

Chapter 2

Planning and Preparation



1 Selections of Japanese Participating Youths

Japanese Participating Youths (PYs) were nominated through each prefectural government and nationwide youth organizations.

The requirements for the Japanese PYs were as follows:

- (1) Those who were between 18 and 30 years of age as of April 1, 2015, possessing Japanese nationality;
- (2) Those who are expected to participate in international exchange and youth activities in their community, work, school or youth organizations after the program;
- (3) Those who were sound in mind and body, cooperative, disciplined and able to work in groups in accordance with the program schedule;
- (4) Those with a good understanding of Japanese

society, culture, etc.;

- (5) Those with a good understanding of and keen interest in the participating countries;
- (6) Those with a good command of English as a working language to ensure smooth exchange activities;
- (7) Those who were able to participate in all activities including pre-program training, pre-departure training, country program in Japan, cruise (activities onboard and in the countries visited) and the post-program training.

On June 6, 2015, the Cabinet Office selected 39 Japanese PYs among those recommended by the prefectures and youth organizations, after undertaking examinations of general culture and English, and interview in Tokyo.

2 Conferences of the Representatives of the Ten Southeast Asian Countries and Japan

The Cabinet Office invited the representatives of the participating countries to the Conference of the Representatives of the Ten Southeast Asian Countries and Japan to discuss the guideline, subsidiary guideline and other items for the organization of the 42nd SSEAYP in 2015, held in Tokyo for two days on June 10 and 11.

Based on the agreements reached at the Conference, the Cabinet Office formulated and sent the Guideline, Subsidiary Guideline, Safety Measures and other details for the organization of the 42nd SSEAYP in 2015 to the governments of the respective countries. The participating countries then started their own preparations such as the selection and training of PYs and NL, and the planning of the activities for the country programs.

A. Agenda for the Conference

- 1) 42nd Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program in 2015
 - a. Guideline;
 - b. Safety measures;
 - c. Subsidiary guideline;
 - d. Homestay matching procedures;
 - e. Guideline for the Discussion Program and the Post-Program Session;
 - f. Promotion of solidarity among the ex-participants and the host families;
 - g. Country program in Japan;

- h. Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit;
 - i. Preparatory procedures;
 - j. Others
- 2) Country programs in the Philippines, Vietnam, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar and Malaysia
 - 3) Port of call countries in the 43rd SSEAYP in 2016
 - 4) Suggestions and ideas for the future SSEAYP

B. Proceedings

Mr. Tauch Choeun, Director-General, General Department of Youth, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports was elected as a chairperson of the Conference. Discussions were held according to the agenda.

First, the Cabinet Office explained the Guideline of the 42nd Program, etc., followed by a question-and-answer session. Then the port of call countries of the 42nd Program presented their country program plans. In addition, port of call countries for the 42nd Program were considered and suggestions and ideas for the future SSEAYP were discussed.

The highlights and important agreements reached at the Conference were as follows:

- a. The assembly point would be Tokyo, Japan;
- b. The ship will visit the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar and Malaysia. The representatives (the Administrator, the NL of Lao P.D.R. and all Youth

- Leaders (YLS)) would visit Lao P.D.R. by air;
- c. The duration of the cruise would be 41 days from November 5 to December 15, and the country program in Japan would be for 8 days from October 28 to November 4;
 - d. The number of PYs would be 28 for all countries. Japan, however, would add 11 more PYs as liaison PYs;
 - e. The Discussion Program would follow the common theme “Youth Participation in Social Activities,” and under it would be eight group themes. The Facilitators appointed to each group theme would coordinate and manage each discussion group;
 - f. In order to ensure safety of the participants, the each government of Southeast Asian countries, the reception committees and the Government of Japan should pay careful attention to the agencies that provide transportation. The concerned agencies must strictly observe safety regulations;
 - g. Two representatives of host families from each Southeast Asian country providing homestay program would be invited to Tokyo;
 - h. The government of each participating country would observe the deadline for submitting a list of PYs, a draft schedule of country program and other documents to the Cabinet Office for preparation of the various materials related to the Program;
 - i. Each port of call country would make continued efforts to ask concerned authorities on the exemption of the vessel from payment the port charges and fees;
 - j. Facilitators Meeting would be held for two days on August 13 and 14 in Tokyo, while the NL Meeting (the 1st COC) for two days on September 16 and 17 in Tokyo;
 - k. For the 43rd Program, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam indicated their intention to be port of call countries and Cambodia to receive the delegation (the Administrator, the NL of Cambodia and all YLS) who will visit the country by air. The Cabinet Office would make decision after consideration of sailing route, etc., by the end of September.

C. Participants of the Conference

The representatives listed in the table below attended the Conference. The representatives from the respective Embassies of ASEAN member countries in Tokyo, the representatives of the Alumni Associations of the participating countries and the representatives of Japanese youth organizations also attended the Conference as observers.



With Mr. Takahiko Yasuda, Director General for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office (Welcome Reception, June 10)

Brunei Darussalam	Mr. Faisal Bin Yunus (Acting Chief Youth and Sports Officer, Youth Section, Youth and Sports Department)
Cambodia	Mr. Tauch Choeun (Director-General, General Department of Youth, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports)
Indonesia	Mr. Esa Sukmawijaya (Assistant Deputy for Youth Resources Improvement, Head of Division of Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports)
Lao P.D.R.	Ms. Keooudone Sengmanivong (Deputy Permanent Secretary, Lao Youth Union)
Malaysia	Mr. Mohd Ghani Bin Mohd Yusof (Deputy Director General, International Unit, National Youth and Sports Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia) Mr. Mohd Shafiq Bin Mohd Khan (Assistant Director, International Unit, National Youth and Sports Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia) Mr. Haji Awang Damit bin Hj. Ag. Anak (Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports Sabah)

Myanmar	Professor Yi Yi Maw (Deputy Director General, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education)
Philippines	Mr. Earl Pioquinto Saavedra (Commissioner, National Youth Commission)
Singapore	Ms. Yong Min Lee Felicia (Manager, International Affairs, National Youth Council)
Thailand	Ms. Usanee Kangwanjit (Deputy Director General, Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security) Ms. Ngamchuen Duangwaa (Social Development worker, Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security)
Vietnam	Ms. Pham Thi Phuong Chi (Director General, Youth International Cooperation Development Center, National Committee on Youth of Vietnam)
Japan	Mr. Osamu Yahagi (Director for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office)

3 Preparation of Program Related Materials

The Cabinet Office prepared the following materials to ensure the smooth operation of the Program and distributed them in advance to those who were involved in the Program:

- (1) Guidebook of the 42nd SSEAYP in 2015, including the outline of the Program, the activities onboard, the instruction for participants and others.
- (2) Pamphlets of the 42nd SSEAYP in 2015



4 Pre-Program Consultation Visits by the Cabinet Office

The Cabinet Office conducted pre-program consultation visits with the concerned governments to discuss and finalize the preparation procedures for each country program.

Mr. Yoichi Inagaki, Deputy Administrator, visited Myanmar, Vietnam and the Philippines for 10 days from August 20 to 29 and Mr. Takeshi Motohashi, Chief Administrative staff, visited Lao P.D.R. and Malaysia for 8 days from September 6 to 13.

Prior to the visits, the respective governments were requested to fill up questionnaires on the country programs. The results of the questionnaires were discussed with the concerned government officials in the consultation meetings and the details of the country programs were adjusted, as necessary, and finalized.

5 Facilitators Meeting

The Cabinet Office held the Facilitators Meeting of the 42nd SSEAYP on August 13 and 14 with the attendance of eight Facilitators. The aim of the Meeting was for the Cabinet Office officers and Facilitators to have a common understanding of the purposes and other aspects of the Discussion Program and to discuss its management beforehand for the smooth and effective implementation of the Discussion Program.

The agendas of the meeting were as follows:

- (1) Guideline for the 42nd SSEAYP in 2015;
- (2) Guideline for the Discussion Program and the Post-Program Session on the 42nd SSEAYP in 2015;
- (3) Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit;
- (4) Institutional Visits in Japan and the Philippines;

- (5) Framework of each Activity on the Discussion Program;
- (6) Proposal and Exchange of Opinions Regarding the Basic Information and Pre-Program Assignments of Group Theme.



6 National Leaders Meeting

The NLs of the 10 ASEAN member countries and Japan were invited to Tokyo on September 16 and 17 to attend the National Leaders Meeting (NL Meeting) and the first COC Meeting for the 42nd SSEAYP. The NLs were members of the COC, the highest decision making body of the SSEAYP, and the aim of the NL Meeting was to have all the NLs gather at a venue to deepen their understanding of the purpose and other aspects of the SSEAYP and discuss the operation of the COC, basic items concerning onboard activities and other important issues.

The agendas of the meeting were as follows:

- (1) Guidebook, Discussion Program and Post-Program Session, etc.

- (2) Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit;
- (3) Safety management;
- (4) Operation of the COC;
- (5) Vision sharing towards 42nd Program (First COC);
- (6) Program File.



7 Planning of the Activities in Japan

The activities in Japan consisted of the programs in Tokyo and the local programs that included homestay in the prefectures and cities outside of Tokyo.

(1) Program in Tokyo

The activities in Tokyo were planned and implemented either by the joint operation between the Cabinet Office and the Center for International Youth Exchange (CENTERYE) with youth volunteers, or by the direct operation of the Cabinet Office.

A. Activities jointly operated by the Cabinet Office and CENTERYE

The activities jointly operated by the Cabinet Office and CENTERYE were the Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit (YLS) and institutional visits. For organization and implementation of the YLS, the Organizing Committee was formed on July 16, 2015, with Ms. Tomoko Okawara, Advisor of International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan, serving as its chairperson. The Committee was composed of approximately 50 members, many of them were ex-participants of SSEAYP. Divided into three groups-in-charge, namely, “Discussion,” “Cultural Exchange” and “Events and General Affairs,” the Committee prepared diligently for the implementation of the YLS. After recruitment and selection of Local Youths in Japan (LYs), 105 among qualified 110 participated in the YLS.

For the institutional visits, eight courses were set up in accordance with the Discussion Program Themes – Youth Entrepreneurship, Cross-cultural Understanding Promotion, Environment (Natural Disaster and Reduction),

Food and Nutrition Education, Health Education (Measures against HIV/AIDS), International Relations (Japan-ASEAN Cooperation), School Education, and Information and Media - and preparations were set in motion to make these visits an opportunity to learn the current situation in Japan with regard to respective discussion topics.

B. Activities Directly Operated by the Cabinet Office

The Cabinet Office directly arranged Inauguration Ceremony, welcome reception, courtesy calls, debriefing session, farewell ceremony and farewell party.

(2) Local Program

On June 15, 2015, the Cabinet Office invited officials from 10 prefectures and 1 city, namely, Prefectures of Yamagata, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Niigata, Aichi, Shimane, Ehime, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto and city of Kitakyushu were selected to host the local programs of the 42nd SSEAYP in 2015, to a preparatory conference. These prefectures and city were asked to make plans for Japan-ASEAN Youth Exchange Program (interaction with local youths), visits to appropriate places including schools, courtesy calls and other activities, during the local programs and to arrange host families.

Accordingly each prefecture and city drew and submitted the plan to the Cabinet Office. Based on the proposals, the Cabinet Office and the CENTERYE decided the final itinerary and made necessary adjustments. Meanwhile, the prefectures and the city also prepared homestay matching lists and other documents.

8 Pre-Program and Pre-Departure Trainings of Japanese PYs

(1) Pre-Program Training of Japanese PYs

The Cabinet Office conducted a 6-day-long Pre-Program Training for 39 Japanese PYs from August 3 to 8 at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo.

The overnight intensive training was held to orient the Japanese PYs of the overall purpose of the Program and the roles of PYs, and to gain understanding of Southeast Asia.

The PYs followed a training schedule and had an opportunity to listen to lectures and advice from ex-PYs and an explanation of the overseas traveling procedures. During the training, they decided role-sharing arrangement for the preparation of onboard activities and country programs. They also selected YL and AYL and prepared

for the Discussion Program.

Based on their performance in the training, the Cabinet Office considered 38 members are qualified as the Japanese contingent and issued the certificates to them.

(2) Pre-Departure Training of Japanese Participants

The Cabinet Office conducted a 4-day-long pre-departure training from October 24 to 27 for 37 Japanese PYs who were finally allowed to join the Program at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo.

During the training, the Japanese PYs made final preparations for the onboard activities and country programs.



Lecture "Partnership between Japan and ASEAN" by Dr. Fumhiko Adachi (Pre-program training, August 5)



Lecture "Tips to work as a Japanese in the international arena" by Dr. Kiyoko Ikegami (Pre-program training, August 6)



Practice to express own opinions towards the Discussion Program (Pre-program training, August 6)



Complete the Pre-program training and officially confirmed as the Japanese participating youths (Pre-program training, August 8)