

# International Youth Exchange 2022 - Report - SSEAYP Youth Conference 2022



## 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, following on from the previous year, we decided to host the SSEAYP Youth Conference 2022 virtually again this year. Since the year 2023 marks the milestone of The 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, participating youths engaged in discussion to find solutions to various social issues under the main theme of “What youth can do in the new era of cooperation towards the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.” In addition, the Conference included new initiatives, such as “Interaction Session” where participating youths simulated SSEAYP experiences in a virtual space, and “Regional Program” where participating youths engaged in the cultural experiences with local youths. Overall we held the online programs over six days with participating youths from Japan and the ten ASEAN member countries.

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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Cabinet Office

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## SSEAYP Youth Conference 2022

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