

International Youth Exchange 2021 - Report - SSEAYP Youth Conference 2021



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Preface

The Cabinet Office, the 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.

Especially, 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 participants 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 society amidst the progression of internationalization.

The participating youths originally participate in face-to-face activities such as discussions and seminars in SSEAYP. However, the situation of the global COVID-19 outbreak was still unpredictable, and we decided to host the SSEAYP Youth Conference 2021 virtually again following the previous year. Making use of the experience from the previous program, we conducted the online programs over five days to have simulated SSEAYP experiences with participating youths from Japan and the ten ASEAN member countries. The Conference included discussions with facilitators who have leading positions in society, and a new program “Peer Learning Sessions” where participating youths share and discuss their knowledge and experiences freely.

I am certain that through active discussions on the world’s social agenda, the participating youths realized they were standing at the entrance to the world and gained lots of learnings for future activities. It is my hope that the participating youths would deepen their friendship further through continuous exchanges in various ways and take an active role as next-generation global leaders in Southeast Asia.

The Cabinet Office would like to enrich the future SSEAYP based on the experiences of international youth exchanges we gained until now.

This report records the various activities of the participating youths during the online exchanges. I hope that this report will be of use for your understanding of the fruits of SSEAYP.

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 Conference.

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Director General for International Youth Exchange

Cabinet Office

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