

## Chapter 6

# Messages from the Leaders of Southeast Asian Countries and Japan



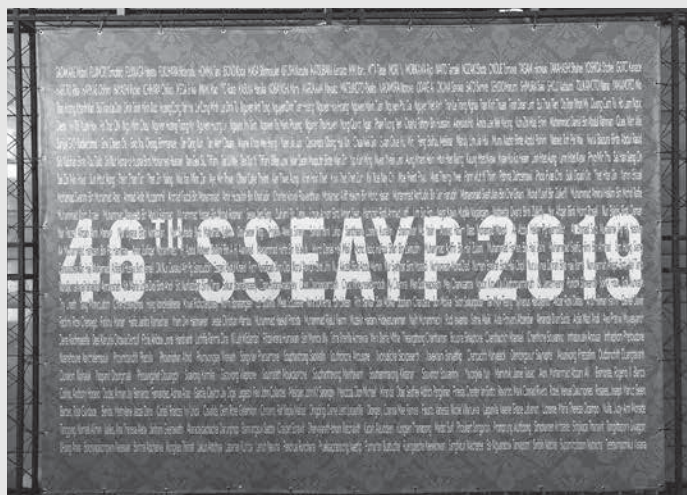
Viet Nam



Singapore



Myanmar



Malaysia

## ● Message by H.E. Mr. Abe Shinzo, Prime Minister

I would like to express my heartfelt welcome to the participants of the 46th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program. Welcome to Japan.

Since becoming the Prime Minister of Japan, I had the privilege to visit all ten ASEAN member countries where I received warm welcome and hospitality. Next week I will be visiting Thailand to attend the Japan-ASEAN Summit to discuss important topics concerning Japan and ASEAN.

It is people who will open up our future and we need you, the power of youth, to build a bright future for Japan and ASEAN.

It is precisely for this reason to nurture the “youth power,” that we have this Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program, to promote exchange of youths amongst Japan and Southeast Asia for nearly half a century. To date, as many as 12,000 youths have participated in this program and they are now playing important roles in their

respective fields.

Onboard the ship you will be meeting many friends with different historical and cultural backgrounds and different sense of values. It is my sincere hope that you will learn great things about the countries of your fellow participants through many fruitful discussions while also reconfirming the pride you have for your own country, and build deep and strong bonds with your new friends.

It is my sincere hope that the experiences you will have during the coming journey will greatly help you in your efforts to contribute to peace and development of Asia and the rest of the world.

October 31, 2019

Courtesy call

At the Office of Prime Minister

## 2 Viet Nam

### ● Message from Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Luong, Permanent Vice Chairman of the National Committee on Youth of Viet Nam, Secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union

For the last few months, the organizing committee in Ho Chi Minh City and Vietnamese youth have been working very hard and looking forward to receiving participants of the 46th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) 2019 from ASEAN member states and Japan. Today, on behalf of the National Committee on Youth of Viet Nam, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and Vietnamese youths, I would like to convey our warmest welcome to all of you. I do hope and believe that you will have fruitful days of activities in Viet Nam, and may the 46th SSEAYP be a great success.

Along with the increasing cooperation between ASEAN - Japan, the youth cooperation between ASEAN - Japan is also enhancing dramatically. For the past years, youth activities have been promoting friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between ASEAN and Japan youth and people. Among which, SSEAYP is one of the biggest and most meaningful programs that are well-known among our young generation. After 46 years being implemented, the program has been met up with people's expectation in promoting the good relation and mutual understanding among Japan and ASEAN member countries; in providing participants with necessary skills in modern society as well as integration environment. I strongly believe that after participating in SSEAYP, each and every one of you will have the opportunities to experience, to explore, to learn, to share and to know more about each other, in order to enhance collaboration, to inspire young generation of your respective countries about youth mission in current situation and in the future.

Viet Nam is in the process of promoting industrialization and modernization. To accomplish that goal, Viet Nam has been expanding external relations, trying to be proactive,

active and deep integrated with the world. We are focusing on the development of friendly relations and cooperation with countries in the region, along with the desire to strive for our region as a region of peace, stability, development and prosperity.

Therefore, we are delighted to continue being one of the destinations of SSEAYP and Nippon Maru this year 2019. We are so pleased to welcome you all to a beautiful, peaceful, friendly and increasingly developed Viet Nam. We hope that during your stay in Ho Chi Minh City, you will have great experience in term of history, culture and Vietnamese people and youth as well as youth organization. We hope that every visit will be an unforgettable moment to you, so that we can further promote the increasingly good relations among our countries. The National Committee on Youth of Viet Nam and the leaders of Ho Chi Minh City will try our best to guarantee the best to all of you and to make SSEAYP 2019 successful.

On this occasion, the National Committee on Youth of Viet Nam would like to send our biggest gratitude to the Government of Japan and ASEAN member countries who have cooperated with each other to make SSEAYP happen this year and the years to come. Thanks to the Party Committee and the People's Committee of the Ho Chi Minh City, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Ho Chi Minh City who have organized such a wonderful country program in Ho Chi Minh City this year.

I wish for the success of SSEAYP 2019. Thank you very much.

November 10, 2019

Welcome Ceremony

At Tan Cang - Hiep Phuoc Port

#### ● Message by Mr. Baey Yam Keng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

On behalf of the Government and people of Singapore, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you, including our young ambassadors from ASEAN member countries and Japan. I understand that you are about mid-way through your voyage, and that some of you are visiting Singapore for the first time.

We are pleased to host a Port-of-Call this year, as 2019 is a special year for Singapore. We are commemorating our bicentennial year, which marks 200 years since the founding of modern Singapore.

However, Singapore's story did not start when Stamford Raffles landed in 1819. It actually began more than 700 years ago. Throughout our history, Singapore has always been open to diverse flows of people, goods, and ideas from around the world. We have always been connected to the wider socio-cultural and geopolitical currents of the region, all of which have shaped the country's evolution.

Your arrival by sea this morning continues in this tradition. And I hope the programme is giving you the opportunity to reflect on the progress and development of the region as a whole, our interconnectedness and interdependencies, as well as our shared histories and interests.

The first Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme started in 1974. Since then, the programme has played an instrumental role in nurturing friendships and forging mutual understanding for more than 12,000 participating youths from ASEAN member countries and Japan.

This unique programme focuses on cultural exchanges through communal living, facilitated discussions, and local homestay programmes. It also helps to promote appreciation of regional concerns as well as international collaboration. Over 45 years, this has no doubt contributed to the goodwill and trust amongst the people of ASEAN and Japan.

And the value of this trust cannot be overstated, especially when we consider the increasingly complex challenges that we, and especially our youths, will face. You are well aware of the effects of climate change, the rising tide against globalisation, and the impact of technology on jobs and the future of work. We are seeing falling levels of institutional trust and deepening inequality. It is understandable that many of our youths are expressing a greater sense of uncertainty over their future, and are

concerned about their overall well-being.

Our youths need to be equipped to tackle these challenges. Let me highlight a few defining qualities that will be important for you now and into the future:

- a. Firstly, resilience. Build up a strong sense of determination and grit to achieve your goals and overcome challenges;
- b. Secondly, lifelong learning. Embrace the spirit of continuous learning, by acquiring the skills you need to thrive at all stage of your life;
- c. Thirdly, collaboration. Learn how to embrace diversity and work with people who are different from you.
- d. Fourth, care. Contribute back to society, use your talents and skills to help and guide others along.

Here in Singapore, we started the SG Youth Action Plan this year as a platform for our youths to share their vision for the future of Singapore, and to translate their ideas into concrete actions. All of you are leaders in your own right, and you have the capacity to create positive impact in your own communities and beyond. Through the SSEAYP, you will gain newfound knowledge and build relationships. I encourage all of you to be active global citizens. Step up and lead initiatives in areas that you are passionate about, and help make a difference in ASEAN, Japan and the rest of the world. This is my hope for you.

I would like to thank the Cabinet Office of Japan for the continued support and sponsorship of the SSEAYP. The longevity and success of this programme is testament to the long term vision that Japan has in promoting regional friendships and cooperation. We welcome this commitment in the development and strengthening of ASEAN, as we move towards greater partnerships and integration.

I would also like to thank the members of SSEAYP International Singapore, SSEAYP alumni, as well as the families participating in the home-stay programme, for helping to make the programme a successful one.

I trust that you will have a meaningful journey ahead. Thank you.

November 16, 2019  
Welcome Lunch and Homestay Matching  
At Resort World Sentosa

## 4 Myanmar

### ● Message by Dr. Myo Kywel, Chairman of National Education Policy Commission

It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome all of you to Yangon, Myanmar and to host this Welcome Dinner.

I have learnt that Myanmar youths started to join this SSEAYP in 1997 and this is the 23rd time Myanmar youths have this golden opportunity to participate in this SSYEAP. So far, altogether 645 participating youths and national leaders from Myanmar have benefited from this cruise ship programme.

I must say that this programme is one of the most significant and beneficial programmes innovated by the Japanese government as it assists a great deal in building the regional solidarity and identity and strengthening the friendly relationships between Japan and ASEAN.

I also note that this is the fourth time the ship berthed at Yangon, and I guarantee that your visit will be enjoyable and worthwhile.

I hope you enjoyed visiting various universities in Yangon, interacting with local students, making new friends, and sharing your new ideas and experiences with them.

I am confident that tomorrow you will also have an unforgettable experience by staying with Myanmar families though the duration is very brief. You will get a taste of Myanmar culture and tradition, the lifestyle of Myanmar people, and the close relationships between parents and their children. You will also gain the first-hand experience of the friendliness and warm hospitality of Myanmar people.

That is why, this programme is very unique for both Japan and the ASEAN Region. By participating in this

programme, the participating youths involved can broaden the international outlook and can foster stronger friendship and greater understanding among youths.

This programme has brought together the participants from Japan and Southeast Asian countries to actively engage in various activities onboard, in Japan and in countries in the region. This programme has accomplished its principle purpose of expanding the network and deepening mutual understanding in the culture and traditions of Southeast Asian countries and Japan through cultural, education, recreational, social and sporting activities and also through a variety of well-organized country programmes.

In closing, I wish to offer warm congratulations to the Japanese government for its stewardship of the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme and responsible personnel for their excellence leadership, and their concerted efforts in organizing the Ship for Southeast Asian and the Japanese Youth Programme.

I also would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Administrator and to those who facilitate and make this programme a great success as in previous years.

I wish all of you a very enjoyable and memorable moments and a pleasant stay in the remaining days in Yangon.

Let me conclude my welcome speech by cordially inviting you to enjoy the delicious dinner.

Thank you.

November 22, 2019

Welcome Dinner  
At Sule Shangri-La Yangon

### ● Message by Mr. Syed Saddiq Bin Syed Abdul Rahman, Minister of Youth and Sports Malaysia

First of all, allow me to extend our “warm welcome” to Malaysia to the captain, Administrator and staff of the ship, National Leaders and participating youth from ASEAN and Japan assemble here today.

The Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program or SSEAYP, celebrates its 46th anniversary this year. Having first set sail in 1974, SSEAYP is a unique program which has successfully brought together as many as 319 young people from across ASEAN and Japan to experience living onboard a ship every year.

The gathering of youths from ASEAN and Japan in exchange program like this and the chance to live together for a period of nearly two months will provide ample opportunities for participants to share experiences and ideas. Participants from various backgrounds will have the chance to know closer ways of live, culture, economic and political aspects when they visit each other country, which foster closer friendship understanding and enhance their knowledge among them.

I was told that the ship had docked in three countries which is Viet Nam, Singapore and Myanmar while Malaysia is the forth stopover country for Nippon Maru ship before it ends in Tokyo, Japan. We are proudly welcome all of you to our country and pleased to offer you our Malaysian Hospitality.

I understand that during this stopover the participants will be involved in an interaction with local youth program and a foster family program. I believe that our Country Program like homestay and interaction with local youth activities will provide participants an opportunity to know the culture and life of the multi-ethnicity of Malaysian community.

I hope during this four days program it will give positive impact to all of you through planned activities. Malaysian Hospitality is about making connections not only between places, but between our hearts. Warmth, sincerity and generosity. After all, it’s what defines us as a slogan “Malaysia Truly Asia.”

This program has been successfully being implemented annually with the support of ten ASEAN member countries and Japan as the main organizer of the program.

Congratulations to Japan and the ASEAN member countries in making this cooperation possible. We in Malaysia believe that through direct interaction and meeting people to people between the citizens of ASEAN and Japan will certainly strengthened regional and international understanding towards prosperity of our new generation in this region.

In this 21st century, the challenges that confronting us are ever evolving globalization, liberalization of trade and investment, enhanced modes of communication and dissemination of information have made the world much smaller, and yet more complex. The key challenge is to foster greater understanding and mutual respect for diversity.

Therefore, SSEAYP is certainly a fitting instrument that brings together youths from ASEAN and Japan to meaning networking and forging closer ties. This bodes well for future cooperation among our countries.

I believe that everyone here have the potential to become a good leader of tomorrow. You can play a part in inspiring your people and spreading the goodwill you have cultivated during this program. With peace and stability of our region, our countries can focus on building prosperity and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.

With this opportunity I also would like to express our highest gratitude and appreciation to all ministries, government departments, SSEAYP International Malaysia (KABESA), sponsors, individual and foster parents for their kind contribution and co-operation in making this program success.

Lastly, I welcome all participants to our country and I hope you will have a wonderful time and may you take with you pleasant memories of our country. I wish the ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program the success it deserves.

Thank you.

November 29, 2019

Welcome Ceremony and Courtesy Call  
In Dolphin Hall