

# International Youth Exchange 2020 - Report -

# SSEAYP

# Future Youth Leaders Conference



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## Preface

The Cabinet Office, government of Japan, has implemented International Youth Exchange Programs, which aim to foster healthy growth of youths who will be the core force of the next generation, by promoting friendship and mutual understanding among youths, while broadening their international view, as well as nurturing the spirit of international cooperation.

The Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) was launched in 1974 as a joint program between Japan and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member countries. It aims to promote friendship and mutual understanding among the Participating Youths of each country as well as to broaden their perspectives on the world by participating in various activities such as discussions, homestay and interaction with local youths while living together onboard the ship and in the countries to be visited. Consequently, the participants are expected to show leadership in various sectors of the society amidst the progression of internationalization.

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 host "SSEAYP Future Youth Leaders Conference" as an alternative international youth exchange platform.

The Program consists of two conferences. The first one is "the Next Generation Leaders Conference" in which about 300 of the Participating Youths deepened exchange through online discussions. The second one is "the SSEAYP Conference for Considering its Role and Significance" in which about 40 of ex-Participating Youths shared their experiences after the SSEYAP and made proposals how they could enrich the Program in the future for contributing toward friendship, youth exchange, and development.

It is my hope that the Participating Youths would contribute to society by making use of the learnings that they gained in this Program. Also, the Cabinet Office would like to enrich the SSEAYP based on the proposals. This report records the various activities of the Participating Youths during the online program. I hope that this Report will be of use for your understandings of the fruits of the Program.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the governments of the participating countries, and to all those who gave their gracious cooperation in this Program.

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Sakata Motohiro  
Director General for International Youth Exchange  
Cabinet Office