



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits: Empowering Future Leaders to Shape Regional Cooperation

Australia, 5 June 2024 – Asia Education Foundation is delighted that its series of Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits are part of 38 community, university, and business projects to strengthen collaboration between Australia and Southeast Asia to be awarded funding through the Australia-ASEAN Council and the Australia-Indonesia Institute.

The successful grants were announced earlier this year, as the Australian Government welcomed Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders and delegations to Melbourne for the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, marking the 50th anniversary of Australia's dialogue partnership with ASEAN.

Taking inspiration from the official summit, the Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits provide an excellent opportunity for high school students from Southeast Asia and Australia to engage in diplomatic dialogues and contribute to shaping regional cooperation. The Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits will commence on June 18th, with a subsequent session on July 25th, before culminating in a hybrid meeting in Canberra on August 19th.

The summits will bring together up to 66 Year 9 and 10 students from across Australia and 60 students from ASEAN countries and we are pleased to announce students from the following schools will be participating.

Australian Schools

Bairnsdale Secondary College - VIC
Burnside State High School - QLD
Canberra Girls Grammar School - ACT
Hurlstone Agricultural High School – NSW
Kelmscott Senior High School – WA
Kirwan State High School - QLD
St Patrick's College, Launceston - TAS
The Essington School - NT
Vincentia High School – NSW
Werribee Secondary College - VIC
Woodville High School – SA

ASEAN Schools

Australian International School - Singapore
Cambodia Rural Students Trust - Cambodia
Chommany Secondary School - Laos
Milaor National High School - Philippines
Sekolah Menengah Sains Tuanku Aishah Rohani - Malaysia
Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri - Brunei
Suankularb Wittayalai Rangsit School (SKR) - Thailand
SMA Negeri 2 Sekayu - Indonesia
SMA Pradita Dirgantara - Indonesia
Vinschool Times City School – Vietnam

Walking in the shoes of country leaders, students will delve into key regional issues, negotiate, and formulate of recommendations to be captured in a summit declaration. The Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits promise to be an enriching experience, fostering cross-cultural understanding and leadership among the youth of both regions.

Sarah Richardson, Executive Director of the Asia Education Foundation, said "The Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits provide a unique platform for high school students to foster their cross-cultural understanding, gain invaluable insights into contemporary Southeast Asian life and develop their leadership skills."

By providing a forum for dialogue and collaboration, this initiative embodies the spirit of partnership and mutual understanding that defines the longstanding relationship between Australia and ASEAN. The Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits empower students to play an active role in shaping the future of regional cooperation and cross-border relations and nurture the next generation of leaders.

About the Australia-ASEAN Council

Australia's people and institutional connections with Southeast Asia are enhanced by the Australia-ASEAN Council (AAC). The council was launched on 8 September 2015 to strengthen Australia's engagement with the region. Its mission is to generate opportunities that deepen cultural understanding, cooperation and connections with ASEAN member countries – Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The council's work focuses on advocacy and outreach, support for business, education and cultural initiatives, grants and exchange programs.

For more information please visit: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/foundations-councils-institutes/australia-asean-council>

About Asia Education Foundation

Asia Education Foundation (AEF), the education experts of Asialink at the University of Melbourne, has been successfully advancing Asia literacy, intercultural understanding, and global citizenship for over 30 years. AEF's student and educator professional learning programs and curriculum resources have empowered more than 100,000 teachers and students across 23 nations. AEF programs and resources are free, thanks to our trusted partners, governments, businesses, and philanthropies.

For more information about the program, please visit:
<https://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/aays-2024>

You can also contact the Asia Education Foundation via phone (+61 3 8344 4800) or email (aays-2024@unimelb.edu.au).

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