



MEKONG
INSTITUTE

ASEAN
PRIZE



ASEAN YOUTH



CONVERGENCE

2024

May 13, 19-22, 2024 | Vientiane, Lao PDR



CONCEPT NOTE
AND PROVISIONAL
AGENDA

BACKGROUND

Youth comprise approximately a third of the combined population of ASEAN, constituting the largest-ever cohort of ASEAN youth. The youth population of the region is projected to peak at over 220 million by 2038. As the region's future leaders, change-makers, innovators, and influencers, ASEAN's youth represent both the region's asset and the hope of tomorrow. However, despite their significant demographic presence and potential, the limited engagement and leadership of youth in addressing pressing regional issues present a significant obstacle to progress. This deficiency stems from several factors, including limited opportunities for youth to showcase their potential and contribute meaningfully to policy discussions and decision-making processes. Additionally, there is a sense of disconnection between youth and leaders, hindering collaboration and consensus-building efforts.

The **ASEAN Youth Convergence 2024** (AYC) aims to address these issues by inspiring future leaders through the exemplary journey, achievements, and advocacies of **ASEAN Prize Recipients** (APRs). By showcasing these role models, the project seeks to instill a sense of aspiration and provide benchmarks for youth leaders to emulate. This inspiration catalyzes increased youth engagement and leadership in addressing pressing regional issues.

The issue of limited youth engagement and leadership affects more than one ASEAN Member State (AMS) and necessitates regional action due to its widespread impact across the region. This demographic group represents a significant portion of each member state's population. Challenges faced by ASEAN's youth transcend national borders and require collaborative efforts at the regional level.

As ASEAN aims for greater integration and cooperation, addressing common issues that affect its youth population is essential for fostering unity and solidarity among member states. By tackling this issue collectively, AMSs can harness the potential of its youth generation to drive regional development and prosperity, making it a crucial aspect of ASEAN Cooperation Projects.

In alignment with Activity 4.3.ii under the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021 – 2025, which is to provide platforms for ASEAN youth to voice their aspirations towards ASEAN's policies and programs, AYC will contribute to the implementation of Programme 4.3. AYC is thus a visionary initiative aiming to inspire, empower, and elevate the capacities of participating youths in fostering the ASEAN spirit and advancing regional cooperation and integration. The convergence is designed to bring together the APRs from 2021 to 2023 and youth delegates from AMSs in a dynamic event, anticipating a diverse assembly of 30 selected youths aged 19 to 35, representing all AMS.

OBJECTIVES

- **Inspire Future Leaders:** Showcase the exemplary journey, achievements, and advocacies of APRs, fostering inspiration and serving as benchmarks for youth leaders.
- **Promote Civic Engagement:** Encourage youth to take action on issues that matter to their communities, contributing to transformative and meaningful change.
- **Foster Stakeholder Understanding:** Provide participants with a hands-on experience in understanding stakeholder dynamics, effective communication, and consensus-building.



PARTICIPANTS

AYC will gather students and young professionals from AMSs. Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam will each have a maximum of three (3) representatives, while Lao PDR will have four (4), and Brunei Darussalam, two (2).

The selection process will ensure a diverse representation and a balanced participation in terms of age and gender. Ideally, one representative each will be selected from the following age groups per country:

- 19 to 23 years old – Undergraduate students
- 24 to 29 years old – Professionals under 30
- 30 to 35 years old – First-time or first-line managers

Interested youths must apply for the program. The following are the minimum qualifications of AYC participants.

- Aged 19 to 35
- Citizen of an AMS
- Full-time student, fresh graduate, or professional
- With a demonstrated interest in regional cooperation, youth leadership, or women empowerment
- Available to attend the event in Vientiane, Lao PDR, from May 19 to 22, 2024
- Committed to attend an online pre-departure meeting on May 13, 2024, and participate in other pre-departure and post-event activities.

The organizers will cover all costs related to event participation, including roundtrip flights, accommodation, meals, and event materials. Successful applicants will be responsible for pre-departure expenses, such as participating in Zoom calls and transportation from their residence to the airport of embarkation, and vice versa.

FORMAT

AYC will revolve around three core themes, namely, **regional cooperation, youth leadership and volunteerism**, and **women empowerment**. It consists of three main parts: (i) an online pre-departure delegates meeting, (ii) the ASEAN Prize Symposium 2024, and (iii) a youth conference. The final two parts will be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from May 20 to 21, 2024.

1

PRE-DEPARTURE DELEGATES MEETING (ONLINE)

13 May 2024



Meet and Greet

Youth delegates will be convened online at least a week before the event for a meet-and-greet session. They will be provided with instructions, including their pre-departure assignment, administrative reminders, and logistical notes for their participation in the event. It is a chance for participants to break the ice, establish initial connections, and foster a sense of community or camaraderie.

Letters to Leaders Workshop

Youth delegates will be encouraged to communicate their thoughts, ideas, and concerns directly to influential leaders within the ASEAN community. The exercise aims to open doors for networking and collaboration between the younger generation and established leaders, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility for regional development.

AYC will coincide with the ASEAN Prize Symposium 2024, allowing youth delegates to participate in a broader discourse.

The ASEAN Prize Symposium is a flagship programme aimed to promote the ASEAN Prize and its role in fostering ASEAN Community building. The event will highlight and share the respective achievements and advocacies of the APRs, serving as inspirational benchmarks and guiding principles for the targeted audiences, including professionals, academicians, think tanks, organizations and entities, business communities, media as well as aspiring youth leaders. This platform encourages emulation and introspection, allowing participants and emerging leaders to draw valuable insights and take stock of the impactful contributions made by the APRs in their respective fields.

2

ASEAN PRIZE SYMPOSIUM

20 May 2024



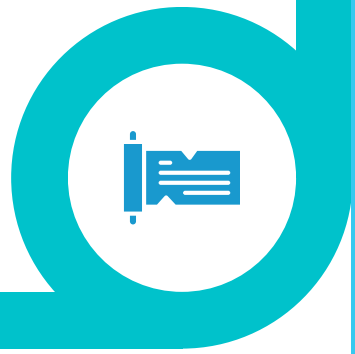
FORMAT (Continued)

3

ASEAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

21 May 2023

The conference, happening a day after the ASEAN Prize Symposium 2024, will feature interactive exercises including the following:



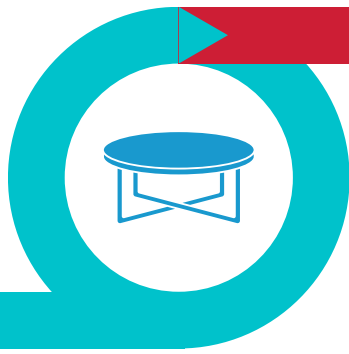
4. Letters to Leaders Showcase

This is curated exhibit that provides a tangible and impactful way to bring the voices of the youth to the forefront of the conference. It aims to foster a deeper understanding of the concerns, aspirations, and perspectives of the youth within the ASEAN community.



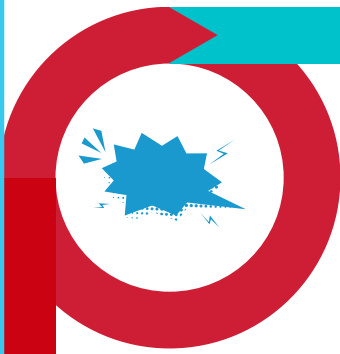
3. Stakeholder Engagement Exercise

The Stakeholder Engagement Exercise aims to provide participants with a hands-on experience in understanding and navigating the complexities of stakeholder relationships. By immersing themselves in various roles, participants will gain insights into the perspectives of different stakeholders, fostering empathy, effective communication, and collaborative problem-solving.



2. ASEAN Café

Following the Lightning Talks, participants move to the ASEAN Café area for networking and interactive discussions. The ASEAN Café provides an informal space for participants to digest the insights from the Lightning Talks and engage in deeper conversations.



1. Lightning Talks

This segment will provide a platform for concise, impactful presentations by the APRs on topics related to their expertise/advocacy.

INDICATIVE AGENDA

May 13, 2024 (Monday) | Pre-Departure Delegates Meeting (Online)

| Time | Activity |
|---|---|
| 09:30 - 10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 - 10:10 | Welcome Address |
| Preparing for Impact: Meet & Greet | |
| 10:10 - 10:20 | Introduction to the Day's Agenda and Objectives |
| 10:20 - 11:00 | Ice-breaker |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | Overview of the ASEAN Youth Convergence 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backgrounder • Event lineup • Admin and logistics • Pre-departure requirements and activities |
| 12:00 - 13:15 | Lunch |
| Letters to Leaders Workshop | |
| 13:15 - 14:00 | Introduction to Letters to Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of effective communication strategies for initiating positive impacts within communities |
| 14:00 - 14:30 | Question & Answer |
| 14:30 - 15:15 | Letters to Leaders Exercise (Breakout group per country) |
| 15:15 - 16:45 | Letter Reading and Tips on Writing Effective Letters |
| 16:45 - 17:00 | Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Key Takeaways • Reminders regarding letter submission and upcoming events |



INDICATIVE AGENDA

May 20, 2024 (Monday) | ASEAN Prize Symposium 2024, Vientiane, Lao PDR

| Time | Activity |
|--|---|
| 08:30 - 09:00 | Registration |
| 09:00 - 09:05 | Greetings and Welcome |
| 09:05 - 09:25 | Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR(*) · Representative, the Temasek Foundation · Representative, the ASEAN Secretariat |
| 09:25 - 09:40 | Introduction to the Symposium and the ASEAN Prize Overview |
| 09:40 - 09:45 | Photo Opportunity |
| 09:45 - 10:00 | Networking Break |
| ASEAN Prize Talk by Laureates - Journey of the ASEAN Prize Recipients | |
| 10:00 - 10:20 | Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn (APR 2021) A Journey of Regional Cooperation and Integration |
| 10:20 - 10:40 | Mr. Haji Muhamad Iqbal Fakhri bin Haji Damit (APR 2022) A Journey of Youth Volunteerism and Engagement |
| 10:40 - 11:00 | Madam Nguyen Thi Tuyet Minh (APR 2023) A Journey Toward Women Empowerment |
| 11:00 - 11:20 | Open Forum |
| 11:20 - 11:30 | A Letter to ASEAN Leaders By an ASEAN Youth Convergence delegate |
| 11:30 - 11:45 | Overview of the Breakout Session |
| 11:45 - 13:30 | Lunch |



INDICATIVE AGENDA

May 20, 2024 (Monday) | ASEAN Prize Symposium 2024, Vientiane, Lao PDR

| Time | Activity |
|---|--|
| Breakout Session: Solutions Room Fortifying ASEAN Community Building Through Solutions Development | |
| 13:30 - 13:50 | Session Instructions |
| 13:50 - 14:30 | Solutions Room Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Group Networking, Peer Learning, and Peer Advising |
| 14:30 - 14:45 | Health and Coffee Break |
| 14:45 - 15:30 | Solutions Room Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APRs' Insights |
| 15:30 - 16:00 | Wrap-up and Closing Statements |

May 21, 2024 (Tuesday) | Youth Conference, Vientiane, Lao PDR

| Time | Activity |
|---------------|--|
| 08:30 - 09:00 | Registration |
| 09:00 - 09:30 | Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks • Introduction to the Youth Conference Objectives and Agenda |
| 09:30 - 09:45 | Lightning Talk A The Role of the Youth in Addressing Community Challenges by the ASEAN Secretariat |
| 09:45 - 10:00 | Lightning Talk B How consensus-building strengthens regional cooperation by Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn of Mekong Institute |

INDICATIVE AGENDA

May 21, 2024 (Tuesday) | Youth Conference, Vientiane, Lao PDR

| Time | Activity |
|---------------|--|
| 10:00 - 10:15 | Lightning Talk C Why the youth needs to volunteer more on specific causes by Mr. Haji Muhamad Iqbal Fakhri bin Haji Damit |
| 10:15 - 10:30 | Lightning Talk D How do we ensure our initiatives are inclusive by Madam Nguyen Thi Tuyet Minh |
| 10:30 - 10:35 | Photo Opportunity |
| 10:35 - 10:50 | Refreshments and Networking Break |
| 10:50 - 11:50 | ASEAN Café |
| 11:50 - 12:00 | Wrap-up of the morning session |
| 12:00 - 13:30 | Lunchbreak |
| 13:30 - 15:00 | Stakeholder Engagement Exercise |
| 15:00 - 15:15 | Refreshments and Networking Break |
| 15:15 - 15:45 | Closing Ceremony |
| 15:45 - 17:00 | Delegation Photo at Patuxai and Quick Stop at Souvenir Shop |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | Freshen up and Preparation for Dinner and Cultural Night |
| 18:30 - 20:00 | Cultural Night |

