

Chapter 2 SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference

1 Schedule

Date	Time (UTC+9 / Japan Standard Time)	Program
January 24 2021 Sunday	13:30-14:00	Video of the introduction of each country
	14:00-14:25	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remarks by Mr. Sakamoto Tetsushi, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office Remarks by Mr. Yoshida Dai, Deputy Director, Office for the International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office Introduction of staff members of the Cabinet Office and the Center for International Youth Exchange Introduction of Participating Countries Introduction of facilitators Explanation of SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference
	14:25-14:50	Keynote Speech Speaker: Mr. Haji Muhamad Iqbal Fakhri bin Haji Damit (Brunei Darussalam PY of the 36th SSEAYP, Brunei Darussalam National Leader of the 45th SSEAYP)
	15:00-18:00	Group Discussion I (by Discussion Group (DG)) < Next Generation Leaders Conference > DG1: Policy Group DG2: Diplomacy Group DG3: Education Group DG4: Global Company Group DG5: Entrepreneurship Group DG6: ICT Group DG7: NGO/NPO Group DG8: Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Group DG9: Infrastructure Group < SSEAYP Conference for Considering its Role and Significance >

Date	Time (UTC+9 / Japan Standard Time)	Program
January 31 2021 Sunday	14:00-16:00	< Next Generation Leaders Conference > Field Study by DG DG1: The Matsushita Institute of Government and Management DG2: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan DG3: Tobitate! (Leap for Tomorrow) Study Abroad Initiative DG4: EY Japan Co., Ltd. DG5: Borderless Japan Corporation DG6: IT Director of Multinational Clothing Company DG7: Specified Nonprofit Corporation Dappi DG8: Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. DG9: Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd.
	16:00-18:00	Group Discussion II (by DG) DG1: Policy Group DG2: Diplomacy Group DG3: Education Group DG4: Global Company Group DG5: Entrepreneurship Group DG6: ICT Group DG7: NGO/NPO Group DG8: Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Group DG9: Infrastructure Group
	14:00-18:00	< SSEAYP Conference for Considering its Role and Significance > Group Discussion II
February 7 2021 Sunday	14:00-18:00	Group Discussion III (by DG) < Next Generation Leaders Conference > DG1: Policy Group DG2: Diplomacy Group DG3: Education Group DG4: Global Company Group DG5: Entrepreneurship Group DG6: ICT Group DG7: NGO/NPO Group DG8: Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Group DG9: Infrastructure Group < SSEAYP Conference for Considering its Role and Significance >
February 21 2021 Sunday	13:30-14:00 14:00-18:00	Video of the introduction of each country Presentation of Discussion Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the Next Generation Leaders Conference by DG Proposal by the SSEAYP Conference for Considering its Role and Significance Remarks by Mr. Yoshida Dai, Deputy Director, Office for the International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office

2 Remarks by Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office

Mr. Sakamoto Tetsushi, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office

I would like to extend a few words here at the opening of the SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference.

The Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program has been conducted, together with the governments of the ASEAN member countries, continuously for more than 40 years.

I have visited the ASEAN member countries many times, and have personally felt the region's rapid growth and development.

We recognize the importance of mutual understanding and friendship among participating countries. At the same time, we also recognize that the development of human resources in each field is essential to sustain national development, and thus would like to continue this program.

However, the global COVID-19 outbreak has significantly impacted any exchange program beyond borders and made it difficult to conduct the ship program this year as initially scheduled.

On the other hand, today's online technology allows youths to connect virtually and immediately with youths from countries oceans away.

Utilizing those options of technology, we have decided to undertake the challenge of hosting this program as an alternative international youth exchange platform.

I am pleased to hold today's program, filled with so many passionate participating youths.

I would like to conclude by wishing that everyone here achieve your personal development through discussions based on timely issues, and to make fruitful proposals for future programs.

January 24, 2021
Opening Ceremony

3 Keynote Speech

Mr. Haji Muhamad Iqbal Fakhri bin Haji Damit
(Brunei Darussalam PY of the 36th SSEAYP, Brunei Darussalam National Leader of the 45th SSEAYP)

First of all, I would like to say thank you very much for inviting me. I am more than happy to share my experiences and hopefully, I could inspire someone from this year's SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference.

In 2009 I was a Participating Youth of SSEAYP, having served as the Youth Leader 11 years ago and backtrack or fast-forward after nine years, I was given the opportunity to lead 28 amazing youth to be the National Leader of Brunei Darussalam two years ago. I want to say, before I start my presentation, I want to share that please make this opportunity to meet people, to make friends, because all the things I have done from the past 11 years, who I am now, has to do with SSEAYP, particularly the network that I have built, be it my batch, and also the seniors and the juniors.

In 2009, I was in the Discussion Group of Volunteer Activities, and I think this year it is similar to NGO/NPO.

Before that, I was never into this. I did not know anything about humanitarian work, volunteer work, or charity work, but SSEAYP has taught me a lot, and it has to do with the Discussion Group that I was in eleven years ago when I met so many inspiring youths. At the age of 23 or 24, they have done so much work in their respective countries and I told myself when I go back home, I want to be just like them.

So I praise God, I praise Allah, until today I have done 37 local projects and 23 projects abroad in Malaysia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and also in Japan. I have only touched about 20,000 hearts for the past 11 years, and one of my goals is to be able to touch at least 100,000 hearts before I die. So, please, everyone, all the PYs, please pray for me?

■ Passion

So I want to skip ahead to the topic today. The topic today is basically on PASSION. I know passion. Everyone has passion. Be it inside of yourselves. If originally outside, you have discovered or still not yet discovered it. However, the most important thing is if you want to find your passion, you look for the thing you like. When I talk about passion you could probably breakdown into four big categories: (1) community; (2) environment; (3) education; and (4) humanitarian. These big clusters, where you can look into where your passion is, all have different pros and cons. I would never say one is good or better than the others: it all plays any part in society, particularly if you look deeper into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where a lot of these four components are inside the SDGs.

So, when you find your passion, you find the same people who have that passion. So, for example, if you are into the environment like climate change, there is a lot of movement, a lot of personnel, a lot of stakeholders in the region, in your country, I am sure, in the world are into the same cause. If you really want to go further in pursuing your passion, you find those people who have the same passion as you do because this world is a big, big scary world. If you do it alone, you will not survive. Trust me. So, find the people with passion. Once you get the people with passion, the design process should be interesting. What do I mean by that? For example, I love traveling, and I have not traveled for the past year. Thanks for COVID-19. Because of my love for traveling, I always design and get new friends and people to do projects outside Brunei Darussalam. We set it off with just one project deep inside Malaysia during the big flood, and then it all comes down to now six countries and a few thousand hearts that we have helped. That is only one example of what I have done. The same thing that you can do in your country if you have passion. If you design the possibility of meeting people, this is the perfect platform to do it. Meet nice people, and then you have good meetings, and then you execute your projects as you go on and do it year after year after year.

■ Turn Passion into Action

Once you have identified your passion, once you have identified your group of friends, and once you say, "I want to do this", there is a lot on books, on Instagram, or social media. A lot of them have said about how to take action. But for me, how I do is with these three main things. When I turned my passion into action, there are just these three

main things: (1) just do it; (2) less "What if?"; and (3) take a calculated risk. Now, just do it. Okay, next week, for example, there is a big flood in Brunei Darussalam at the moment, and we say we have to do it, let's just go, let's just do it.

A lot of youth nowadays are so smart that they think about "what if" too much: what if this happens, what if this happens, what if this happens. I want to extend a bit to share those comments that were given to me: "Hey, what if there is flooding, what if the water level is too high?" If the water is too high, then we'll just come back. "What if there's a crocodile?" If there is a crocodile, you just back off and run away, for example. So, these are the things that it is so much to put on paper, I know, I understand that, but it's not as easy as to accept. When the risk is too high, back off. What is more dangerous than your life? If you think it is jeopardizing your life, jeopardizing the group, then leave.

■ Sustaining Your Passion

Sustaining your passion: I have a lot of questions about this. How do you sustain your work? How do you sustain your passion? How do you make it go further? First of all, you find your passion. You meet, and you put together your action. Once you put these together and find a clear vision of what you want to do, there is no need to talk about sustaining your passion because they will come naturally. I give you an example: why do you want to talk about things in five years, why do you talk about things in 2026, when you have not even done work in 2021? So, stop thinking too much about the future. Act now, act soon, because the most important thing is not about sustaining your passion; it is more about finding your passion and action. If you put those things together, the sustainability of your passion will automatically come.

■ Game Changer in COVID-19

So, since everyone has been affected, one way or another, by this COVID-19, I want to share the three things that I kept since 2020. People ask me, "How do you keep on doing your work in the midst of COVID-19?" These are the three things that I have always kept in myself. I told them that I told myself that change is always good. Why? Because it makes you think better, it allows you to be more creative, and most importantly, by doing that I can improve myself in designing my projects. Then also accepting the changes. This is not only in COVID-19, in anything that you do, for example, when you try to do any charity work. You can have, you can stand 24 hours a day

for the past few months to plan, but when the day comes, it rains heavily, and there are things that you forgot to plan, so how do you do it? Just go back to your room, bring your umbrella and raincoat and go. So, accepting changes. Most importantly also is adapting to changes. Adapting to changes is not about changing your goal, but it is always about adapting to the things that you do, the things that you plan, and executing it in a different way.

■ Conclusion

So, of all these I have said, there are three things that I want to emphasize today: (1) find your passion; (2) your action; (3) by finding your passion and taking action, sustaining your passion will come automatically. Do it in one year, three years, five years or even ten years. As for myself, when I first did this in 2010, I have never thought about being able to do this, being recognized by a few people, or even by being here giving talks to 300 youth and I am so delighted that what I am sharing is part of my passion.

My last words for today is to be firm on your destination but flexible on your journey. As I said just now, whatever your target, whatever your beneficiaries, bet it human beings, animals, communities, environment, humanitarian, whatever it is, set that goal fixed. For example, this year I want to do five projects and help at least 300 people. However, how to get there you have to be flexible because a lot of, I told you, there are more hurdles than you can think in the world. So, take step by step, one step at a time. Enjoy the journey, it is the most important thing. Enjoy the journey because once you have hit your destination, let me tell you, you would get so addicted that you want to enjoy the journey again.

So, that is all from me. In case anybody of you wants to follow me, that is the picture of my back, you can follow me from the back – I am just joking. You can always email me or follow my Instagram. With that, I would like to thank everyone for listening. Thank you to the Cabinet Office for inviting me. I hope I could share a bit of my experiences, of my knowledge with the team.

Thank you very much!