

# SSEAYP NEWS

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SSEAYP Route  
Message From The Administrator  
Message From The Ship Captain  
SIGA 2025 | SIGA 2026  
Country Report  
49<sup>th</sup> SSEAYP PY Impressions

Discussion Facilitators  
Post Program Activities  
National Leaders  
OBSC Representatives  
SI Directory



**The 49th SSEAYP** was held from 15 JAN to 17 FEB 2026. The ship departed from Tokyo Port, Japan and visited 2 ports of call along the way Singapore and Thailand. During the journey, the participating Youth (PYs) took part in various onboard activities, including Discussion Program, Solicarity group (SG), National Presentation (NP), Peer Learning (PL) seminars, Voluntary activities (VA) and more. Through these activities, the PYs not only forged new friendships but also deepened their knowledge and mutual understanding of one another's cultures and beliefs.



## Administrator | Mr. MAKINO Masahiro

I am pleased to be involved for the first time as SSEAYP administrator. This program is currently at a turning point of greater change, and the Nippon-Maru will also be completing its role this year. It is deeply moving for me to be involved as Ship Administrator in its final year. I have also felt the deep and passionate enthusiasm for this program from so many participants and stakeholders of Japan and Southeastern countries. I am embracing this program with a deeper sense of its historical value. This program aims to develop the next generation of young leaders. I hope that all PYs will expand their personal networks of friendship and mutual understanding, cherish what they have learned here, and put it to good use in the future.



## Ship Captain | Mr. SEKIYA Tadashi

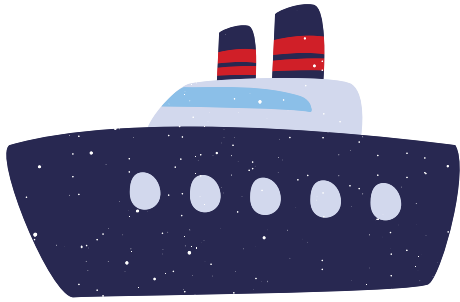
This is my first time serving as ship captain, and I am extremely pleased to be involved in the SSEAYP program. I was particularly overwhelmed by the energy when each country introduced its culture during the national presentations. Each country's culture, traditions, and unique features were so well-organized within the limited time available and always looking forward to attending each presentation. I am pleased that the SSEAYP program was held aboard the Nippon Maru again this year, and that I was able to be a part of it again. I hope that all PYs will use the experiences and lessons they gained on this program to further their own careers and build better relationships between Japan and Southeast Asian countries. MS Nippon Maru will be retiring this year, but it has been in operation for the past 35 years, operating alongside SSEAYP program. Nothing would make me happier than if Nippon Maru continues to sail forever in the hearts of the PYs and other people involved who participated, even after the ship has been retired.




## Chief Administrative Staff | Ms. TAKEDA Yukako

I first participated in SWY in 2007. I admired the interpreters on board as ADMs at the time and was able to return to the ship as an ADM for SWY in 2017. Since then, I have been on the Nippon-Maru a total of eight times. This year's SSEAYP program was short, and the arrangement was different from previous years, with Japan's National Presentation taking place at the Youth Education National Olympics Memorial Youth Center before departure. However, I felt that all the PYs were making the most of their short time and working hard to interact with each other. I hope that all the PYs will continue to use the friendships and experiences they developed during this program to become successful global citizens. Furthermore, the Nippon Maru holds a special place in the hearts of so many young people, and I hope that it will remain a memory in each of their hearts. I also hope that the culture and passion of this program will be passed down to future generations.





The 34<sup>th</sup> SIGA 2026  
 Vientiane Capital and Vangvieng  
 Lao PDR 



It is our honour to welcome you once again to Lao PDR since we first hosted the 25th SIGA in 2013. Thirteen years later, the Lao SSEAYP Alumni Association (LSAA) is proud to host the 34th SIGA 2026 in Vientiane Capital and Vang Vieng, Lao PDR, from 05-11 May 2026.

Under the theme **“SSEAYP International: Enhancing Memories, Harmony & Connection”** this gathering aims to warmly embrace SSEAYP family members and beyond, bringing together former participating youths, the SSEAYP family to strengthen friendship and reinforce the bonds among all members.

**The activities's scheduled:**

- On 05 – 06 May 2026 (social contribution activities) will be held in Sangthong District, Vientiane Capital.
- On 07 - 11 May 2026 (The 34<sup>th</sup> SIGA Program) in Vientiane Capital and Vangvieng.

**REGISTRATION**

Please contact your country's SSEAYP International (Alumni association).

**See you in Laos 05 - 11 May 2026**  
**ແລ້ວພົບກັນ**





**The 3rd BERSATU President's Futsal Cup 2025.** The 3rd BERSATU President's Futsal Cup was held on 2nd February 2025 at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex, Berakas, featuring 80 players divided into eight teams under the theme "Champion of Champions". Team England emerged as champions, prizes were presented by His Excellency Mr. Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam. The biennial tournament aims to foster friendship through sports, promote a healthy lifestyle, and encourage inclusivity and sports for all, particularly among youths and the hearing-impaired community in Brunei Darussalam.

**BERSATU's Eid Celebration.** BERSATU held an Eid Celebration gathering alumni from batches 1985 to 2024, promoting everlasting spirit of unity and togetherness. The gathering aimed to strengthen bonds among alumni members regardless of batch, age and/or gender. It was a pot-luck event indulged with lucky draw gifts, karaoke session, round table conversation. Indeed, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.



**40th Anniversary of BERSATU.** BERSATU celebrated its 40th anniversary with a Gala Night themed "Ruby Radiance: 40 Years of SSEAYP Splendour", attended by 280 participants from batches 1985 to 2025. The event was graced by the Special Guest, His Excellency Mr. Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam. The evening featured traditional dance performances, a live band, and grand lucky draws, and also witnessed the presentation of tokens of appreciation to the first batch of Brunei participants of the SSEAYP in 1985.

**PROMINENT ALUMNI.** **Norhayati Hj Nordin** joined SSEAYP program in 1987 as one of the first few participating youth representing Brunei Darussalam. From then on, she became one of the alumni's active members of SSEAYP International Brunei (BERSATU) since 1988. In 1992, she represented the alumni association as OBSC. Hayati was awarded the SI award in Cambodia in 2007. In 2008, marked another milestone on her youth activism contribution by being chosen as a National Leader for SSEAYP 2008, batch 35. Having been with BERSATU for almost 40 years, Hayati has held a few executive committee titles; Committee in Women's Bureau, General Secretary 2, Deputy Treasurer General, Treasurer General. Her last appointment was as 'Treasurer General' for the term 2023-2026. Other than that, she has been active locally in volunteering and often joining SIGA and appointed as head delegate.





**SI Cambodia for the 10th Mandate (2025–2026):** SSEAYP International Cambodia held its General Assembly on Saturday, 8 March 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh. During the Assembly, H.E. Ms. Rachna Im, a prominent figure in the SSEAYP community, was elected as the first female President of the SSEAYP International Committee (SIC) for the 10th mandate (2025–2026), marking a historic milestone and reaffirming the association’s commitment to inclusive leadership and youth empowerment.

**Mental Health Support Campaign for Displaced People:** In August 2025, SSEAYP International Cambodia (SIC) successfully conducted two “Mental Health Support Campaigns” for families of front-line war heroes at the 5,000-resident Por refugee camp in Preah Vihear. The initiative reached over 80 families on August 15 and more than 100 families during the second phase on August 23–24. Through a collaborative effort with partners—including SGIS School, BELTEI Group, the Khmer-Islamic Teachers Association, and The Art of Living Cambodia—SIC mobilized former CPYs and the public to provide psychological relief via cash donations, essential materials, and direct volunteer support.



**Social Contribution and Sustainable Innovation at Smiling Gecko:** On November 14, 2025, the 49th SSEAYP Cambodia Contingent visited Smiling Gecko to engage with their award-winning circular economy and education models. The visit focused on two sustainable innovations: an upcycling sewing workshop that transforms industrial waste into eco-bags and an organic composting system that ensures chemical-free soil health. Beyond environmental insights, the CPYs conducted a mentorship session for local students, fostering dialogues on personal growth and excellence. This exchange highlighted Smiling Gecko’s success in blending fair-wage employment with high-quality community education.

**Closing Ceremony of Pre-Departure Training:** On January 9, 2026, in Phnom Penh, the Directorate General of Youth and SSEAYP International Cambodia (SIC) successfully concluded the pre-departure training for the 49th SSEAYP Cambodia Contingent. The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Sroy Socheath, Director General of the Directorate General of Youth, and H.E. Im Rachna, President of SIC. This milestone event brought together ministry leaders, trainers, alumni, sponsors, and parents to celebrate the readiness of the youth delegates before their official departure for the 49th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program.



**PROMINENT ALUMNI.** **Rachna Im** is a prominent figure in the SSEAYP community and made history as the first female President of the SSEAYP International Cambodia (SIC). An alumna of the 37th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP) in 2010, she has remained deeply committed to the programme and its alumni network, carrying its values of cooperation and service into her leadership journey. Rachna’s involvement with SSEAYP reflects her strong belief in people-to-people connections, inclusive leadership, and the power of youth to drive positive change across ASEAN and Japan. Her experience in the programme strengthened her dedication to advancing women’s leadership and fostering mutual respect among diverse cultures. Professionally, Rachna currently serves as Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In this role, she contributes to national policy development, public engagement, and collaboration with regional and international partners, while promoting youth empowerment and environmental sustainability as key pillars of long-term development.



**A Historic National Assembly:** SSEAYP International Indonesia (SII, Inc.) recently convened a landmark National Assembly to elect the president for the 2026–2028 term. For the first time, the assembly featured full representation from every alumni batch from the 1st batch of SSEAYP (1974) to the 48th (2024). Joined by the Council of SII, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the outgoing board, this gathering emphasized that the organization’s progress is a collective responsibility. As a result of this democratic process, we are proud to announce Ms. Desy Marlitha (IPY 1995) as the newly elected President of SI Indonesia.

**Preparing the Next Generation:** To prepare the Indonesia Participating Youths (IPYs) for SSEAYP 2026, SII executed a rigorous three-phase Pre-Departure Training (PDT). The curriculum began with a foundational online series from August 29 to October 7, 2025, followed by an intensive offline camp focused on team dynamics from October 12 to 18. The training concluded with a final gathering and official inauguration from January 12 to 14, 2026, ensuring the delegation was mentally and physically prepared to represent Indonesia with excellence before their departure.



**SSEAYP Kumpul Lagi (SKL):** SII prioritized reconnecting the alumni family through two major reunion events titled "SSEAYP Kumpul Lagi" (SKL). The first gathering was held at Gallery Kampoeng Baroe under the creative theme "SSEAYP Art Cafe." The second SKL took place on January 10, immediately following the National Assembly. This session transformed the formal atmosphere of the election into a joyous celebration, solidifying the bond between the varied generations of SSEAYP Indonesia.

**#SIIPeduli - Cyclone Senyar Disaster Response:** In late November 2025, Cyclone Senyar triggered severe flooding across Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra, impacting over 1,000 people. SII mobilized immediate disaster relief efforts. Alumni volunteers successfully delivered emergency food supplies, clean water, medical aid, and temporary shelter to displaced families, demonstrating the enduring spirit of SSEAYP solidarity.



**PROMINENT ALUMNI. Pia Adiprima** is a leading figure in the SSEAYP and made history as the first female President of SSEAYP International Indonesia (SII), serving from 2017 to 2026. As an alumnus of the 1997 program, Pia has remained deeply committed to the organization for decades. Her active involvement includes serving on various committees and serving as Indonesia-OBSC in 2004. She returned to the program as a Facilitator in 2011 with the topic of Education.

During her time as President, Pia introduced several impactful programs. She founded **SIAGA** (SSEAYP Indonesia Alumni Grant Activity), an initiative that encourages alumni to contribute to community and youth empowerment. She also launched **#SIIPeduli**, a movement that organizes relief efforts for disaster victims. Pia is a professional in the education sector as an education consultant and teacher trainer, and a former School Principal at Sekolah Cikal, one of the leading private schools in Indonesia. She is also passionate about tennis, making the sport a key part of her healthy lifestyle.



**IYEO National Conference Aomori** was held in Aomori City on October 25, 2025. Aomori, a city rich in nature in Japan's Tohoku region, is famous for its Nebuta Festival and seafood, such as scallops. Mr. SHIRAKI Kunisada was elected as IYEO President, continuing from the previous year. He delivered a speech looking ahead to the next fiscal year and announced the IYEO Manifesto, which aims to build a multi-generational, glocal network. Participants then engaged in a debate on 12 discussion themes related to the Manifesto. At the conference, reports were given on IYEO's 40th anniversary commemorative projects and donation activities, as well as activities in each prefecture. The PR team also reported on the renewal of the website, newsletter, and social media.

**The Thailand-Fukushima Homestay Program** was held as part of IYEO's social contribution activities. This program aims to create opportunities for people to connect with each other, regardless of nationality, age or gender, and to realize a symbiotic society that connects the local community with the world. Nine participants from Thailand visited Fukushima from April 18th to 20th, 2025, and stayed with host families in Fukushima Prefecture. As part of the program to learn more about the local area, they also experienced peach blossom picking, discussions with students from Fukushima University, and visits to traditional Japanese gardens and architecture.



**"Arigato Nippon-maru" cruise** was held as part of the IYEO's 40th anniversary celebrations. A total of 317 IYEO members and their families participated in the two-day, one-night charter cruise from Nagoya to Kobe on December 18th and 19th, 2025. After the departure ceremony in Nagoya, a number of programs were held on board, including a keynote speech on "Global Citizenship Born from Ships," a national costume contest, a screening of a commemorative movie, and a unison singing of the Nippon-Marun song. The Nippon-Marun, which has been the stage for SSEAYP for many years, will be retiring this year. Thank you, Nippon-Marun!

**PROMINENT ALUMNI. Ms. Ai Nagaki**, Ex-PY of SSEAYP 2000 as a graduate student, then she currently serves as a full-time lecturer at Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare, specializing in research and teaching in English, SDGs, intercultural understanding, and global citizenship. Her research focuses on the educational effects of SSEAYP and SWY on youth leadership and global citizenship, as well as the impact they have on the regional cities where they visit. Following her participation in SSEAYP, she began IYEO activity in her hometown Okayama, where she has served as vice president, president, in Okayama IYEO and also Chugoku Regional Block. She has continued her IYEO activity for 25 years, citing witnessing the growth of young people as her greatest motivation.

