

PHILIPPINES

SSEAYP International Philippines Inc.



"SIP IN WAVES"



Wisdom: SSEAYP Academic Conference. As part of the 2022 SSEAYP month celebration, SIP held the SSEAYP Academic Conference (online) on October 22, 2022. Over 400 members of the SSEAYP alumni community from the Philippines and abroad attended the event. Four ex-Pys from the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia presented their thesis papers on topics including Japan's Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power through SSEAYP, the use of WhatsApp for maintaining intercultural friendship, the SSEAYP-Sick phenomena, and Education for Sustainability in International Youth Programs. Through academic research, the conference explored the impact of SSEAYP on participating youths, contributing to knowledge in the fields of diplomacy, communication, culture, and sustainable development.

Artistry: SIP Art Fundraiser. To commemorate SSEAYP and the 50 years of ASEAN and Japan friendship and cooperation, SIP organized an Art Fundraiser in 2023, raising USD 5,000 to support its projects and activities. Renowned sculptor and 1994 PPY Ovvian Castrillo-Hill created two SSEAYP-inspired masterpieces, "Inseparable" and "11 Waves," along with 50 pieces of the limited-edition brass artwork "Vessel of Good," inspired by the artist's own SSEAYP experience.

Vibrancy: The SIP National Convention. In collaboration with the SIP Davao Region Chapter, SIP organized the "Panaghiusa" (unity) National Convention from June 9-11, 2023, in Davao City. This marked SIP's first large-scale in-person event since the pandemic. The convention was attended by 135 local and foreign alumni participants. The gathering included an alumni town hall meeting, visits to the Philippine Eagle Center and Imin Philippine-Japan Historical Museum, cultural dinner events, and concluded with the ASEAN and Japan night, where the symbolic ticker tape, traditionally used when the Nippon Maru leaves the port, was thrown from the stage. This nostalgic and spirited convention allowed each participant to relive the experience of being a PY.

Emergency Relief: Typhoon Paeng Operations. In October 2022, Typhoon Paeng (NALGAE) devastated parts of the Philippines, from Luzon to Mindanao. SIP provided essential support with USD 1,000 from SSEAYP International's Disaster Relief Fund. The funds aided relief and rehabilitation efforts in Cavite, Mindoro, Antique, Maguindanao, and Marawi. Local SIP alumni collaborated to donate temporary shelters, food packs, hygiene kits, and school tables to the typhoon victims.

Stewardship of the Earth: SIP Day Mangrove Planting. In honor of SSEAYP International Day on October 7, 2023, SIP organized a mangrove tree planting activity in Barangay Ajong, Sibulan, and Barangay San Isidro, Tanjay City, Negros Oriental. Fifteen SIP members and 300 volunteers planted 11,000 mangrove seedlings, dedicating a thousand to each SSEAYP participating country. This project also paid tribute to the 50th year of ASEAN and Japan friendship and cooperation in 2023.



Prominent Alumni: Dr. Josette Talamera Biyo (PPY 1978) is currently the director of the Department of Science & Technology – Science Education Institute. She is a Filipina biologist and became an academic administrator of the Philippine Science High School System. As an educator, she championed teaching science and research in the rural communities. Her mentorship and teaching methods have cultivated noteworthy scientists in diverse fields of research, including oceanography, marine life, physics, and robotics. Dr. Biyo has received several local and international recognition for her contributions to science and education. But most notable and unique among these recognitions was receiving the 2002 Intel Excellence in Teaching Award. For this, she was honored by having a minor planet between Mars & Jupiter named after her by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lincoln Laboratory, USA.



“BRIDGING THE GAP FROM VIRTUAL TO VITAL”



Against the backdrop of global improvements in the COVID-19 situation, the primary focus of the 5th Executive Board has been to revitalize interpersonal connections through physical gatherings, unveiling a meticulously planned series of activities aimed at reuniting and engaging our esteemed alumni. The year 2023 commenced with a Year Rep Gathering on January 13, 2023—an integral session expressing gratitude to these representatives for their pivotal role in sustaining the connection between SSEAYP International (Singapore) and the alumni.

These gatherings not only acknowledged their tireless efforts but also provided a platform for shared insights and discussions on the path forward. On May 21, 2023, the SSEAYP Hari Raya Celebration 2023 unfolded with the theme "SSEAYP Lebaran Klasik," weaving the richness and diversity of Malay culture as depicted in classic films from the 40s to the 80s. This festive gathering played a pivotal role in connecting ex-PYs and foster families, fostering bridges between communities while raising awareness and understanding of Hari Raya traditions. The event aimed to transcend cultural boundaries, creating a shared space for joy, camaraderie, and mutual appreciation.

On October 7, 2023, we organized a **Tree Planting Day to commemorate the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation**, aligning with SDG 13 and the Singapore Green Pillar 2030 initiative. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the importance of tree planting, environmental conservation, and express concern for the environment. Ex-SPYs from various SSEAYP batches, along with ASEAN & Japan Ambassadors and representatives, were invited for this significant event. On the same day, a special gathering convened for our homestay families, acknowledging the pivotal role they play in our SSEAYP community. This event served as a sincere expression of our appreciation for the profound commitment displayed by our homestay families. Their selfless dedication in volunteering to provide nurturing homestay experience for all participating youth in Singapore has been a significant contribution to the success of our programs. This gathering stood as a token of our gratitude, recognizing their unwavering support and commitment to the SSEAYP cause.



Prominent Alumni: Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagarajan (SPY 1986) is honored with the 2024 David Richardson Medal for his remarkable achievements in the manufacturing and commercialization of InP and Si-based photonic integrated circuits. He holds degrees from renowned universities and has extensive leadership experience in technology, making a significant impact on the industry. Now, Nagarajan is the SVP and CTO at Marvell, overseeing optical platform development, and serves as a Visiting Professor at the NUS. His groundbreaking contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including the IEEE/LEOS Aron Kressel Award, being a Fellow of prestigious organizations. Nagarajan currently resides in California with his wife, Ayano, also a former PY, and their daughter.

THAILAND

Association of the Ship for SouthEast Asian Youth of Thailand



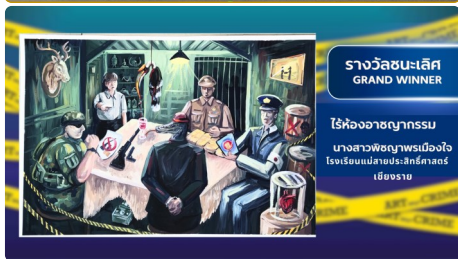
“JAPAN-THAILAND-ASEAN RELATIONS”



In early 2023, the **ASSEAY Thailand representatives attended "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" awarding ceremony** and congratulated Dr. Chai Nimakorn, the recipient of the award, for the recognition of his work and achievements in Japan-Thailand-ASEAN relations as the former ASSEAY president from 2002-2012. Dr. Chai Nimakorn is the advisor and former president of ASSEAY. He has made numerous invaluable contributions to youth exchange and friendship between Japan and Thailand, along with other ASEAN countries. Notable activities during his presidency includes SSEAYP International General Assembly (SIGA) Ayutthaya, Tsunami fundraising, and the celebration of the 120th anniversary of Thai-Japanese relations and 40th anniversary of ASEAN. Meanwhile, we were honored and thoroughly impressed to participate in the Dinner Reception celebrating the 63rd birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan at the plenary hall of Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok. The grand reception filled with amazing cultural performances and local products of Japan hosted by H.E. Nashida Kazuya and the Japanese embassy in Thailand. This auspicious occasion truly demonstrates the close relationship between Japan and Thailand in this 135th anniversary of Japan-Thailand relations and 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations.



In midyear, **ASSEAY Thailand collaborates with the School of Digital Arts and Design**, the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), conducted the art camp for the high school and vocational school students to create a painting focusing on the theme "ASEAN-Japan: The Borderland of No Crime" with the goal of increasing awareness about transnational organized crime.



Lastly, on the occasion of "The 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation", ASSEAY Thailand is taking the initiative to organize PPFDC (Profile Picture Frame Design Competition). This competition aims to select a profile picture frame that ex-PYs can use to show their unity and commitment. As the SSEAYP plays a significant role in fostering strong relations and mutual understanding between the ASEAN region and Japan from its early stages, this competition holds special significance.



Prominent Alumni: Tongchit Lawvinitnun (TPY 1983). Following her return from SSEAYP, she established Overseas Ed Group Company Limited, driven by the inspiration gained in the areas of International Understanding and Inter-Cultural Exchange during the program. Her objective is to offer international education opportunities and experience for Thai students aspiring to study abroad. Additionally, she actively engages in non-profit initiatives that support English language education in Thai schools, facilitated by native speakers. Upon her return from SSEAYP, Mrs. Tongchit has been actively involved in ASSEAY Thailand activities, taking on roles such as sub-committee member for host family recruitment, serving as the secretary-general of ASSEAY, and currently holding a position on the association's advisory board.



“EDUCATING YOUTH AND ASSISTING VISIT”



On 23rd May, **LSAA delivered 1 LCD projector set for the Nambak District Youth Union**, Luang Prabang Province, supporting their disseminating information activities and educating young people and adolescents within the district. On 19th-21st August, LSAA supported LYU to conduct the SSEAYP 2023 examination, selecting and training the 47th LPYs to participate in SSEAYP 2023. On 22nd September, LSAA supported LYU's the Implementation Committee of the National Youth & Adolescents Development Strategy 2021-2030 to conduct the training program on the prevention of early child marriage and pregnancy for the local women and young people focused districts of Luang Namtha Province, Lao PDR. On 14th-21st November, LSAA help assisting the country visit of JENESYS Program to Lao PDR, comprising of courtesy calls on LYU's leaders and Japanese Embassy to Lao PDR, visit JICA Laos Office, university and school exchange programmes, home-stay program, local visits, and reporting session. On 20th-24th November, LSAA supported LYU's Implementing Committee of the National Youth and Adolescent Development Strategy 2021-2030 to conduct the dissemination of information campaign in 10 primary and high schools in Vientiane Province, Lao PDR to prevent Child Marriage and Pregnancy and Communicable Sexual Diseases HIV/Aids, Gender-Based Violence against women and girls, and providing the information of LYU's 1554 Hotline Counseling Service for young people to tackle such problems. On 7th-8th December, Representatives of LYU and LSAA attended the Commemorative Event for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship & Cooperation, and the Conference of the Representatives of SSEAYP Alumni Associations Tokyo, Japan.



On 10th November, **LSAA assisted LYU to host** the 27th Meeting of Alumni Youth Clubs of the ASEAN-Japan for Friendship Programme in Vang Vieng District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. There were about 120 representatives of former youth trainees of JICA young leader program from ASEAN-Japan, participating in an annual meeting-discussion programme, conducting social contribution activity at a local primary school – donating stationaries, and visiting local sightseeing.



Prominent Alumni: Dalevanh Nunthavolasing (LPY 2017), currently working for LYU and the 3rd LSAA committee, Dalevanh's involvement in SSEAYP showcases her ability to contribute to the human resource development of Laos and ASEAN-Japan Relations-Cooperation. Previously, she served as the main coordinator for JICA Laos, organizing youth officials' participation in a training program in Japan and facilitating Japanese volunteers' work in Laos. Dalevanh consistently supports the implementation of Laos' National Youth and Adolescent Development Strategy 2021-2030 through various programs and campaigns, including proposal writing for funding support, dissemination of information on child marriage and pregnancy prevention, anti-drug initiatives, lifelong learning activities, vocational training programs, drawing competitions for International Children's Day, and more.



★ "ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AFTER THE PANDEMIC"



The COVID-19 pandemic affected many facets of life and presented numerous difficulties to the world. Several events related to the SSEAYP program, which aims to promote friendship and collaboration among young people in Southeast Asia and Japan, were also postponed. However, as the pandemic has been controlled, the alumni's activities have started to return to their regular schedules. The VACYF collaborated with associated organizations to organize a gathering of former participants of Vietnam

youth friendship programs on February 26, 2023, to commemorate this fresh start. The purpose of this gathering was to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Vietnam and Japan. It proved to be a valuable exercise that helped former participants reconnect, gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between Vietnam and Japan, and exchange ideas for cooperation initiatives that could continue beyond the programs' completion. Additionally, it aimed to strengthen ties, mutual respect, and collaboration among young people in Japan and Vietnam.



After their successful participation in SSEAYP in 2017, the 44th batch of SSEAYP Vietnam (VPY44) has actively pursued and implemented education programs for Vietnamese youth, focusing on foreign language learning and international integration. In 2023, Genie-AYL2017 and Alex-PY2017 from VPY44 joined forces with Tom-YL2012 (VPY39) and Tobey-PY2015 (VPY42) to conduct a series of activities in support of students and youth in the Central Highlands province of Dak Lak. These activities included a talk show on "Learning Foreign Languages in the Digital Age," a workshop on "Modern Cultural Studies: Beyond Paper Books," and a seminar on "Developing Sustainable English Clubs, Teams, and Groups." With their wealth of educational experience, the guest speakers shared insightful knowledge with nearly 300 young people. Through their dedication to community service, the former participants will continue to successfully implement high-quality educational initiatives.



Prominent Alumni: Doctor Nguyen Tu Quang (VPY 2016) "SSEAYP taught me how to appreciate diversity and cooperate for a better, fairer, and more peaceful world. The SSEAYP spirit helped me adapt to an international setting, allowing me to enjoy my time abroad," he added. Tu Quang pursued a master's degree in Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Public Health in the UK in 2021 after completing a commendable assignment as a United Nations peacekeeper for South Sudan in 2019. Following this, he embarked on a new plan and continued to serve the nation and the community. Perhaps, he reasoned, he would board the ship once more in the future, this time as a facilitator or in a completely different role.