

# SSEAYP NEWS

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



**2**  
SSEAYP JOURNEY

**3**  
KEY SHIPBOARD PERSONNEL: ADMINISTRATOR,  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, SHIP CAPTAIN,  
DOCTOR, POSTMASTER, DINING CREW, AND  
HOUSEKEEPING

**5**  
NATIONAL LEADERS (NL) IMPRESSIONS

**6**  
DISCUSSION GROUPS AND FACILITATORS

**7**  
MESSAGE FROM OBSC REPRESENTATIVES

**8**  
COUNTRY REPORTS

**29**  
POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES (PPA)

**34**  
SIGA 2024 AND SIGA 2025

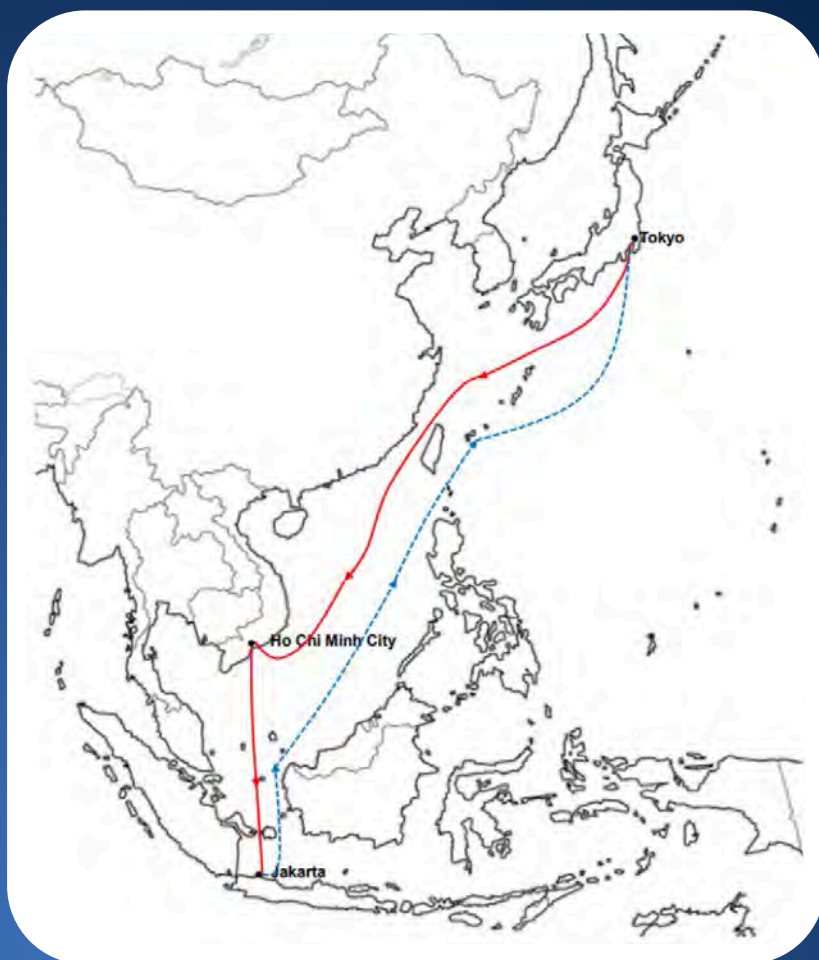
**36**  
PARTICIPATING YOUTH (PY)  
IMPRESSIONS

**40**  
SI DIRECTORY

COVER PHOTO: ADMINISTRATOR

“

## SSEAYP JOURNEY



The 48th SSEAYP was held from 4 November to 11 December 2024. The ship departed from Tokyo Port, Japan, and visited two ports of call along the way, before returning to Japan. During the journey, the Participating Youths (PYs) took part in various onboard activities, including the Discussion Program, Solidarity Group (SG), National Presentation (NP), Peer Learning (PL) Seminars, Voluntary Activities (VA), and more, as well as a range of activities during the respective country program. Through these activities, the PYs not only forged new friendships but also deepened their knowledge and understanding of one another's cultures and beliefs.

### ROUTE

Tokyo (Japan)  
Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam)  
Jakarta (Indonesia)  
Tokyo (Japan)

### DURATION

Nov 4 - Nov 7  
Nov 14 - Nov 17  
Nov 21 - Nov 25  
Dec 4 - Dec 11





SHUNSUKE FUJIMORI  
THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE 48TH SSEAYP, 2024

The new Director of International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office of Japan, Fujimori-san shared that this year marks his first time joining the program. He noted that many aspects of the program were new to him, despite his 20 years of experience working in the Cabinet Office of Japan. Although this year's program lasts only 39 days, he hopes that all the PYs will treasure the experiences they have gained, particularly during the discussion group sessions, solidarity group sessions, and, most importantly, through engaging with one another. He also emphasised the importance of maintaining the relationship between ASEAN and Japan, while preserving the continuity of SSEAYP traditions.

YUKAKO TAKEDA  
THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF FOR THE 48TH SSEAYP, 2024

Having joined the administrative staff, or "admin," in 2017, Yukazi-san described the experience as rewarding, having witnessed many satisfied smiles from the PYs. She enjoyed being close to the PYs, overseeing one contingent and one Solidarity Group. This year, she was honoured to be promoted to Chief, with expanded responsibilities covering all contingents, SGs, DGs, and the Country program. Despite the increased workload, she still found joy in the program and expressed her hope that the PYs gained valuable experiences to apply in their respective countries. She looks forward to seeing them return as OBSCs, NLs, or DG Facilitators, continuing the legacy of SSEAYP.



KOICHI UCHIDA  
CAPTAIN OF NIPPON MARU

Uchida-san has 20 years of experience on the ship, having served on both the Nippon Maru and Fuji Maru. He followed his dream and became the Ship Captain of the Nippon Maru in July 2023. Having witnessed several batches of SSEAYP, he feels that, despite the smaller number of participants, the PYs remain active, energetic, and passionate, which has brought them closer together. His message to the PYs is to cherish their journey and experiences so that the memories can be kept forever. He also encourages the younger generation to learn from and exchange more cultures, as SSEAYP is just one of many opportunities to broaden their horizons.

YASUSHI TANAKA  
DOCTOR

Tanaka-san has been with the Nippon Maru since 2019. He is particularly impressed with this year's PYs, especially their cheerfulness during the National Presentations. One of the most memorable moments for him, from his interactions with the PYs at the clinic, was seeing them tear up when they had to take antigen tests. Although there have been some cases of virus infections, the PYs have recovered quickly with a short isolation period. He encourages the PYs to stay healthy—by eating well and exercising—so they can fully enjoy the program. "Please come to Japan," Tanaka-san said, as he hopes to encourage the PYs to strengthen the relationships between ASEAN and Japan.



## KEY SHIPBOARD PERSONNEL



SHINJI HOSOYA  
POSTMASTER

Aratani-san shared how the PYs' cheerful and energetic nature left a lasting impression on her. Many PYs expressed their gratitude when she served them soup, and she felt happy seeing them eat well and enjoy the food. However, she was particularly touched when one PY gave her a heartfelt Thank You letter. She hopes that the PYs will continue to stay in touch with one another and help bridge the relationship between ASEAN and Japan, strengthening the connections formed during the program.



ARATANI AKI  
DINING CREW



"The PYs are very friendly and always greet us when we pass by," said Lyn and Melody. They shared that seeing the PYs' warm and positive energy truly brightens their day. There are moments when they can't help but feel for the PYs, especially during the send-off ceremonies at every port-of-call. They understand how the PYs must feel, as they too experience similar emotions when they leave their own families to return on-board the Nippon Maru.

LYN & MELODY  
HOUSEKEEPING





# NATIONAL LEADERS (NL)



## From Left:

**TIMOR-LESTE:** Barreto Joao Maria Simao

**SINGAPORE:** Yew Zhengchang

**MALAYSIA:** Yan Mohd Nor Alif Bin Mohamad Noh

**CAMBODIA:** Sos Solihen

**INDONESIA:** Rahmad Hamdi

**VIETNAM:** Mai Kim Tuyen

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM:** Syed Abdul Mu'iz Hj Syed Anayatullah Shah

**PHILIPPINES:** Arumpac Biruar Aelan

**LAO P.D.R.:** Somphone Soulangangsy

**THAILAND:** Varamisra Krisavarna

**JAPAN:** Yuta SANO



**JNL:** It is a great honour to lead the Japan Contingent as JNL. This has been a very exciting experience. I was truly happy to receive a warm welcome from government officials and volunteers in the port-of-call countries. I appreciate the various support from Admins, NLs, JPYs, and my SG PYs, which has enabled me to fulfil my role as an NL.

**VNL:** Being a National Leader is a hard but fun experience. Sometimes, I wish that all PYs would one day become a National Leader, just so they could understand.

**INL:** SSEAYP for me is always a celebration of unity and diversity, where young leaders from Japan and ASEAN countries come together to share, learn and grow. As National Leader, I'm inspired by the PY's passion and teamwork during the journey. Their energy and dreams remind us that collaboration can shape a brighter and more connected future.

**BNL:** Joining SSEAYP for the first time has been a truly eye-opening journey. I'm amazed by how it brings PYs and NLs together through activities such as National Presentations, Discussions, and Voluntary Activities. It's incredible to see strangers become family. This proves that unity and understanding can transcend borders and differences.

**CNL:** My second journey on Nippon Maru, this time as an NL, offered unique experiences. The 48th SSEAYP revitalized ASEAN-Japan collaboration and welcomed Timor-Leste. Congratulations to PYs, contingents, ADMs, and NLs for your remarkable efforts. Together, we've created a beautiful journey that will be cherished and remembered forever.

**LNL:** I am delighted and proud to have the opportunity to lead young people from Lao PDR to join SSEAYP this year. It is a wonderful opportunity to promote mutual understanding, strengthen friendships, enhance future cooperation, and build warm and strong networks and connections, while learning from the diverse cultures and traditions of ASEAN, including Japan.

**MaNL:** As the journey for SSEAYP restarts after a 5-year hiatus due to the pandemic, all eyes are focused on the program with several adjustments, such as the number of participating youths for contingents, the number of days travelling, and the program itself. For me, this is a new experience and challenge to step out of my comfort zone, embrace the unknown, and engage wholeheartedly in every activity and interaction. Arigatou gozaimasu!

**PNL:** SSEAYP has fostered a diplomatic approach to youth relations across the ASEAN countries and Japan. It consistently organises memorable homestay experiences, discussion themes, and culturally informative performances that help every participating youth appreciate each other's traditions and identities. I am grateful to the Japanese government for envisioning a brighter future for the youth leaders of ASEAN and Japan.

**SNL:** After 16 years as an ex-PY and 9 years as an ex-OBSC, it's really wonderful to be back on the ship leading the Singapore Contingent as National Leader! I hope the PYs enjoyed their time together, bonding and networking with one another, forging new friendships and creating everlasting memories, which will live on in their hearts long after the program ends! Continue to learn and share knowledge, and keep that SSEAYP spirit burning! MAJULAH SSEAYP 48th!

**TNL:** I love the way PYs support each other. No boundaries, just friends. They are talented, creative and full of energy. I believe they will distribute what they have learned from SSEAYP to society, be good leaders and make the world more beautiful.

**TimNL:** It is an honour for Timor-Leste to be part of the SSEAYP program. As observers of this program, we have gained invaluable insights through the sharing of experiences, knowledge, and, most importantly, the unity we have fostered through strong relationships with ASEAN countries and Japan. Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Japan and all ASEAN countries. Arigato gozaimasu, Terima kasih, Salam, Orkun, Xin chào, Sabaidee, Khob khun krub, and Obrigado, SSEAYP.



# FACILITATORS



**From Left: Kaya Minagawa (DG1), Rika Mitsuhashi (DG2), Maximiliano Montoya Gonzalez (DG3) Maria Julie Anne Toleran Culibar (DG4), Carmela Dingcong Barcelona (DG5), Annirrahmah (DG6)**



**DG 1 - SOFT POWER AND YOUTH PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIPLOMACY**  
- KAYA MINAGAWA -

The PYs in my DG sessions were incredibly passionate and enthusiastic during discussions and presentations! They were already very talented from the start, but through the sessions, they made significant improvements. I treasured every moment with them and felt privileged to witness their growth as their facilitator.  
Love DG1 PYs!



**DG 2 - ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY**  
- RIKA MITSUHASHI -

PYs explored different aspects of economic growth and new approaches to building sustainable communities. They examined various business models to identify the one that best suits their own community. Then, they created a business model canvas based on a human-centric design.



**DG 3 - CLIMATE CHANGE & GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**  
- MAXIMILIANO MONTOYA GONZÁLEZ -

Our discussion group explored climate change through interactive sessions on science, social dimensions, mitigation, governance, and advocacy. Participants gained valuable skills and strategies to address environmental challenges. With creativity, empathy, and resilience, they are now ready to lead and inspire meaningful action, driving impactful solutions within their communities and beyond.



**DG 4 - DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND DISASTER RECOVERY**  
- MARIA JULIE ANNE TOLERAN CULIBAR -

PYs mapped the social dimensions of society, such as power imbalances and chronic marginalisation, that contribute to and sustain disaster risk. They also explored and discussed accountability levels and challenges in accessing critical lifelines, including food, safe drinking water, and shelter. Overall, the exercises allowed PYs to simulate processes such as dialogues, assessments, analysis, and planning to promote the quality of life for all.



**DG 5 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
- CARMELA DINGCONG BARCELONA -

PYs in DG5 formed a dynamic mix of individuals with both health and non-health backgrounds. Each participant contributed openly to discussions, sharing insights from their knowledge of their countries and personal experiences. They were eager and enthusiastic to explore the diversity and similarities of JASEAN practices in promoting good health and well-being.



**DG 6 - DIGITAL SOCIETY**  
- ANNIRRAHMAH -

The Digital Society group discussion provided PYs with a progressive understanding of universal design principles, an intersectional approach, and best practices in digital inclusion. They explored interventions that address socioeconomic challenges and digital gaps created by rapid ICT development, with the aim of building an inclusive and sustainable digital community.



# OBSC REPRESENTATIVES



**FROM LEFT:**

**KANAKO MIYAKE (MOMO), JPY 2015**  
**NGUYEN HOANG AN (BUMBUM), VPY 2018**  
**RENDY HARSONO PRANATA (RERE), IPY 2015**  
**MOHAMAD PAIZZAL BIN PILUK (PP), BPY 2014**  
**YI RANYBOTH (BOTH), CPY 2017**

**THONGSANITH PHANPHENGDY (NICK), LNL 2013**  
**AHMAD SALMAN BIN AHMAD SUHAIMI (SALMAN), MaPY 2016**  
**MARIA KARINA LUCILLE USON LAUREL (MICHELLE), PPY 1991**  
**GOH SU YING, DAPHNE (DAPHNE), SPY 2017**  
**PATTARIN SANGUANKAEW (JAH), TPY 2015**  
**BELO JOSE ATONIO (JOSE), PY 1994, TIMOR-LESTE**

This year, the OBSC representative's involvement in the 48th SSEAYP proved to be both meaningful and impactful. For the first time, we had the opportunity to collaborate with facilitators, incorporating their findings and ideas into our Post-Program Activities (PPA) sessions. This collaboration enriched the depth of our engagement with the PYs, allowing us to guide and refine their projects more effectively.

Throughout this journey, we were grateful for the chance to facilitate discussions with the PYs, encouraging them to deepen their understanding of the connections among all alumni within SSEAYP International (SI). These sessions not only helped the PYs see the value of unity but also fostered potential collaboration across countries.

Our presence onboard also gave us the unique privilege of working directly with the unsung heroes behind the scenes—Administrators, Admins, Facilitators, the Captain, and the Ship's Crews—whose dedication makes the entire program possible. This direct involvement allowed us to experience the true essence of the 48th SSEAYP journey firsthand and complete the SSEAYP Newsletter—a milestone we could not have achieved without being onboard the ship. Additionally, attending the Conference of Representatives alongside government officials helped further strengthen alumni coordination and our government for future SSEAYP programs.

The 48th Batch PYs left a lasting impression on us with their gratitude, enthusiasm, and dedication. They embraced the program wholeheartedly, forming genuine connections and embodying the true spirit of SSEAYP.

Lastly, throughout this journey, the OBSC representatives have once again demonstrated the core purpose of SI. Our reunion has not only reaffirmed this mission but has also helped to strengthen and embody the values of SSEAYP and SI, fostering unity and collaboration across generations.



# 2024 COUNTRY REPORTS

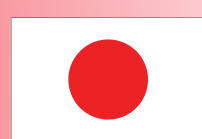






# JAPAN

International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)



The International Youth Exchange Organisation of Japan (IYEO) holds an IYEO National General Assembly annually to gather participants from across the country who have taken part in international youth exchange programs organized by the Cabinet Office and local governments, as well as young people interested in international exchange. The assembly provides a platform for reporting on the progress of Post-Program activities in each region and actively exchanging opinions on ways to further enhance such activities, including building a national network among participants.

This year, the IYEO National General Assembly was held over two days, starting on Saturday, 9 November 2024, in Yamanashi Prefecture. With the theme "Love Your Calling with Passion – Re-examine Your Life's Calling in Yamanashi," the event was attended by 180 people.

In her keynote speech, Ms. Marika NIITSU, a social entrepreneur based in Yamanashi who works to support women in Japan, the Republic of Niger, Bangladesh, and other countries, spoke on the theme "Living Life to the Fullest – My Calling Through Practice in Africa and Asia." Through her international cooperation activities with JICA, she encountered the social issues faced by developing countries and addressed them with a strong sense of calling. Her experiences provided participants with an opportunity to re-examine their own way of life and reflect on what it means to be themselves and to discover their respective callings. Finally, participants wrote down the values they want to uphold in life and their goals on paper.

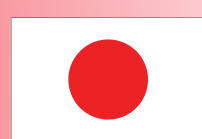


The breakout sessions were divided into eight themes, with each lecturer having a connection to Yamanashi offering activities that could only be experienced there. For example, in the "Passion for Replica Foods" session, a workshop was held where participants could experience making food replicas that reflect the Japanese people's delicacy and diligence in creating things with great care, down to the smallest details. In the "Passion for Japanese Tradition" session, the developer of Yamanashi Prefecture's local karuta, "Koshu Karuta," was invited as a lecturer. Participants experienced playing karuta with a local Yamanashi theme, and each participant created their own karuta related to their hometown, and discussed examples of its use in international exchange and understanding.

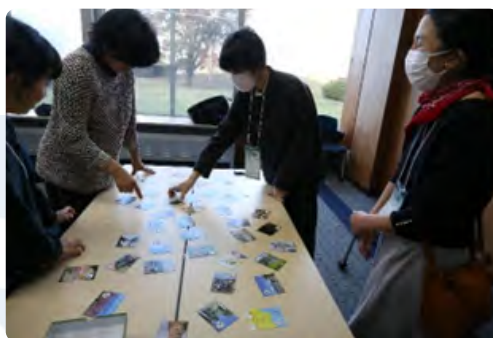


**PROMINENT ALUMNI:** Ms. Aki IMOTO (JPY 2006) worked as a teacher in schools in China and Japan for 10 years after participating in the program. In her hometown of Okayama, she is a member of the International Youth Exchange Association of Okayama (IYEOA), where she is involved in organising events at schools, hosting host families in local programs, and conducting international understanding classes at junior and senior high schools. After retiring, she worked as a Japanese language teaching assistant in Indonesia and now plans and manages intercultural exchange programs to foster mutual understanding between local and foreign residents. Currently, she works in northern Okayama Prefecture under the name Asian Hope Lab., using old houses renovated with local residents as community spaces to plan multicultural exchange and understanding events for local residents and children. She also sells organic dried fruits, primarily produced in Southeast Asia, by weight at the entrance to the houses. By encouraging customers to bring their own containers, she promotes the reduction of household waste.





## The IYEO National General Assembly 2024 in Yamanashi Prefecture, 9 November 2024



## The 20th Anniversary Reunion of "SSEAYP 31st" in Shimane Prefecture, 14 September 2024

