

i. Nagasaki Prefecture (SG-I)

Date	Time	Program
October 29 Thursday	13:00-15:05 16:30-17:00 19:00-20:30	Transfer from Haneda airport to Nagasaki airport (by SNA 035) Courtesy call on Vice Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech by Mr. Makiho Hamamoto, Vice Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture • Speech by Ms. Syafwina, NL of Indonesia • Gift exchange • Photo session Orientation and dinner Stay at Nagasaki Washington Hotel
October 30 Friday	9:15-16:30 18:10-18:30 18:30-20:30	Japan-ASEAN Youth Exchange Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, tour at Hypocenter Park, Peace Park and Peace Statue • Lunch • Town walk in Nagasaki city • Discussion Homestay matching (Isahaya City Nozomi Kaikan) Welcome reception (Nagasaki Washington Hotel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech by Ms. Kumi Yamada, President of Nagasaki IYEO • Speech by Mr. Takashi Araki, President of Isahaya International Center • Speech by Mr. Yukihiro Yoshida, YL of Japan • Toast by Mr. Makoto Miyazaki, Director of Life-long Learning Division, Nagasaki Prefecture • Performance by PYs • Traditional performance by dragon dance team of Nagasaki University • Speech by Ms. Ayumi Yamada, Chairperson of Organizing Committee
October 31 Saturday		- Homestay -
November 1 Sunday	11:45 13:00-14:35 15:45	Assembly at Nagasaki Airport Farewell ceremony Transfer from Nagasaki airport to Haneda airport (by JAL 610) Arrival at National Olympic Memorial Youth Center



Welcome reception and homestay matching at Isahaya City Nozomi Kaikan



Town walk in Nagasaki city

j. Kumamoto Prefecture (SG-J)

Date	Time	Program
October 29 Thursday	13:00-14:50 16:30-17:00 18:00	Transfer from Haneda airport to Kumamoto airport (by JAL 631) Courtesy call to Kumamoto Prefectural Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech by Ms. Michiyo Nakazono, Director General of Residential Life Bureau, Department of Environment and Residential Life, Kumamoto Prefecture • Speech by Mr. Zuraimi Bin Abdul Basheer, NL of Singapore • Introduction of attendees • Gift exchange • Photo session Orientation and dinner Stay at Mitsui Garden Hotel Kumamoto
October 30 Friday	9:00-16:00 18:30-20:00	Japan-ASEAN Youth Exchange Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience making "wagashi" (Japanese style confectionery) at Kumamoto City Handicrafts Promotion Center • Kawashiri town tour guided by the students of Kumamoto University • Lunch • Ice break and introduction of each country at Kumamoto City Minami-Ward Office • Workshop and discussion by Mr. Naoto Tanaka, Associate Professor of Kumamoto University Welcome reception and homestay matching (Mitsui Garden Hotel Kumamoto) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homestay matching • Speech by Mr. Tetsuo Hirakida, Director of Life Safety Promotion Division, Kumamoto Prefecture • Speech by Mr. Khant Min Thaw, PY of Myanmar • Toast by Ms. Kiyomi Muramoto, Kyushu Regional Director of IYEO • Performance of traditional Japanese drum "Yotsugi-Daiko" • Performance of PYs • Speech by Ms. Kanako Nishida, Chairperson of Organizing Committee • Photo session
October 31 Saturday		- Homestay -
November 1 Sunday	10:00 12:55-14:25 15:45	Assembly at Kumamoto airport Farewell ceremony Transfer from Kumamoto airport to Haneda airport (by ANA 646) Arrival at National Olympic Memorial Youth Center



Courtesy call on Ms. Michiyo Nakazono, Director General of Residential Life Bureau, Department of Environment and Residential Life, Kumamoto Prefecture



Workshop and discussion at Kumamoto University

k. Kitakyushu City (SG-K)

Date	Time	Program
October 29 Thursday	14:50-15:50 17:00-20:00	Transfer from Haneda airport to Kitakyushu airport (by SFJ 081) Orientation and dinner Stay at Hotel Crown Palais Kokura
October 30 Friday	9:40-16:30 18:00 18:40-20:00	Japan-ASEAN Youth Exchange Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Kitakyushu Eco-Town Center • Visit to Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History • Lunch • Visit to Kitakyushu Innovation Gallery & Studio • Exchange opinions <p>Courtesy call to Kitakyushu City (Hotel Crown Palais Kokura)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech by Mr. Akira Kondo, Chief Executive, Child and Domestic Affairs Bureau, City of Kitakyushu • Speech by Mr. Damrong Jaiyot, NL of Thailand • Gift exchange • Photo session <p>Welcome reception and homestay matching (Hotel Crown Palais Kokura)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech by Mr. Akira Kondo, Chief Executive, Child and Domestic Affairs Bureau, City of Kitakyushu • Speech by Mr. Andika Sasmita Pratama, YL of Indonesia • Homestay matching • Toast by hostfamily representative • Performance of Japanese drum “Kokura gion daiko” by Skiccha Club • Speech by Ms. Kazuyo Akiyoshi, Chairperson of Organizing Committee
October 31 Saturday		- Homestay -
November 1 Sunday	12:00 13:45-15:15 16:30	Assembly at Kitakyushu airport Farewell ceremony Transfer from Kitakyushu airport to Haneda airport (by SFJ 082) Arrival at National Olympic Memorial Youth Center



Courtesy call on Mr. Akira Kondo, Chief Executive, Child and Domestic Affairs Bureau, City of Kitakyushu



Visit to Kitakyushu Innovation Gallery & Studio and Exchange opinions

2 Inauguration Ceremony and Welcome Reception

Inauguration Ceremony was held from 12:00 on October 28 at “Hō”, Hotel New Otani Tokyo, followed by the Welcome Reception from 13:00.

Inauguration Ceremony started with the speech by Mr. Katsunobu Kato, Minister of State for Youth Affairs of the Cabinet Office. Subsequently, Mr. Muhd Hafizh Abd Khalid, Youth Leader (YL) of Brunei Darussalam delivered the speech on behalf of Participating Youths (PYs).

In the welcome reception, Mr. Shuichi Takatori, State

Minister of the Cabinet Office delivered the speech and Mr. Hirohisa Takagi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office proposed a toast.

National Leaders (NLs) and PYs from each country enjoyed friendly atmosphere in the beginning of the 42nd Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP).

3 Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit

(1) Overview

From October 31 to November 3, Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit (YLS) was held at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center (NYC).

YLS is an overnight program which is implemented with the end-view of getting more youths to participate in the building of human networks between Japan and ASEAN member countries, as well as solidifying the relationship between Japan and the ASEAN member countries and among the ASEAN member countries themselves. Given the significance of the program, it was implemented with the cooperation of the embassies of respective ASEAN member countries in Japan and The ASEAN-Japan Centre (the ASEAN Promotion Center on Trade, Investment and Tourism).

The pre-training for the Japanese Local Youth (LY) was held from October 31 to November 1, while NLs and PYs joined on November 1, after returning from local program to Tokyo.

(2) Opening Ceremony

On November 2 from 10:00, Opening Ceremony of YLS was held at the Large Hall of the Arts Building in NYC, with the presence of representatives of respective embassies of ASEAN member countries and representatives of organizers. First, Mr. Mitsuo Takegawa, Director General for Policies on Cohesive Society of the Cabinet Office delivered the speech. Thereafter, Ms. Angelica C. Escalona, Minister of Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines delivered the speech on behalf of the Embassies of ASEAN member countries in Japan followed by the speech by Mr. Andika Sasmita Pratama, YL of Indonesia,

on behalf of all PYs.

Approximately 100 people of general public also participated in the Opening Ceremony and Japan-ASEAN Cultural Exchange Program (Performance and Exhibition).

(3) Japan-ASEAN Cultural Exchange Program

A. Performance

On November 2 from 13:20, Japan-ASEAN Cultural Exchange Program was held at the Large Hall in Arts building. Under the common theme of “Hello, new friends from Asia! ~Let’s make a friendship for our future~, ”each contingent presented a three-minute cultural performance. In the vibrant traditional costumes, PYs from respective countries captivated the audience with their songs and dances. At the end of the performances, a joint team of 22 PYs from 11 countries and 2 Japanese LYs performed grand finale, closing the performance as a great success.



B. Exhibition

On November 2 from 14:00, Exhibition was implemented in the Reception Hall and International Conference Room of the International Exchange Building.

There were six booths in each room. One booth was assigned to each participating country and the ASEAN-Japan Centre. Booths of ASEAN member countries were prepared by PYs of respective countries, in cooperation of the embassies in Tokyo for material provision. Japanese LYs also helped with decoration and introduced politics, economics, social and cultural aspects of the respective countries. Each country also introduced traditional games and dances which enabled the visitors to exchange closely with PYs.

Snack corner was set in the Reception Hall where finger snacks of different countries were exhibited and offered to the participants.



(4) Discussion

“Youth Participation in Social Activities - As a youth, what can you do to create an inclusive society?” was set as the theme of discussion in YLS.

The discussion was carried out with the aim that the participants from Japan and ASEAN member countries take a close look at the society in which they are living



and become aware of existing issues. Based on that, they will exchange their ideas and opinions about an inclusive society. Furthermore, they will discuss how youth can contribute to create an inclusive society and become ready to participate in social activities.

In the morning on October 31, Japanese LYs had an orientation and workshop for discussion in English. They learned the important points necessary for YLS discussion and practiced discussion in English using the tips that they learned. In the morning on November 1, discussion group activity for Japanese LYs was conducted. In the evening discussion group activity started with self-introduction and icebreak with both PYs and Japanese LYs and then they exchanged their opinions on the discussion theme.

In the morning on November 3, Keynote Speech was made which served as a platform of the discussion activities as well as provides opportunity for the group to share the specific example and views on the discussion theme.

Dr. Sachiko Ishikawa, Senior Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency, gave a lecture about one hour under the title of “My Journey to Southeast Asia and Beyond with 3 Es (Empathy, Experience, Engagement).” Thereafter, PYs and Japanese LYs had group discussion led by the coordinators.

For the Japanese LYs, this YLS discussion served as an opportunity to come in contact with various perspectives on the discussion theme, while it was an informative introduction for the PYs to the Discussion Program on board.

In the late afternoon, each discussion group shared the outcomes of the discussion in the overall summary session. The participants were able to have a clear image of what is an inclusive society, have a common understanding that youth play an important role to create an inclusive society, and have ideas of their roles and actions to create an inclusive society.



My Journey to Southeast Asia and Beyond with 3 Es ~ Empathy, Experience, Engagement ~

Dr. Sachiko Ishikawa

Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency

Ohayo gozaimasu! A very good morning to all of you. How are you this morning? Good? Great! First of all, let me express my gratitude to the organizers of the Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders' Summit 2015, Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government, and Center for International Youth Exchange for giving me this wonderful opportunity to meet over four hundred young people from ASEAN countries and Japan, and also to share my thoughts and experiences with them this morning.

Last night, I was so excited about coming here this morning and could not sleep well, just like a small child who could not wait for the first school trip at elementary school. I really looked forward to meeting you here at the Olympic Youth Center this morning, especially for the following two special reasons: First, I feel as if I have found myself of some 30 years ago among you down there. I also participated in the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program or SSEAYP in 1981 (I'm afraid you were not born yet then), which was my second overseas trip. I was excited about the forthcoming ship program with my Japanese batch mates as well as young friends-to-be from ASEAN countries. However, I have to confess that I was a bit scared about what would happen during the cruise and activities in each country. Today I can find myself in you. You must be excited and also a bit scared about the unknown future for the next one and a half months. Second, I'm very curious about how you will change yourself throughout the youth program and through this Youth Leaders' Summit. For the Japanese Local Youth, I can say that you're so lucky that you can grasp the cultures and meet people from ASEAN countries while welcoming them to Japan. I'm sure that some of you are very much inspired so that you want to be a member of SSEAYP next year or in a couple of years to come. I can cheer you up, giving you some advice, which is "get out of your comfort zones, make new friends and explore all that this experience has to offer." For those who are going to be on board the Nippon Maru the day after tomorrow, I can say "welcome to the club! Bon Voyage!" And let yourself discover the new facet of yourself among your

friends from all walks of life. You may be shocked by your rigid reactions to different cultures and customs, or you may be mesmerized by the histories and wisdom of a country accumulated for thousands of years. Well, please embrace both your positive and negative reactions. That's very natural to start with.

Today, I'm supposed to talk about something along the line of your common discussion theme, "Youth Participation in Social Activities." Wow, it's a very big and serious stuff, eh? I have some ideas to convey to you on this theme, but I have decided to share my own experiences with you first, which I believe has more convincing power than just saying something theoretical or unrealistic.

■ What are the three Es?

This is why I put the title of my speech, "My Journey to Southeast Asia and Beyond with 3 Es." Do you know what the three Es are? Yes, thank you. You must know the three Rs, which are to "Reduce", "Reuse" and "Recycle". They are the words for environmental campaigns. I have created three Es instead for today's discussions. They are "Empathy", "Experience" and "Engagement". I believe that these three Es are the keywords for you to pay special attention when you think about your potential contribution towards a better society and the world. This is, in fact, what I learned from my own experiences for the last couple of decades. Today I would like to share with you the magic of the 3Es. Here we go:

■ Reflecting 34 years ago

I'd like to show you my photos during my SSEAYP days in 1981, 34 years ago. As you see, our Nippon Maru was much smaller than yours. In 1981, there were only five ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Each country including Japan had (35) participants, making a total of 210 delegates that time. We attended a number of receptions in host countries. This is at the Prime Minister's (Residence') premises in Bangkok with my batch mates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and our host family.

Everybody practiced a lot (I'm sure you have practiced a lot) for introducing our own cultures. I played the Japanese musical instrument called "koto" and my Japanese batch mate practiced a lot (for) a number of folk dances. We had intensive culture exchange evening on board the ship. Those were good opportunities to understand different cultures and customs.

The person next to me is my cabin mate, Janet, from Malaysia. We have been keeping in touch for the last 34 years. When I worked in Kuala Lumpur for a couple of months in 2002 in order to organize a big international conference, Janet pampered me like my mother. She drove me, fed me and also gave me a lot of useful advice on things to do or not to do in Kuala Lumpur. I really appreciated her friendship. We also had club activities. Do you have club activities on aboard the ship? Oh, okay. I joined the karate club. I'm (the one) in the middle. I looked serious, didn't I? We also paid a visit to the ASEAN Secretariat, which was newly opened in 1981 in Jakarta. I didn't know that I would be working at the same building 25 years later. Why did I show you all these old photos? Because I'd like to say that I made a lot of friends from different countries during the ship program which helped me develop the sense of empathy. We are going to have a look at empathy and two other E's - experience and engagement again later. So at this stage, please remember the word "empathy", ok?

■ Returning the favors to society

Upon completion of the ship program, I could not stop thinking about expanding my horizon in terms of places, people and knowledge. That was why I studied abroad in Canberra, Australia, majoring in International Law. They are my Aussie classmates. From time to time, I was operating a tractor on the farm in Australia. Don't be worried this was just for fun. Even after my study in Canberra, I could not stop exploring the world out of my curiosity. I never thought of going back to Japan straight away. I then applied for a post in the United Nations organization and hoped to work in one of the countries of ASEAN. I was lucky that I was assigned to be a protection or legal officer at the UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Branch Office in Bangkok in July 1985. That was the building I worked in. Now they have new building in Bangkok. I loved to work with my colleagues from all over the world. This was my office, with my Danish boss, Thai secretary and Cambodian interpreter. Of course, I was happier to visit field and talk to refugee people. Although refugees were in vulnerable situation, they had strong will to pursue their own future anywhere on the earth. I learned

a lot about resilience from refugee people in all different camps in Thailand. Although I had already developed the sense of empathy during the ship program, I needed the training for applying that sense of empathy in different social and cultural settings. My study abroad in Australia and my first job at UNHCR in Bangkok helped me to learn how to adapt to different social and cultural settings without any negative or uneasy feelings. This is an example of experience to me. Let's talk about in detail again later.

Once I accumulated a lot of experiences by moving around in different social and cultural settings with the sense of empathy, I felt like returning the favors to society and the world. I called this a sense of engagement or commitment. Firstly, I wanted to return the favor to the SSEAYP and, therefore, led young Japanese participants as National Leader in 1990. At that time, ASEAN consisted of six countries including Brunei Darussalam as a new member. I enjoyed sharing my thought and experiences with young people on board the ship. They are my young participants with whom I still keep in touch in Japan and elsewhere. Even after completion of the National Leader's task, I didn't leave ASEAN behind. I stayed in Thailand as my base and travelled around Southeast Asia to assist Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam to become members of ASEAN. This is a seminar in Hanoi on ASEAN Free Trade area called "AFTA" in January 1996, shortly after Vietnam joined ASEAN. Vietnam, in fact, became a member of ASEAN in 1995, which was followed by Lao P.D.R. and Myanmar in 1997. When Cambodia became the 10th member, ASEAN really celebrated the achievement of ASEAN 10 in 1999. Year 1999 was also a memorable year for me. That was the year when I moved to the current organization I'm working for, which is called "Japan International Cooperation Agency" (JICA). I, together with my colleagues, started the JICA-ASEAN Regional Cooperation Meetings, "JARCOM" in short. This was a mechanism for Japan and ASEAN countries for discussing and implementing regional cooperation projects together. This is a mini ASEAN-JAPAN conference. In 2008, when Dr. Surin Pitsuwan of Thailand assumed his post as the secretary general of ASEAN, JICA and the ASEAN Secretariat concluded the cooperation agreement and launched a number of projects. I had a lot of discussions with the people in the ASEAN Secretariat. So, 25 years later I went back to ASEAN Secretariat. And also I enjoyed talking with ASEAN ambassadors. I was lucky that I could develop my good working relationship with them.

■ “ASEAN ways”

Yet, being a focal point of JICA-ASEAN cooperation, I sometimes learned about so-called the “ASEAN ways” in a hard way. ASEAN has its own rules called “ASEAN ways”, which are the non-interference principle and also the unanimous decision-making system. From time to time, I had heated discussions with ambassadors and also staff members of the ASEAN Secretariat for getting their approvals and cooperation for innovative projects in a very fine balance with the “ASEAN ways.” I was also given an opportunity to make a contribution in “Narrowing the Development Gap Lecture Series” at the ASEAN Secretariat.

■ Preventing my son from becoming a suicide bomber

My engagement or commitment also went beyond Southeast Asia. With my expertise in Peace Studies, I was involved in peacebuilding training for government officials and academics from the conflict-affected countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and so forth. I have also been to Israel and Palestine for three times for peacebuilding training and project. This picture is the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. It’s beautiful. This is my favorite photo of a Palestinian mother with her son. Can you see that the mother is holding the booklet called Mother and Child Healthcare Handbook? This was introduced by Japan to keep the physical records both for a mother and her baby for their appropriate healthcare. One day, in my interview with one of the mothers in Ramallah, Palestine, she told me that she would keep this handbook for a long time and show it to her son when he grew up. Then I asked her why. She said that her son would sense, when he looked at the handbook, how much he had been loved by his parents and also still loved by his parents so that he would not become a suicide bomber. I was very much touched by her desperate wish. This is one of the events which strengthened my sense of engagement or commitment. Later, I was invited by the Swiss government to join a peace mediation course so that I could develop my skill for peace mediation. The highlight of my peacebuilding work was conducting a series of Consolidation of Peace Seminar for Mindanao, together with University Sains Malaysia. This was an informal mediation seminar with the government officials, MILF, NGOs, academics and religious leaders. This photo shows one of the consulting sessions last year in Hiroshima. They are all the activities out of my sense of engagement. I have shown you how I’ve developed myself

since the SSEAYP in 1981 with three E’s - empathy, experience and engagement. I believe that these will be the keywords to help you when you discuss your contribution to society and the world.

■ What is empathy?

Now, let’s have a look at each word more closely. Empathy can be described as a power of understanding and imaginatively entering into another person’s feeling, or identification with and an understanding of another’s situation, feelings and motive. Well, even a baby (in the picture) has a sense of empathy. In another word, putting yourself in their shoes. The best way to develop your sense of empathy, I believe, is to make friends, to start with. For example, if you have friends in Myanmar, you could not help worrying about them when a huge cyclone like Nargis of 2008 devastated the country. You will have wanted to do something to help them. That’s empathy. If you have close friends in the Philippines, you would have been in panic when you saw Typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda wreck Leyte Island. This is empathy. I myself received a number of emails and telephone calls from friends all over the world after the big earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. That was empathy. I believe that you will have chances to make good friends during this Youth Leaders’ Summit and the SSEAYP and develop a sense of empathy, which will be the engine of your forthcoming experiences.



■ Importance of understanding the “context”

In the dictionary, experience is described as the accumulation of knowledge or skills that resulted from direct participation in events and activities. I’d like to

add my interpretation to this original meaning, which is to understand and adapt to the context of different societies and countries. As I shared with you, my participation in the events and activities as a student in Canberra, Australia and as a staff member of the UNHCR developed my understanding of different social and cultural settings which are normally called “context.” And I learned to adapt to different contexts which were high and low, with empathy. According to the anthropologist, Edward Hall, high-context cultures are those in which the rules of communication are primarily transmitted through the use of contextual elements, such as body language, the person’s status and tone of voice and they are not explicitly stated. This is in direct contrast to low-context cultures, in which information is communicated primarily through language and rules are all explicitly spelled out. For example, Japan is believed to be a very high context society. I don’t have to put everything in words with other Japanese. We describe this as a having “a sense of atmosphere.” Australia, however, is a low-context society. When I was there as a student, I had to talk a lot to make myself understood. But, you know, the United Nations was the worst. There was no context whatsoever with all different nationalities in a melting pot. I had to talk, sometimes raised my voice, and use a lot of gestures vis-a-vis especially European and Americans. However, once I step out of the United Nations building in Bangkok, I had to change my mental channel to adapt to the Thai context, which was different from that of the UN. I needed to calm down and spoke softly with gentle Thai people. And, again, when I visited a refugee camp, there was a different context from Thai society and I needed to change my mental channel again.

■ Adapting to different settings

But, whenever I had to change my mental channel to adapt to a different context the sense of empathy navigated me correctly. This is how I trained myself to adapt to any social and cultural settings. More or less, this is what you need to do if you’d like to deal with different social and cultural settings. I don’t mean this is valid only for foreign cultures. This also works for domestic settings. If you change your mental channel to adapt to the context of vulnerable people, I’m sure you will see a different scenery. I believe that empathy and experience will lead you to the sense of engagement. I know that “engagement” has a number of meanings. But here I’d like to emphasize engagement as a sense of commitment and responsibility and willingness to contribute to others as a member of society and the world. As I showed you my photos, my

willingness to return the favors manifested itself in the forms of serving as the National Leader of the SSEAYP and working for Japan-ASEAN cooperation and contributing to peacebuilding. One day or maybe sooner, you may have the urge to make a commitment to contribute to society and the world. You will discuss this later today.

■ Being privileged and obliged to do something for the needy

Having talked about empathy, experience and engagement, I’d like to add one more important sense for you to understand. This is “noblesse oblige”. This is a French word, “noble obligation” in English. The original definition of the noblesse oblige in the 19th century was the idea that the people who had high social rank or wealth should be helpful and generous to people of lower rank or to the poor. Today, this definition can be applied to you too. You are healthy, you have very good education, and you participate in the Youth Leaders’ Summit. You have bright future ahead of you. That means you are privileged and are obliged to do something for the needy. If you don’t make the world better, who will? You. You. You. You are the ones who make the world better, nobody else. Please remember this. (Applause from the audience) So I can get your promise, right? Yeah, thank you.



■ What can we do in three different levels?

And then with the blessing of the three E’s, and the sense of noblesse oblige, let’s look at your discussion theme today, which is “Youth Participation in Social Activities-As a youth, what can you do to create an inclusive society?” You may discuss this theme in three different levels, namely home front, ASEAN and Japan, and the global level. Let’s start with home front. We can’t ignore that every country has some social challenges such as income gaps, maybe the lack of opportunity for education, and poor health care. You can name it. Always vulnerable groups such as elderly people, children, minority groups, and, in some cases, women are alienated by society. In this

case, please think especially about those most vulnerable and be proactive to do something at your level. You may learn other ways of addressing the issues from your friends from different cultures and social settings today.

Let us move on to the next level, ASEAN and Japan. ASEAN aims for integration and connectivity. ASEAN is trying to achieve economic integration by creating a single market by the end of this year. ASEAN has also launched the initiative called ASEAN Connectivity, which focuses more on infrastructure connectivity. You can leave the large scale infrastructure projects or economic integration projects to the ASEAN governments. They are better equipped to do the work. It is, however, more important for you to concentrate on people's integration and people's connectivity among ASEAN member states. What can you do along this line? This can be another discussion point today. You can share your learnings during this Youth Leaders' Summit and the SSEAYP back home and elsewhere and become ASEAN Goodwill Ambassadors. I would also like to suggest that the Ship Program Alumni be more proactive to support ASEAN cooperation by utilizing the existing the networks among the 10 member states. How about collaboration between ASEAN and Japan? There must be a number of common interests for mutual learnings such as lifestyle, volunteer work, aging society

for Japan and some ASEAN countries, and so forth. The idea for exchange of volunteers can be also useful. It is also important to refresh the lesson learned by staying in touch with SSEAYP alumni and friends. In this way, you will be able to grab the opportunity to implement your discussed plan with your friends in ASEAN countries and Japan.

The final level is global. We all know that we are on the same boat and cannot ignore global issues such as environmental issues, diseases, conflicts, refugees, terrorism and so on, and think what you can do to mitigate these negativities. Do what you can at your own level. Don't be afraid to start small. And it is important to pay attention to the global issues as our own challenges. They are not the fire on the other side of the river, as a Japanese proverb says.

I'd like to show you this slide again to remind you that you are the ones to challenge and address all the issues I have presented at the three levels. Prior to concluding my message to you, I'd like to show you the last photo with a lot of pride. The SSEAYP '81 alumni organized a reunion gathering to commemorate the 30th anniversary in 2012 in Singapore. All these years, we have stayed in touch with the sense of empathy, experience and engagement. We therefore have a big reward and asset named "friends." Thank you very much.

4 Invitation of the Host Family Representatives

Two representatives of the host families from each of the 7 countries, or total of 14, were invited to Japan to further promote the understanding of SSEAYP among the host families, to show gratitude for their years of accepting PYs in their homes and to ensure the smooth operation of the homestay program in each country.

The representatives stayed in Tokyo for 5 days from October 27 to 31. During their stay, they attended the Inauguration Ceremony of 42nd SSEAYP, paid courtesy call on Mr. Takahiko Yasuda, Director General for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office. They also experienced 2-night 3-day homestay in and around Tokyo.



Courtesy call on Mr. Takahiko Yasuda, Director General for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office (October 28)

5 Open Ship and Send-off Ceremony

On November 5 starting at 13:30, families and friends of the Japanese PYs and concerned people got onboard the Nippon Maru for the open ship before departure from Tokyo Port.

Thereafter, send-off ceremony started from 15:15 at the Dolphin Hall in the Nippon Maru with the presence of representatives of embassies of ASAEAM member countries in Japan and concerned organizations. The



Mr. Takahiko Yasuda, Director General for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office make a speech at the send-off ceremony (November 5)

participants received words of encouragement from Mr. Takahiko Yasuda, Director General for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office and Mr. Keiichi Sato, President of International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan. In response, Mr. Xavier Chia Pik Yang, PY of Singapore expressed his determination on behalf of all PYs.

After the send-off ceremony, Nippon Maru set sail from Harumi Pier of Tokyo Port to the Philippines at 16:00.



Family and friends who came to send off