

ACTIVITY REPORT

Name of Activity : SEA Youth Summit on Youth Welfare “Social Justice for All” 2023

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Number of Participants : 138 (one hundred and thirty-eight) Participants, 18 (eighteen) Speakers, 5 moderators, 9 AYF Staffs, and human resources.

A. DESCRIPTION *(Please briefly describe the activity)*

Through the year of 2023, AYF has been capturing the recent human rights issues faced by the youth in the region. After successfully conducting research on Myanmar Youth after the Coup, AYF was focusing the advocacy in capturing the development and welfare of Youth. Development in ASEAN has been one of the major focuses that the ASEAN Government tried to imply in their policy, but merely on physical development such as infrastructure and economic growth. Human rights has barely been put on the development list. Aside from human rights, AYF sees that youth rights have not been fulfilled by the government. Many youth in the region are still struggling in pursuing decent access to education, health, employment, environment, and social protection. In response to this, the AYF Secretariat believes that the aspirations of young people on welfare should be considered and incorporated into the debate.

To fill those gaps and as the conjunction of Indonesia as ASEAN Chairmanship 2023, AYF once again will be hosting the annual SEA Youth Summit. This year's SEA Youth Summit will be held in Jakarta under the theme of “**Youth's Welfare**”. This event will provide a meaningful participation of youth and youth-led organizations in local and regional policy-making civic space. Because AYF believes that youth's voice in addressing various political, social, and economic issues in Southeast Asia is necessary.

B. OBJECTIVE(S) *(Please list down the objective(s) of the activity)*

The SEA Youth Summit has objective in gathers youth's ideas, perspective, and action listed below:

1. To propose the comprehensive solution toward contemporary youth issues in the ASEAN region, young leaders, young activists, policymakers, experts, and stakeholders will have dialogue, collaboration, and innovative solutions to address critical issues related to the welfare and well-being of the youth population in the ASEAN member states.
2. The summit seeks to create a platform where young people can voice their concerns, share experiences, and propose actionable solutions for a brighter future.
3. To gather the support in sounding the solidarity responding to the latest human rights and/or humanitarian crisis

C. DATE & VENUE

SEA Youth Summit was conducted fully offline on:

Day/date: Wednesday- Thursday, 25-26 October 2023

Venue: The Mezzanine Hall, Aryaduta Hotel Menteng, Jakarta

D. MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN & RESULT

E. PARTICIPANTS *(Please identify the total number of participants who attended the activity with details; type of organizations/ministries, sex, type of disabilities, and area)*

Total number of participants: 75 (seventy-five) Participants, 18 (eighteen) Speakers, 5 moderators, 9 AYF Staff, and human resources.

We could not list each person's details involved in the Summit. However, for the confirmed moderator, speakers, and confirmed participants can be viewed in this [link](#) and the human resources can be accessed in this [link](#).

To give the general description for the parties involved in the summit, the composition is listed below:

- Speakers and Moderator: the composition for each plenary session was 4-5 person, which include AYF Network (youth), NGO representative (local and regional level), academia, and government representative (national and ASEAN level);
- participants: participants were dominated by the youths from various backgrounds, such as university students, government officials, NGO officers, university staff, and freelancers. Aside from youth, the event is also attended by non-youth (age 35 and above) who focus work on human rights and/or access to welfare.
- Human resources: we recruited professionals or experts in event organizing and related necessities. Mostly from the Jakarta and/or Jabodetabek area.

F. METHODOLOGY *(please describe the methodology used for achieving the objective(s) of the activity)*

The SEA Youth Summit was conducted offline which highlighted a few activities, such as Grand ASEAN Youth Town Hall (plenary session), art performance, policy discussion, and solidarity action. This event was also a platform to share AYF research primer, both Myanmar primer and Youth Welfare research. This event was a manifestation of the Youth's Welfare research which captured what Youth faced in terms of accessing welfare in Southeast Asian. SEA Youth Summit provided a

platform for youth in voicing their concern in the form of dialogue, among youth, stakeholders, academia, and NGO officials.

G. PROCEEDINGS *(please briefly describe the flow of the activity, please not that you should not put the rundown of the activity)*

The event was held for two days in a row. In total, there are five panels called ASEAN Grand Town Hall, which consist of the main plenary session and four other sessions. Through the ASEAN Grand Youth Town Hall we brought issues related to welfare in the region. They are:

- a. Education and Employment
- b. Physical and Mental Health
- c. Reproductive Justice
- d. Climate Justice
- e. Democracy

On 25 October 2023, the registration opened at 9.00 AM where participants received kits such as a hat, sticker, and research primer on Youth Welfare and Myanmar after the Coup. The event then was opened by the two youth MCs from Indonesia and the Philippines. The MC welcomed the participants and explained about the big theme that we brought to the event. It then was followed by the opening remark from the AYF's Regional Coordinator, Fatimah Zahrah.

Generally, there are three panels on the first day. The first one was a plenary session on education and employment. This session is the panel we provide for researchers to launch the primer on youth welfare. There were four panelists with one moderator. The resource persons were quite diverse in order to gain rich perspectives, from academia, representatives of national commission, and young people from the region specifically from Myanmar. The session was guided by our youth network from the Philippines who is a teacher. In this opportunity, the researcher explained about AYF's findings on the expectation of youth in the region in regard to access to education and labor protection. Full description about this session can be found by accessing [this note](#).

After the first ASEAN Grand Town Hall, the organiser provided lunch break to all attendees. In order to boost the mood after lunch, there was a music performance from our activist friends. The performance lasted around 30 minutes. Next, there were two simultaneous ASEAN Grand Town Halls which discussed Physical and Mental Health and Climate Justice. As the session was conducted in parallel, we divided the session into two different rooms (main hall and secretariat room). Thus, we allowed the participants to choose which plenary session they prefer to join.

Similar to the previous plenary session, the session for physical and mental health was conducted for a maximum two hours long with four speakers and directed by one youth moderator. For the session on physical and mental health, we had Cecep Soemantri who is the Head of General Directorate and Collaboration, specifically Vocational, from the Ministry of Education. There were also representatives from Perhimpunan Jiwa Sehat that focus on mental health, representatives from Plan Indonesia, and our network Fiftriyah who is a medical doctor. They discussed the challenges of the community in accessing healthcare services and the importance of the state's presence in providing universal and high-quality healthcare for all. This session was moderated by our youth network from Timor Leste. Full report about this session can be read through [this note](#).

Meanwhile, for the session on Climate Justice, we had fewer speakers which consisted of two young climate activists and one academia. In this session they talked about how youth initiative is very important. However, there is a giant issue that can be addressed solely by youth through their movement. This means, states across the region, with their power, need to take real action and responsibility, including prioritising the rights of the community apart from business interest. The report of this session can be found [here](#).

From the simultaneous panel, the participants gathered again in the ballroom to have coffee break as they began to have a networking session. The first day then was closed by our two beloved MCs by recapping day one and brief for the second day.

On day 2, 26 October 2023, generally there were two plenary sessions, which were Sexual and Reproductive Rights Health and Democracy, followed by solidarity actions and closing live music.

Sexual and Reproductive Rights Health plenary session, we have three speakers, one from AYF Network, Emma which focuses on young women reproductive and menstrual rights, NGO Representative from Sanggar Swara, focuses on SRHR for minority groups, and representatives from Ministry of Health of Indonesia, focuses on children and teenage health. Moderated by the AYF Network, Tamtang Group, a Thailand based NGO who provided prevention on unwanted pregnancy, safe abortion, and reproductive health services. This session mainly discussed inequality in access to reproductive and sexual health and rights and the fulfilment of basic needs such as clean water, sanitation, access to information, and access to education have an immense impact on how young people can enjoy their sexual and reproductive rights. As well as a progressive policy that protects and ensures reproductive justice is needed. The reproductive justice policy could be universal health care, comprehensive sex education, paid family leave, ending housing insecurity, and universal high-quality social protection. The further details of the session can be accessed [here](#).

For the last plenary session, we have Democracy topics. Brought along four speakers from different backgrounds. We have AYF Network from Cambodia, Chun (Politikoffee), Senior Lecturer at Mahidol University, Aj. Bencharat, Hantta (young democracy activist from Myanmar), and Deputy Secretary of AIPA Secretariat, Putri Maha Lima. This session was moderated by Joanna from Project Multatuli. This session focuses on how digital literacy plays a significant role in the era of technology and populism. Distributive justice is necessary to support alternative discourses from those left behind and marginalised by the current system, and the law enforcement in order to protect people's politics and civil rights. The further details of this session can be accessed [here](#).

After we finished all the plenary sessions, the Moderator allowed all the participants to take a short coffee break. The summit was then followed by the Solidarity action. This solidarity session was led by the AYF's Program Manager, Rastra to asks participants to gather support responding to the latest political-humanitarian crisis, which were Democracy crisis in Thailand, Military Coup in Myanmar, and War crime and genocide in Palestine.

Last but not least, the summit was concluded by the group pictures and music performance from Oscar Lolang.

H. **FINDINGS/RESULTS ANALYSIS** Analysis *(please elaborate the findings or results from this activity)*

1. For the overall finding, SEA Youth Summit was conducted successfully.
2. There are several minor technicalities occurred, even though they did not intervene the whole agenda, such as participant punctuality, speakers punctuality, some participants could not join the whole summit.
3. The participants showed enthusiasm by giving active participation through the QnA session, solidarity, and group picture.
4. We tried to accommodate participants and resource persons' need in term security and confidentiality. We provided stickers with "no photo" sign and we allowed the participants to informed us verbally.
5. We always asked for everyone's consent to include the documentation or discussion for our internal reporting and/or publication, if necessary.
6. The follow up activity is to launch the Youth welfare primer in AYF social media and website.

I. Challenges

Challenges faced before and during the activity, such as:

1. Approaching the speaker and moderator. Our potential speakers and moderators were mostly full-time officers in their own field. Thus, securing their availability is a priority. Beside that, we faced quite a big change than our proposed potential resources. Due to the availability, current residing city/country, and expertise, the speaker and moderator composition are changed multiple times. Even though the AYF team approached the potential resource person more than one month in advance, we still could not finalize the composition up until Day-1.
2. Approaching the participants. We sent the invitation to all the potential participants gathered by all the AYF team. Fortunately, we received high enthusiasm from our youth network, NGO, and scholars. However, we found a frequent case that the participants asked about the transportation allowance and accommodation, which AYF could not provide at the moment due to our limited budget. Many of our potential participants were also sent confirmation nearing the summit day, thus we could only finalise it a few days before the summit. However, we also found a number of participants withdrawing confirmation due to several agenda, such as health issues, another meeting, etc.
3. As the activity involves the whole AYF team committee, we conduct the weekly coordination meeting to discuss the work progress, challenges and potential faced by each staff member, as well as ensuring that everyone's working on the same page.
4. Minor challenge faced during the event day was the time punctuality, as the resource person (speakers) coming to the event are only on the scheduled plenary session which inquire us to contact them multiple times to ensure they will come on time.
5. Language barrier. We were conducting the event fully in english, expecting that speakers and participants would fully understand and enable to join the whole session in english. However, during the day we found cases where the participants and speaker needed a translator/interpreter, which AYF did not accommodate earlier.
6. Ensuring participants join the whole session. Even though we have a high number of registrar, we found many of them leaving before the end of summit or absent on day 2. It caused that during the last plenary, solidary, and closing, we only had a few participants left.
7. Delay in cash advance resulted in an extra communication (back and forth) to finance to help make payments, especially for merchandise, props, and banners to be printed on time.
8. Short time (approximately one week– even less) to order merchandise, props, and banners, which resulted in working late hours between the one who design and the one who make orders.
9. Communication with performers who have under professional management, it is quite challenging. Starting with pre-event matters (contract and the slow communication flow with the manager) and on the day of the event, there are several things we need to fulfil as an organizer for the performer (prepare the certain room, foods, and drinks). Although, the fact was the performer itself is so welcome and humble to be able perform in SEA Youth Summit.
10. The security of participants is still lacking in the preparation, for the participants who don't consent to be photographed or video, we don't have a clear mechanism for that. Therefore in the day of events, we face a lot of discussions regarding this.
11. Technical meeting day-1 before the event is one of the most important coordination meetings needed. The objective is to make sure all the technicalities and things needed to prepare are discussed and addressed.
12. Debriefing each day after the sessions end is important to know the challenges face that day and how to prepare with the solution and improvement for the next day.

J. Lesson Learned (for the upcoming summit)

The lesson learned that we can implement for the further activities, such as:

1. Having SEA Youth Summit conducted as the AYF annual activity, not under specific division, put a regional coordinator as the coordinator for SYS. I believe it can ease the coordination and put each division on the job based on their expertise, such as Advocacy designing concept notes, CODP to recruiting resource persons, etc. It will also ease the reporting process not under specific division.
2. Having an external consultant is a good lesson learned to implement for the next activity. It proves to help the AYF team to execute the SEA Youth Summit and ease the technical burden for the AYF Team.
3. For the topic or themes for the SEA Youth Summit, I believe it can be discussed and agreed by the whole AYF team. As it is conducted in the last quarter of the year, it needs to manifest or reflect AYF work of the year or general topics AYF team has been work together.
4. Solidarity sessions (programming and how it should conduct) should be prepared before the D but the statement can be revised hours before it happened if there are updated data. Solidarity session should be in the middle of the program or where the participants are at their peak (would be good also if it happened when media are present) not *at the end* so the solidarity can be witness by the participants and it also shows that the solidarity is not an after-thought.
5. Bidding process: before we lock, we can do soft-announcement to those who did not get selected for the to do "banding" and counter-offer the selected quotation
6. Establishing house rules can be beneficial to set the rules such as this is a safe space where diverse individual from different background participate (trans individuals etc) so that we should ensure the space is free from bigotry and hate and comments targeting specific group of people
7. LOCK the DATE earlier so we can inform our partners so that they can arrange their travel from outside Indonesia to attend the program.
8. It is better to prepare for merchandise, props, and banners minimum 3 weeks prior to the event, to have ample time in reviewing design, finding the best vendor (quality and price wise), and to get the order in time.
9. Cash advance should be requested and processed earlier.
10. Survey to the venue is advisable to decide the appropriate size and type of banners.
11. To have dedicated person to ensure the number of participants met and ensure attendance of participants
12. Table setting can be adjusted based on the number of participants, to ensure that there are minimum empty chairs
13. Can explore ways to increase engagement or interactions with participants.

K. CONCLUSION

1. The summit was carried out smoothly without any major barriers.
2. All participants followed the guide, terms and conditions, as well as the guide principles key. Even though we found several minor discomforts, we managed to solve the issues and carried out the whole SYS successfully.
3. The information given varied from education, health, employment, housing, protection, and others. The participants who attended also gave positive feedback regarding the discussion.
4. Despite not all intended participants attending the whole session, the variety and range of expected outcome still reached.

L. PHOTOS *(please attach photos of the activity)*



