

## Why a Southeast Asia Youth Partnership for Development?

The idea for SEAYPD arose from seeing the need for greater involvement of youth in development efforts in the ASEAN region. The various existing regional and international platforms\* do not currently reflect an adequate level of SEA youth participation.

This project is premised on the firm belief that youth are a major stakeholder that cannot be excluded from the broader development process. It is based on a commitment to the idea that Southeast Asia youth can be the agents of their own development.

\*More background information is available on Page 3.

## What is our mission?

To advocate greater youth involvement and opportunities in development strategies, and to mobilise youth-led efforts towards achievement of the MDGs, and the broader development agenda, in the ASEAN region.

## What are we?

The NGO is both a network and coalition of youth organizations involved in working towards the MDGs and broader development across the 10 ASEAN member states: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

## What are our objectives?

- i) Facilitating consultation for SEA Youth representation on development issues at regional (eg. ASEAN) and international (eg. UNESCO) levels; providing policy recommendations to regional fora on development issues; promoting investment in YLD; and advancing youth as a priority agenda at various levels of governance.
- ii) Mobilising youth organizations for raising awareness of, and advancing progress for, the MDGs in the ASEAN region towards the target of 2015 – and beyond.
- iii) Serving as a network for sharing and exchange of information; facilitating organisational capacity-building through various skills share training activities; catalysing inter-agency and inter-organisational collaboration on joint projects and partnerships; shaping and sharing best practice in YLD.
- iv) Facilitating a clearinghouse mechanism for SEA youth organizations and various stakeholders, providing resources and information on YLD projects and initiatives, funding and project opportunities, and relevant regional and international conferences and activities.

## How will we operate?

The NGO shall be governed by a Governing Council comprising member organizations from each ASEAN member state, as well as key global youth partners. The Council shall convene quarterly online meetings and hold a SEA Youth Summit every 3 years, or as the frequency of ASEAN Ministerial Meetings on Youth (AMMY) determines. The location of the Summit will rotate among ASEAN member countries, based on a bidding process by member organizations or otherwise determined by the Council.

For the first 3 years following SEAYPD's establishment, a Virtual Secretariat will function through the utilisation of ICTs for communications between Council members.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEA Youth Summit, a Regional Secretariat may be established, the function and management of which shall be decided by consensus, failing which 75% majority vote, by the Governing Council.

## Who's with us?

Since the inception of the idea of SEAYPD, we have made contact with extensive youth NGO networks working in development in the region and globally. This is in addition to development and/or youth civil society networks we already have established relationships with. Some of our key networks include:

- Millennium+5 NGO network
- Oxfam International Youth Parliament (OIYP) network
- Network for Asia Pacific Youth (NAPY)
- NGO Committee on Youth at the UN (NGO Youth Com)
- International Student Network
- UNEP TUNZA Youth Advisory Council Asia & Pacific
- World Youth Peace Summit Online Network
- International Youth Development Agency network
- Youth Action for Change network
- Taking IT Global
- Global Youth Action Network

## Who are our potential partners?

There are specific regional and international institutions, organizations and agencies which have been identified as potential partners, on the basis of the mutual relevance of work, alignment of objectives, and likelihood of emerging funding and/or partnership agreements:

- UNDP Millennium Campaign
- World Bank East Asia & Pacific
- Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR)
- International Youth Foundation (IYF)
- Asia Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Nippon Foundation
- McKnight Foundation

## A Bit of Context

In 2003, the 3<sup>rd</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum was institutionalised as an integral part of the UNESCO General Conference, by a unanimous decision of Member States. This was a move towards mainstreaming youth in UNESCO's activities and programs.

In 2004, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) in Cambodia accorded speaking rights to the Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation (CAYC), allowing youth more participation in decision making processes.

In 2005, Member States at the 60<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly passed the resolution A/60/L.2, calling for, inter alia, strong partnerships between governmental, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organizations to scale up investments in youth and encourage youth-led contributions to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These positive steps to further youth participation in decision-making processes are acknowledged and commended.

At the same time, the current level of participation from Southeast Asian youth in regards to development and MDGs, that exist at various regional and international platforms, can yet be incrementally improved upon to better reflect Southeast Asia's youth population and needs. These platforms include, but are not limited to, the following:

- SOMY
- UNESCO Youth Forum
- UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) processes
- UN Development Program (UNDP) Global Forum on Human Development

Thus, the need for a mechanism to facilitate greater youth involvement in development strategies (Youth-Led Development, YLD), as well as for adequate representation of youth organizations within ASEAN region at the regional and international level, demonstrates the impetus for the creation of the Southeast Asia Youth Partnership for Development (SEAYPD).

## More reasons for SEAYPD...

- 1983: Bangkok Declaration of Principles to Strengthening ASEAN Collaboration on Youth  
*"To expand the base of youth participation and integration at the national and regional levels of development, such as through mobilization, consultation, participation in decision making and provision of services."*
- 1997: Kuala Lumpur Agenda on ASEAN Youth Development  
*"ASEAN has an important role in promoting regional peace and stability, human development as well as rapid economic growth and industrialisation;"*
- 2000: Yangon Declaration on Preparing ASEAN Youth for the Challenges of Globalisation  
*"Create enabling environments which encourage and facilitate the expression of youth creativity, and the participation and integration of youth in nation- and region-building programmes;"*
- 2003: UNESCO 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Conference  
*"Reaffirming that the needs and concerns of youth shall be mainstreamed throughout all programmes of the Organization, as envisaged in document 31 C/4, Recognizing the importance of youth involvement in all levels of decision-making;"*
- 2005: 10-year review on the UN World Program of Action for Youth: Youth Resolution 60/A/L.2  
*"Calls upon Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to develop strong partnerships to scale up investments in youth and to encourage youth-led contributions to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, in particular those contained in the Millennium Declaration;"*