



MEKONG  
INSTITUTE

ASEAN  
PRIZE



# ASEAN YOUTH



# CONVERGENCE

2024

May 13, 19-22, 2024 | Crowne Plaza Vientiane  
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 States (AMSs) 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



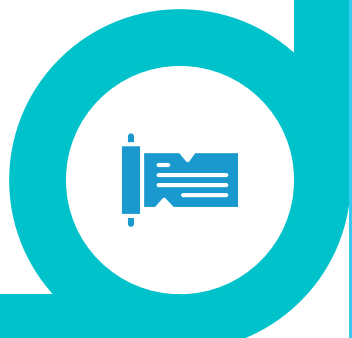
**FORMAT** (Continued)

**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 (BKK, +7)	Activity
08:30 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 9:10	Welcome Address The ASEAN Secretariat
9:10 - 9:20	Overview of the AYC 2024 and Introduction to the Day's Agenda
<b>Letters to Leaders Workshop</b>	
9:20 - 10:00	Letters to Leaders <b>Ms. Anna Oposa</b> , Executive Director and Chief Mermaid, Save Philippine Seas
10:00 - 10:30	Letters to Leaders Exercise (Breakout group per country)
10:30 - 11:30	Output presentation and feedback session: Letter Reading and Tips on Writing Effective Letters <b>Ms. Anna Oposa</b>
11:30 - 12:00	Letter Writing Assignment and Letters to Leaders Exhibit
<b>12:00 - 13:30</b>	<b>Lunchbreak</b>
<b>Preparing for Impact: Meet &amp; Greet</b>	
13:30 - 14:30	Ice-breaker
14:30 - 15:15	Pre-departure briefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities</li> <li>• Admin and logistics</li> <li>• Other requirements</li> </ul>
15:15 - 15:30	Closing



## 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 Opening
09:05 - 09:25	Welcome Remarks a. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR b. Mr. James Chan, Senior Director, Temasek Foundation c. Mr. Lee Yoong Yoong, DIR for Community Affairs Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat
09:25 - 09:40	Introduction to the ASEAN Prize Symposium and the ASEAN Prize Overview
09:40 - 09:45	Photo Opportunity
09:45 - 10:00	Networking Break
<b>ASEAN Prize Talk by Recipients - Journey of the ASEAN Prize Recipients</b>	
10:00 - 10:20	<b>A Journey of Regional Cooperation and Integration</b> Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn Executive Director of the Mekong Institute ASEAN Prize Recipient 2021
10:20 - 10:40	<b>Youth Leadership and Volunteerism</b> Mr. Haji Muhammad Iqbal Fakhri bin Haji Damit Co Founder Hand4Hand Brunei ASEAN Prize Recipient 2022
10:40 - 11:00	<b>Empowering Women in Socio-Economic Development</b> Madam Nguyen Thi Tuyet Minh Founder of WeLead Founding Member, The First Chairwoman of ASEAN Women Entrepreneur Network (AWEN) ASEAN Prize Recipient 2023
11:00 - 11:20	Open Forum and Q&A Session
11:20 - 11:30	A Letter to ASEAN Leaders By an ASEAN Youth Convergence delegate
11:30 - 12:00	Overview of the Breakout Sessions & Media Interview
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break

## INDICATIVE AGENDA

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

Time	Activity
<b>Breakout Session: Solutions Room</b> <b>Fortifying ASEAN Community Building Through Solutions Development</b>	
13:30- 15:00	Break-out Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mekong Institute – ASEAN’s Regional Cooperation and Integration</li> <li>• Mr. Iqbal Damit – Youth Volunteerism in ASEAN</li> <li>• Madam Nguyen Thi Tuyet Minh – Women’s Socio Economic Empowerment in ASEAN</li> </ul>
15:00 - 15:30	Refreshment and Coffee Break
15:30 - 16:00	Wrap-up and Closing Ceremony
17:00 - 17:30	Group Photo at Patuxai (Youth Delegates Only)
18:00 - 19:30	Dinner (Youth Delegates Only)



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"> <li>• Welcome Remarks by Mr. Htet Aung, SOMY Chair, Director General, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Myanmar</li> <li>• Introduction to the Youth Conference Objectives and Agenda</li> </ul>
09:30 - 09:45	Lightning Talk A <b>The Role of the Youth in Addressing Community Challenges</b> by Mr. Thatsaphone LETTHAVONE, Director of International Relations-Cooperation Division from Lao Youth Union
09:45 - 10:00	Lightning Talk B <b>How consensus-building strengthens regional cooperation</b> 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 <b>Why the youth needs to volunteer more on specific causes</b> by Mr. Haji Muhamad Iqbal Fakhri bin Haji Damit
10:15 - 10:30	Lightning Talk D <b>How do we ensure our initiatives are inclusive</b> 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
16:00 - 18.00	Free Time and Preparation for Cultural Night
18:00 - 20:00	Cultural Night

