishment in 1987, and the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) hosted SIGA virtually on Sunday, March 13, 2022, under the theme "Activate Our Future." SIGA Japan 2022 was co-hosted by SI, IYEO, and the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan.

Over 780 ex-participants of SSEAYP and other international youth exchange programs, host families, friends and families enjoyed their first reunion in a long time virtually. While we live in a society full of uncertainty and challenges, the participants were motivated and empowered by the words of the keynote speaker, Mr. YOSHINO Keiichi, "Do NOT make an excuse and just give it a TRY!"



Time (JST)	SIGA Japan 2022
14:00-14:30	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> (Plenary Session) Remarks by Mr. KUROSE Toshifumi, Director General for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office Remarks by Ms. TAKEUCHI Shiho, Chairperson of SIGA Japan 2022 Organizing Committee
14:30-16:00	<b>Keynote Speech</b> (Plenary Session) <b>"Activate Our Future - SSEAYP, Dari K and Chocolate -"</b> Speaker: Mr. YOSHINO Keiichi, Japanese PY of the 28 <sup>th</sup> and 36 <sup>th</sup> SSEAYP, CEO of Dari K Co., Ltd.
16:15-17:30	<b>Breakout Session</b> A: Let's dance Soran-bushi together!! B: Online SANSA Dance Festival C: Self-Empowerment for Our Future D: Fulfilling Our Life with Koji Dishes E: Vegan Japanese Cooking Class F: OKONOMIYAKI Party!! G: Welcome to beautiful and active Nagano! H: Iramkarapte! Welcome to Hokkaido! I: THE GAME OF LIFE - Original Version of IYEO - J: SSEAYP Career Talk: Virtual Café & Discussion
17:30-18:00	<b>Closing Ceremony</b> (Plenary Session) Remarks by Mr. SHIRATORI Masanobu, Secretary-General of SSEAYP International





## "BACKBONE OF OUR SUCCESS"



**Country Report:** As a youth organization, our community is the backbone of our success. One thing we miss is being able to contribute to youth empowerment through conducting events and charity work. Since the COVID-19 crisis emerged, everyone has had to make adjustments so we are proud of our alumni in still being able to give back and uphold our values as an organization. Therefore, we would like to highlight some PYs who have made significant contributions in the battle against COVID-19. In the picture, from left to right: **Meela Adreeyana Hj. Aliuddin** (PY2005), **Hajah Rosmawatiniah P. A. Hj. Ibrahim** (PY1991, OBSC1994, NL2006), and **Ahmad Nabil F. Hj. Mahrub** (PY2008) have their sayings about the project.

**Rosma Ibrahim:** "I love to give comfort to clients who shares to me that they are scared of needles or that they are afraid of the unknown effect of the vaccine. The elderly who hold my hand while they are being vaccinated, the comforting assurance that I can give them are all I need to know that what I did is right. It gives me a sense of satisfaction to know that however small the task that I do, it does help other people in a big way." **Meela Adreeyana:** "Needless to say, I was in the epicenter of things. Unimaginable working conditions and constant firing from the public made my daily life very difficult. Enduring all that, I know I am stronger than I previously credited myself for as I led my team through adversity with few scruffs. I work well despite stress and constant pressure from different sides." **Ahmad Nabil:** "I make sure the arrival of passengers for quarantine follows all SOPs and direct them to their transportation of their respective hotels or isolation centres. Volunteering is a source of happiness for me because I believe true happiness comes from helping others. You may not have a lot of money saved in your life but if you save a lot of heartache for others, you are a pretty rich person."



**Social Contribution Activities:** Apart from the online conference, the alumni only managed to squeeze one main project which was the President's Futsal Cup in March 2021, the first of its kind. Due to the widespread and risk of the COVID-19 and the closure of all sporting facilities in the country, the tournament had to be put on hold one year after its proposed date. The one-day event was aimed to promote healthy lifestyles through sports as well as to foster relationships between the alumni members, foster families as well as members from the Japan and ASEAN foreign missions to Brunei Darussalam. The tournament is hoped to be recognized as an annual competition.



**Prominent Alumni:** **Hj. Jailani** (PY1985, OBSC1989, NL1995) served numerous positions in BERSATU since its formation in 1986 which includes Vice President and President. Apart from projects organized by BERSATU, Hj. Jailani has been involved in activities organised and co-hosted by the Embassy of Japan such as the ASEAN and Japan Children Painting Competition, as well as the Shiga and Shizuoka Prefectures Youth Visit. Besides managing several businesses, Hj. Jailani also spends his days being active in the Brunei Darussalam's Scouts Association since his younger days and has received several awards namely Queen Scouts Award and Scout Wood Badge amongst others.



## “ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER TALENTED YOUTH”



**Country Report:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, SSEAYP International Cambodia (SIC) carried out activities to support the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Cambodia (MoEYS). SIC supported the MoEYS to conduct interviews to select both SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference and SSEAYP Youth Conference 2021. SIC conducted orientation and training sessions for Cambodian delegates for both conferences. In December 2020, SIC announced an official delegate to represent Cambodia during the SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference. The 27 Cambodian delegates and four SSEAYP ex-PYs were selected to attend the conference.

SIC also supported the MoEYS to select Cambodian youths to participate in the SSEAYP Youth Conference 2021. In August 2021, SIC and MoEYS hosted the selection of the Cambodian youth for the conference. In November 2021, 24 Cambodian delegates were selected to attend this program. With strong support from SIC, Cambodian delegates successfully completed both virtual conferences.



**Social Contribution Activities:** SSEAYP 2020 and 2021 delegates had a great chance to support MoEYS in the program of ASEAN Photo Contest 2022. The program provides ASEAN member states with an opportunity to capture and share the authenticity of cultures, beliefs, and unity through photography. On top of that, the program encourages and empowers talented ASEAN youth to promote collective identities and social responsibilities. The key objective is to strengthen ASEAN values and awareness during the global pandemic.

ASEAN member states will be invited to participate in the program with different themes and topics provided. The main activities of this program are to establish a photo contest among youth from ASEAN member states. After the competition, winning photos will be collaged as a photo album to be disseminated among the ASEAN member states. The contest will offer opportunities to young people from ASEAN to actively engage, share, and mutually understand each other's cultural diversities. In addition, it will contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Committee's objectives.



**Prominent Alumni:** Dr. Monirath Hav (PY2005, NL2013) had served SIC throughout its mandates as Head of Social Affairs, Secretary General, and Vice President. She had actively led SIC through various milestones including the first SIGA and the first SSEAYP Port of Call in Cambodia in 2007 and 2014, respectively. Dr. Monirath has been featured in a book entitled “Young Southeast Asia: 40 Inspiring Youths” published in 2008 by the ASEAN Secretariat. One of her most outstanding achievements has been the initiation of national cervical cancer awareness campaign as a collaborative effort between SIC, the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC) and the Ministry of Health, which has tremendously contributed to the increase in cervical cancer vaccination and screening rate in the country. Dr. Monirath earned her Medical Doctor degree in Cambodia, specializing in Pathology or Cancer Diagnostics. She also completed her Master's degree in Cancer Research from Australia and a Ph.D. in Medical Sciences from Belgium. She is currently serving as Associate Director of Pathology and Cancer Research at a cancer research laboratory in San Francisco, USA, where her work focuses on understanding how new biomolecules can activate the immune system to fight cancer.





## "GIVING AND THRIVING TOGETHER"



**Country Report:** SSEAYP International Indonesia Inc. (SII) started 2021 with the participation of 10 alumni in SICO 2.0, arranged by KABESA - SSEAYP International Malaysia. Besides enhanced production and promotion of the Ship Mask (after SSEAYP Mask in 2020), SII tried to optimize the digital technology during this pandemic by conducting several virtual sessions and web seminars; one of them featured SII active members which were studying abroad during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, SII has successfully conducted the Pre-Conference Training (Jakarta, Nov. 2021) for the delegates of Indonesia - SSEAYP Youth Conference 2021. Part of providing the participants with various insightful sessions and practical advices for the second SSEAYP virtual conference, as well as an excellent opportunity for the alumni to reunite again to give and thrive together.

**Social Contribution Activities:** Along with the campaign of COVID-19 national vaccinations program, SSEAYP International Indonesia Inc., through SII Peduli Program, responded to three regional-scale natural disasters which happened in 2021. From the earthquake in West Sulawesi Province and flooding in South Kalimantan Province as of early January to the volcano eruption (Mount Semeru) in East Java Province on December. With the fundraising campaign and promotion through social media, and direct help from SSEAYP Indonesia alumni who live near or in those provinces, packages of shelter kit and food aid have been distributed to the disaster victims. Donations were collected not just from Indonesia, but also from overseas through the SSEAYP alumni network.



**Prominent Alumni:** **Laretna T. Adishakti** (PY1978) is a Lecturer and Coordinator of the Center for Heritage Conservation, Dept. of Architecture and Planning, Faculty of Engineering, Gadjah Mada University, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Laretna received her Doctorate in Engineering from Kyoto University, Japan (1997), while her Master of Architecture degree is from the University of Wisconsin, USA (1988). Currently, Sita, her nickname, facilitates as Co-Founder and Vice President of the Indonesian Heritage Trust, and Co-Founder and Board of Advisors of the Jogja Heritage Society. She facilitated Borobudur Heritage Saujana, Asian Heritage, Kotagede Heritage District post-earthquake, Imogiri Saujana Batik Heritage, and Jogja World Batik City. She is also Trusty of Galeri Batik Jawa Indigo Co. Ltd.; Board of Experts for "Sekarjagad" Batik Society, and Board Members for TTASSEA. Sita is Board of Advisors, ICOMOS Indonesia; a Member of the Asian Academy for Heritage Management UNESCO-ICCROM. Sita, who is also a painter and flower arranger, was selected as a participant of SSEAYP (1978); the Outstanding Young Persons, Osaka Junior Chamber, Japan (1992); an Eisenhower Fellow, USA (2002), served as Selection Committee for Rolex Award for Enterprises in Geneva, Switzerland (2006), received Nikkei Asia Prizes (2009) for Culture and "Practical Award 2015" from Association of Rural Planning, Tokyo, Japan.