

LaoSAA: SIGA 2026



The preparations for the upcoming **SIGA 2026** have involved numerous meetings, both online and in person. The committee members have been diligently collaborating to finalize every detail—from the official logo and theme to the venue, agenda and logistical arrangements.

Our goal is to ensure a seamless and meaningful experience that resonates with every alumnus. We are truly honored and ready to host our fellow alumni in Laos this coming May and we look forward with great anticipation to reuniting, reconnecting and celebrating the enduring SSEAYP spirit together.

Lao Youth and Child Festival 2025. The Lao Youth Union (LYU) organized the Lao Youth and Child Festival 2025 from 25–29 June 2025 in Vientiane Capital. The event was held in collaboration with various local companies in Laos to support and promote youth development under the theme: “Lao Youth and Children of the New Era: Boldly Advancing to the Forefront of Digital Transformation.”

The festival featured a variety of activities, including cultural performances, musical instrument competitions, debate sessions and panel discussions led by experienced speakers from different sectors. In addition, the event provide health-focused services such as blood donation and free eye, nose and ear check-ups provided throughout the festival.



LPYs launched an online awareness campaign to extend the impact of the program to the wider public. The campaign, titled **#Eat_It_Up** (Lao language: **#ເຂົ້າໝົດຈາກດີກວ່າການໝົດໃຈ**), aimed to remind people not to leave food wasted and to consume meals responsibly. Through social media engagement, the campaign encouraged the public to finish their meals and be more mindful of food value and waste reduction.

The post program activity contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

- SDG 2: Zero Hunger, by promoting sustainable food systems and responsible food consumption.
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, by encouraging healthy eating habits.
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, by raising awareness on food waste reduction and composting practices.

PROMINENT ALUMNI - Introducing **Anouvone Thammavong (Teva)**, a Lao Participating Youth of the 40th SSEAYP in 2013, whose leadership journey began with SSEAYP — an experience that shaped who she is today. Inspired by SSEAYP, she earned an Australia Awards Scholarship to pursue an Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Management in Australia, where she also served as a Student Ambassador for Study Canberra, before returning to Laos to support young people and advocate for social inclusion. Despite her young age, Teva has emerged as the Manager for Australia Awards and Human Resource Development at the Laos Australia Institute, helping open doors to higher education and study abroad opportunities for youth, people with disability, and disadvantaged groups. Teva enjoys guiding students through scholarships and study choices while fostering critical thinking. Recently, she was selected as a high school mentor and participated in the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) in the United States. Teva reflects the true spirit of SSEAYP, using her journey to empower others and create opportunities for positive change.





The Malaysia-Türkiye Exchange Program (MTEP) 2025, 29 June - 5 July 2025 (Malaysia Leg), 11 - 18 September 2025 (Türkiye Leg). MTEP was coordinated by SSEAYP International Malaysia (KABESA) in collaboration with Türkiye's GSB Asım Gültekin Gençlik Merkezi. Designed as a strategic platform to empower youth as agents of change, the programme aims to strengthen Malaysia-Türkiye relations while contributing to Asia's development agenda and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through collaboration, innovation, and cultural diplomacy, MTEP 2025 fostered meaningful cross-cultural exchange and paves the way for sustainable, long-term youth engagement between both nations.

SSEAYP International Malaysia (SI Malaysia) continues to serve as a strategic partner to the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS) in the implementation of youth development programmes. In 2025, KBS once again appointed SI Malaysia as a panel member for the Essay and Curriculum Vitae Assessment Sessions, as well as the Camp Selection Session for participants of the International Youth Exchange Program 2025. In addition, SI Malaysia contributed to the Module Development Workshop, with the outcomes compiled into a reference module that is used as the basis for the Training of Trainers (TOT) programme for future facilitators.



Asian Youth Leadership Exchange Program (AYLEP) is a regional initiative designed to empower young leaders across Southeast Asia through immersive learning and cross-cultural engagement. Jointly organised by youth bodies from Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, the programme brought together selected youth delegates for a two-week experience from 15 to 28 June 2025, travelling across Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand. AYLEP offers participants a unique opportunity to explore diverse cultures while addressing shared regional challenges in a collaborative and dynamic environment.

Trans-ASEAN Backpackers (TABS) 2025 is a programme designed to develop resilient Malaysian youth who are prepared to face contemporary challenges and possess broad knowledge of regional and global developments through interaction and integration. The programme empowers participants to explore, learn, and create meaningful cross-border experiences. KABESA was appointed as the Programme Secretariat and Facilitator for PDT.



PROMINENT ALUMNI. **Zaidi Syazwan** began his journey with the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) in 2005, an experience that sparked his lifelong commitment to youth leadership and international collaboration. In 2019, he contributed as the OBSC, deepening his engagement with the SSEAYP alumni network. Beyond the program, Zaidi has been an active force in youth organizations and NGOs at the national level, championing policy advocacy and youth empowerment initiatives. In 2024, he successfully initiated the TABS Programme with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS), held for the first time in partnership with SSEAYP International Cambodia (SI Cambodia). He also co-created the Asian Youth Leaders Empowerment Programme (AYLEP) with SI Thailand (ASSEAY) and SI Singapore. Since 2018, as Honorary Secretary-General of KABESA, he has ensured the success of SSEAYP International Conference (SICO) as an annual flagship event and helped develop SSEAYP PDT and International Programme modules.



The SIP National Convention 2025 gathered SSEAYP alumni in Dumaguete City from August 23–25, themed “Sailing Together, Greening Tomorrow.” Activities included mangrove planting, talks, a general assembly approving constitutional amendments, and the formation of the SIP NCR Chapter. Cultural programs, *lakbay aral*, and eco-tours highlighted youth leadership, sustainability, and enduring Philippine–Japan friendship through shared celebration, dialogue, service, heritage, cooperation, learning, unity, and commitment, nationwide impact.

SIP Disaster Response mobilized swift support following the earthquakes that struck parts of the Philippines in September and October. Through collective efforts, SIP raised Php 26,000 for affected communities in Cebu and Php 21,000 for those in Davao, while directly contributing Php 10,000 to each area. In Cebu, alumni provided psychosocial first aid to help communities cope with trauma, and in Davao, the regional chapter facilitated the purchasing of relief goods for those in need. These coordinated efforts reflect SIP’s commitment to solidarity, compassion, and timely assistance, ensuring that both immediate and long-term support reaches communities recovering from disaster and hardship.



The SIP Year-End Party and Elections were held on December 6, 2025, at the Philippine Normal University, bringing together alumni from various SSEAYP batches for an evening of fellowship, reflection, and celebration. The event provided an opportunity to recognize the organization’s accomplishments throughout the year while marking an important transition in leadership.

A key highlight of the program was the keynote address by Director Shigehiro Matsuda of the Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC). He emphasized the importance of youth leadership, people-to-people exchange, and international cooperation in strengthening the enduring partnership between ASEAN countries and Japan. His message reaffirmed the role of SSEAYP in nurturing globally engaged and socially responsible youth leaders.



The evening featured SIP’s hybrid elections, with online voting for absent members and secret ballots for onsite participants. A send-off to the 49th SSEAYP Philippine Delegation, Batch Bagani was also conducted, simulating a ticker tape throwing ceremony together with the alumni as they prepare to represent the Philippines in January to February.

PROMINENT ALUMNI. **Congressman Jude Acidre** of TINGOG Party-list is a proud alumnus and Assistant Youth Leader of the Philippine Contingent of SSEAYP 2011, where he served as a youth ambassador of goodwill representing the Philippines. His experience in the program shaped his commitment to leadership, regional cooperation, and public service. A testament to the lasting bonds formed through SSEAYP, he later married a fellow delegate from Thailand, reflecting the program’s spirit of cross-cultural friendship and solidarity. As a lawmaker in the Philippine House of Representatives, Congressman Acidre has championed youth empowerment, accessible education, digital innovation, and inclusive economic growth, particularly for communities in Eastern Visayas. He has supported initiatives on skills training, entrepreneurship, disaster resilience, and improved public service delivery to uplift vulnerable sectors. He remains an active supporter of the SSEAYP alumni community, supporting young leaders and promoting regional collaboration. His journey reflects how SSEAYP’s values of leadership and camaraderie translate into meaningful and lifelong public service.





The **48th SSEAYP Singapore Contingent Homecoming** took place on 21 December 2024, at the Japanese Creative Centre to celebrate the participants' program completion. Graced by His Excellency Mr. Hiroshi Ishikawa, Ambassador of Japan to Singapore, the event welcomed over 50 alumni and guests. The youths shared transformative stories of life on board and shifted perspectives, followed by an engaging Q&A. After receiving their Certificates of Program Completion, attendees enjoyed a Christmas-themed dinner, fostering deeper interaction and connection between the participating youths and the community.

The **Asian Youth Leaders Empowerment Program (AYLEP)** is a regional initiative spearheaded by Thailand's DCY and ASSEAY, in collaboration with SIS Singapore and SIM Malaysia. By empowering 38 selected participants through intensive leadership and project management training. The program cultivates socially conscious global citizens dedicated to community development.

During the Singapore leg from 14th–18th, 2025 where delegates engaged in specialized Disaster Risk Reduction workshops at the Singapore Red Cross and visit the innovative One Punggol hub. After conducting official embassy courtesy calls, the youth travel to Malaysia for the program's second phase, fostering vital cross-border cooperation and regional social resilience.



SSEAYP Day 2025, held on 04th October 2025, celebrated both the SSEAYP Anniversary and SG60. The day began with a specialized guided tour of the Gardens by the Bay Flower Dome where alumni are introduced to botanical narratives and diverse flora.

The celebration continued at the University of the Arts Singapore (UAS) with a communal lunch and interactive sessions. Highlights include a collaborative mural painting, a nostalgic memorabilia exhibition and engaging games. Most significantly, the event bridged the program's entire history, bringing together participants from the pioneer batch to the latest cohort. This intergenerational gathering successfully renewed old bonds and forged new friendships, ensuring the vibrant SSEAYP spirit continues to thrive across decades.

PROMINENT ALUMNI, Mr Lee Hong Chuang is a distinguished leader whose commitment to regional diplomacy and sports excellence began as a National Gymnast, representing Singapore at the 1985, 1987, and 1993 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games. He later transitioned into pivotal leadership roles, serving as an Assistant Youth Leader for SSEAYP 1994 and organizing the 1995 Singapore Homestay Program. His regional influence extended through the ASEAN Youth Caucus, fostering cross-cultural friendship across Southeast Asia and Japan.

Beyond diplomacy, Mr Lee has made significant contributions to Singapore's sporting landscape, notably leading the national gymnastics team to historic victories in 2003 and supporting the 2010 Youth Olympic Games. In the corporate sector, he chaired CSR initiatives that mobilized over 1,000 volunteers for dozens of welfare projects.

Currently, as a Member of Parliament for Jurong East–Bukit Batok GRC, Mr Lee is a tireless advocate for youth empowerment, social cohesion, and family bonds. He also serves as Vice President of the Singapore Wushu Dragon and Lion Dance Federation. A recipient of the Public Service Star (BBM) and the SSEAYP International Award (SIGA), Mr Lee continues to exemplify principled leadership and a profound dedication to community and regional service.





In 2025, ASSEAY Thailand implemented a wide range of impactful initiatives, with a strong focus on expanding its engagement across the ASEAN region. Through collaborative projects with children, youth, and local communities, the organization aimed to strengthen regional networks, promote social awareness, and support community development. These efforts also emphasized equitable access to learning opportunities, empowering young people and fostering positive, inclusive, and sustainable social change.



The Hope for the Better Future Project: Post Program Activity “The Hope for the Better Future Project” was successfully implemented by SSEAYP Batch 48 at Mahamek Home for Boys and Rajvithi Home for Girls during March 8th–9th, 2025, with the support of ASSEAY Thailand. The project was conducted as a post-program initiative, applying knowledge and experiences gained from the SSEAYP program to create positive social impact for children and the community.

Asian Youth Leaders Empowerment Program: The program was jointly organized by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, together with ASSEAY Thailand, SIS Singapore, and SIM Malaysia, and was conducted during 14th–28th June 2025 across Singapore, Malaysia, and Satun Province, Thailand. The initiative aimed to strengthen leadership, project management, and teamwork skills among youth leaders, enabling them to design community-based initiatives and contribute to positive regional and global social change.



Children Who Shape Tomorrow: The project was hosted by Thailand, bringing together ASEAN youth to promote cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and collaboration, and was conducted during 14th–19th September 2025. ASSEAY Thailand supported the Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, by providing facilitators who enriched learning experiences, encouraged participation, and inspired youth to become future changemakers.

Volunteer Activity at the Bangkok School for the Blind: A volunteer activity was organized by the President of ASSEAY Thailand together with the Thai Participating Youth of SSEAYP Batch 49 at the Bangkok School for the Blind, conducted on 15th November 2025 in collaboration with the Volunteer Photography Teachers Group. The program included academic tutoring, creative media activities, moral storytelling, and recreational sessions to support learning, inclusion, and well-being among visually impaired students.



PROMINENT ALUMNI. Madam Dear or Narissara Apipatsarangkul, is a woman filled with passion and determination to create positive change in society. She was a youth representative of TPY Batch 39 and the first Akha ethnic youth in Thailand to be selected for the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program, an experience that became a major turning point in her life. The program broadened her perspective, strengthened her leadership skills, and shaped both her mindset and professional path, leading to opportunities to work with reputable public and private sector organizations as well as participate in international study visits. Over the past 12 years, she has remained actively involved with the association by attending meetings, serving as a committee member, and financially supporting social initiatives. Currently, she manages her own business a CEO of Real Estate while sharing encouragement and positive life perspectives through her page, “Positive Life Perspectives by Madam Dear,” inspiring others to grow and create meaningful change in their lives.



In 2023, the Government of Japan, through the Cabinet Office of Japan, held discussions with the Government of Timor-Leste regarding participation in the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP). As a result, Timor-Leste was officially invited to join the 48th SSEAYP as ‘an observer country’ with three participants. Following further government-level conferences held in Japan in 2024, the number of participants was increased to seven for the 49th SSEAYP in 2026, marking a significant step forward in Timor-Leste’s engagement in this prestigious international youth program.



On 13th January 2026 in Dili, the Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture (MJDAK), His Excellency Nelyo Isaac Sarmento, officially bid farewell to the delegation of seven young representatives who will participate in the 49th SSEAYP program in Japan, Singapore, and Thailand. The delegation is led by Carlos Cunha dos Santos as Team Leader from MJDAK, accompanied by six selected youth representatives, three women and three men. These participants underwent a rigorous selection process that began with applications in June 2025 and concluded with final selection in November 2025.



During the farewell meeting, **Minister Sarmento emphasized the strategic importance of cooperation with Japan**, particularly in marine conservation and environmental sustainability, areas with strong relevance for Pacific nations such as Timor-Leste. He encouraged the delegates to view the program as a leadership platform, urging them to gain knowledge and experience that can help transform Timor-Leste’s marine potential into sustainable national development.



The Government, through MJDAK, demonstrated its commitment by allocating USD 9,437 to support the delegation’s participation. The SSEAYP program, established in 1974, aims to strengthen friendship, mutual understanding, and global perspectives among youth from Japan and ASEAN countries. The Timor-Leste delegation consists of Carlos Cunha dos Santos (Team Leader), Alzira Erliana, Sundays Belo Mendonça de Jesus, Elvis Maria da Costa Belo, Jeciliana Auxiladora Lopez de Araújo, Judelino da Silva Barros Barreto, and Rovelia Olinda Guterres.



PROMINENT ALUMNI. Abel de Jesus Andrade, is one of the observers for SSEAYP 2024 representing Timor-Leste. Currently working at the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture as the National Director of Heritage Logistics. As an alumnus of the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) 48 in 2024, he was deeply honored to be appointed by the Government of Timor-Leste, through the Ministry, to participate in the program as an observer. He took the invitation extended by the Government of Japan, seen as an important milestone for Timor-Leste’s engagement in this prestigious initiative. The program provides a valuable platform that brings together young leaders from Southeast Asian countries and Japan, fostering peace, mutual understanding, and constructive cooperation while enabling participants to exchange knowledge and share experiences related to their respective countries’ development. He now serves as the alumni representative for OBSC SSEAYP 2026, representing Timor-Leste at the regional level.



Vietnam’s journey within the SSEAYP family has always been defined by a deep sense of pride, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to regional friendship. As we move into a new era of global integration, Vietnam SSEAYP Alumnus continue to serve as a vital bridge, connecting the wisdom of seasoned alumni with the vibrant energy of the younger generation. In the past year, our activities have been driven by a dual mission: to localize the “SSEAYP Spirit” through impactful community projects and to globalize the mindset of Vietnamese youth. This report encapsulates our key milestones—showcasing how we honor our 50-year heritage while actively shaping a future of leadership, language empowerment, and social responsibility.



SSEAYP Tour: Igniting the Spirit of Integration. To broaden the reach of the program and inspire the next generation of leaders, SSEAYP Vietnam Alumnus (VPY48) successfully launched the “SSEAYP Tour” in 2025. This series of roadshows across major universities served as a bridge between alumni and potential candidates. Through interactive sharing sessions and “real-talk” workshops, alumni from various batches shared their transformative journeys, providing invaluable insights into the program’s values. The tour not only boosted recruitment for the 49th batch but also revitalized the presence of SSEAYP within the Vietnamese youth community, fostering a culture of global citizenship and proactive leadership.

Empowering the Youth: “Entering the Nation’s New Era with English” Talkshow Series Aligned with the national vision of global integration, SSEAYP Vietnam Alumnus collaborated with Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee to organize a strategic talkshow series featured prominent alumni and experts who discussed the pivotal role of English as a tool for national development and personal growth in the 4.0 era. By connecting language proficiency with high-level diplomatic and professional opportunities, the series empowered thousands of young Vietnamese to view English not just as a subject, but as a key to unlocking Vietnam’s potential on the global stage.



Sowing Seeds of Knowledge in the Gia Lai Highlands (VPY44) Demonstrating a deep commitment to social responsibility, SSEAYP Vietnam Alumnus embarked on a meaningful community project in the remote regions of Gia Lai. The initiative focused on bringing educational opportunities to ethnic minority children. Beyond donating learning materials and refurbishing classrooms, volunteers organized immersive English-learning activities and cultural exchanges. This project highlighted the “SSEAYP Spirit”—where leadership is defined by the willingness to serve and uplift the most vulnerable members of society, ensuring no one is left behind in the journey of progress.

PROMINENT ALUMNI. Tran Tuan Dat (BELL), VPY41, is a distinguished leader whose journey reflects the program’s values of global citizenship and cultural connection. Building on Master’s scholarships from Thailand and South Korea, he served as Vice Dean of the Faculty of International Relations at USSH, VNU-HCM. His academic excellence was solidified in 2020 when he won First Prize at the National Excellent Lecturer Competition, earning a Certificate of Merit from the Ministry of Education and Training. Inspired by the transformative storytelling of SSEAYP, Dat transitioned into digital media during the pandemic as “Thầy Beo U40.” He has since become one of Vietnam’s most influential digital voices, reaching nearly 9 million followers and surpassing 6 billion views. His rapid ascent earned him the YouTube Play Gold Button and the Blue Star Award for Most Loved TikTok Video (2021), alongside recognition from the Ministry of Health for his public service content. Beyond entertainment, Dat leverages his platform for social good. He frequently collaborates with Vietnam’s Ministries of Health and Information and Communications, as well as Meta and TikTok, to promote digital literacy and public health. Having visited 47 countries, he continues to advocate for regional solidarity and youth mentoring. His journey stands as a testament to how the SSEAYP experience inspires lifelong adaptability and meaningful social impact, bridging the gap between traditional education and modern global communication.

