



ASEAN FOUNDATION



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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ABOUT US

OUR VISION AND MISSION

Decades after ASEAN was established, ASEAN leaders recognised that there remained inadequate shared prosperity, ASEAN awareness, and contact among the people of ASEAN. It was because of this concern that ASEAN leaders established the ASEAN Foundation during the ASEAN 30th Anniversary Commemorative Summit in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 15 December 1997. Since then, we have been taking pivotal role to fulfil these gaps. We unite people. And we help to develop them. We are a strategic instrument to achieve ASEAN's goals.



OUR VISION

To build cohesive and prosperous ASEAN communities



OUR MISSION

To commit to promoting ASEAN awareness through people-to-people interaction and collaboration with ASEAN stakeholders to build a caring, cohesive, equitable, inclusive and peaceful ASEAN Community.

OUR PILLARS



Arts and Culture

Celebrating and preserving ASEAN's diversity, but also uniting its people as one ASEAN, and instilling a pride in being a part of ASEAN.



Education

Capacity building for ASEAN citizens, especially youth and students, with the skills and knowledge to be highly competitive and to advance ASEAN's socio-economic growth.



Community Building

Strengthening the relationships between ASEAN citizens, advancing their common interests, and getting them involved and benefiting from ASEAN's integration.



Media

Helping members of the media understand ASEAN better so that they can showcase the real stories of the real people of ASEAN.



H.E. Amb. Nguyen Hai Bang

Permanent Representative of
the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to ASEAN and Chair of
Board of Trustees

It is my pleasure to present ASEAN Foundation's 2021 Annual Report. Against the backdrop of a pandemic that has gone into its second year, ASEAN Foundation remains committed in realising its mandate to foster a cohesive and vibrant ASEAN Community. The theme of Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN chairmanship, "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper," provided a clear vision of the spirit in which all our programmes are to be carried out, and that is putting our beneficiaries at the heart of ASEAN Foundation's work.

Programmes carried out have maintained high standards in its delivery ensuring that activities are enriching, empowering, and engaging. Interactions and exchanges continued to build on the ASEAN identity, strengthening the sense of camaraderie amongst participants. Despite the transition to virtual engagement, recurring programmes such as ASEAN Data Science Explorers and eMpowering Youths Across ASEAN continued to build the future-ready skills of our young leaders.

On the ASEAN diplomacy front, the ASEAN-China Young Leaders' Summit succeeded in honing the leadership and public speaking skills of youth from the ten ASEAN Member States and China while at the same time strengthened diplomatic ties and cooperation. In an effort to increase awareness about climate change, our ASEAN Young Climate Leaders Programme brought together youth leaders for an immersive virtual leadership programme to increase their skills and understand current sustainability trends, environment, and climate action-related issues.

To alleviate the impact of the pandemic, we implemented programmes such as Bridges to the Future: ASEAN Youth Employment, ASEAN Social Enterprise Development Programme and ASEAN COVID-19 Active and Robust Response, which targeted various beneficiaries such young job seekers, social enterprises and disadvantaged communities through provision of access to capacity building, mentorship, networking, funding grants and basic hygiene items.

Internally, ASEAN Foundation is privileged to be led by the talented and capable Dr. Yang Mee Eng whose passion is to empower and uplift individuals and communities in ASEAN. The Foundation benefits from her leadership skills and her contribution of creativity, dynamism, and compassion. She works with an exceptional team of dynamic changemakers whose mission and motivation are to create positive change for the people of ASEAN.

At ASEAN Foundation, we have been very fortunate to have received the strong support of our partners, sponsors and well-wishers. I would also like to thank ASEAN Foundation's Board of Trustees and member countries and their respective agencies, for their dedication and cooperation. Your support gives us strength and joy in carrying out the Foundation's important work of positive change and development.

We are forever grateful to everyone who has contributed to the ASEAN Foundation's success. We look forward to continuously working together, navigating through the challenges and seizing growth opportunities, embracing all the great possibilities that lie ahead.

**Dr. Yang Mee Eng**

Executive Director of
ASEAN Foundation

The ASEAN Foundation is proud that 2021 has been a dynamic year of progress. We have achieved remarkable successes in our four thematic areas – Arts and Culture, Community Building, Education and Media. Over 80,000 beneficiaries have greatly benefited from our regional programmes which sought to drive innovation, support youth in becoming future-ready, strengthen ASEAN awareness and identity while cushioning the effects of the pandemic.

Vitalising the arts and culture of ASEAN, which is rich in history and meaning, diverse and unique, the KONNECT ASEAN programme brought artists from the ten member states and Republic of Korea together with key stakeholders from the public and private sectors players to display, discuss and publish artists' creative endeavours. Celebrating both the art of weaving and literature, a short story competition was held under the Maybank Women Eco-Weavers programme. Writers articulated their vision for ASEAN's rich tapestries of cultural heritage, at the same time giving a voice to the struggles women weavers face in preserving textile weaving.

Our Community Building programmes have continued to remain relevant, enhance growth, and support different communities across the ASEAN region. Programmes, such as eMpowering Youths Across ASEAN and Bridges to the Future: ASEAN Youth Employment continued to be the linchpin of our efforts in creating a generation of youth that is resilient and competitive. At the same time, the ASEAN COVID-19 Active and Robust Response programme provided help for marginalised communities in the region with access to food, basic hygiene facilities and knowledge on COVID-19 prevention. Through ASEAN Social Enterprise Development Programme, we empowered emerging, youth-led social enterprises through training, funding and wider market access across the region.

Over the years, education being a core agent of social change, has been ASEAN's focus area. In 2021, our initiatives under the Education pillar were geared towards strengthening digital skills of youth across the region. Entering its 5th successful year, the ASEAN Data Science Explorers programme continued to equip youth with data analytics through combination of enablement session and data competition. The ASEAN Online Safety Academy initiative strived to create a safer Internet space for youth through digital literacy training. On the ASEAN awareness front, the ASEAN-China Young Leaders' Summit was successful in equipping students from ASEAN and China with knowledge about ASEAN diplomacy and ASEAN-China relations.

Capturing the power of the media as a tool for information dissemination, the ASEAN Foundation held two regional competitions: ASEAN Photo Competition and ASEAN Youth Social Journalism. Both programmes advocated responsible journalism, creative presentation of ideas, critical discussions on current affairs, and the promotion of awareness on issues such as climate change, digitalisation, and COVID-19.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the tireless advocates and dedicated professionals across the public, private, and philanthropic sectors whose support were indispensable to the successes at ASEAN Foundation. I wish to convey my deepest appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Nguyen Hai Bang and members of the Board of Trustees for their commitment and dedication in working towards our shared vision. To the team at ASEAN Foundation, I convey my deepest gratitude and appreciation for your passion and hard work in making all our endeavours for the year 2021 a success.



ASEAN Foundation's Programmes

ARTS AND CULTURE



KONNECT ASEAN

Supported by the Republic of Korea (ROK) through the ASEAN Korea Cooperation Fund and ASEAN Secretariat, KONNECT ASEAN is an arts programme bringing together artists from ten ASEAN member states and Korea to explore and collaborate, resulting in dynamic exchanges of ideas, practices, and cultures.

The programme is implemented with a belief that arts and culture strengthens regional integration, trade, and security. The experience of each other's art promotes peace and understanding amongst the people and nations of ASEAN. Through the work of artists, political, economic, social, and environmental concerns are explored and discussed.

KONNECT ASEAN seeks to revive the integral and historical role ASEAN played in the visual arts sector and to connect artists and arts workers across the region and the rest of the world. The programme also engages with different communities to experience the rich and evolving arts scene in ASEAN and ROK. The programme consists of exhibitions, public programmes, publications, community workshops, and educational programmes with partner organisations across the region.

In 2021, KONNECT ASEAN managed to implement several successful events by using a “hybrid” approach:



1. 'August Gathering' Coffee Book

A coffee book titled “August Gathering” was launched on the 54th ASEAN day to commemorate the ASEAN Gallery and Collection's 20th Anniversary. A signing ceremony was held between the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN, H.E. Lim Sungnam, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi.

2. 'Stories Across Rising Lands' Exhibition at Museum MACAN, Indonesia

In partnership with Museum MACAN, KONNECT ASEAN launched the 'Stories Across Rising lands' exhibition on 10 March 2021. It was a survey exhibition of ASEAN contemporary art co-curated by museum curators Asep Topan (ID) and Jeong Ok Jeon (ROK). This exhibition featured artists from eight countries in ASEAN who worked using a variety of media, including video, installation, photography, painting, and video performance.

'Stories Across Rising Lands' focused on everyday behaviours and narratives that help shape social and cultural connections to a place. The exhibition attracted 18,500 visitors.





Committed to making art accessible to the wider public, especially children, Museum MACAN implemented educational programs with students. Under the same theme of the exhibition, educational outreach programmes were conducted which consisted of online panel discussions and public events. A total of 1,612 students took part in the programme.

3. KONNECT ASEAN Cultural Diplomacy Forum

To deepen ASEAN and ROK's cultural cooperation, KONNECT ASEAN conducted three online cultural diplomacy forums. The first webinar was organised under the theme of Unfolding the Legacy of Cultural Gifts in ASEAN, while the second and third webinars focused on the themes of ASEAN-ROK Exchange through Arts and Culture and ASEAN Regionalism and Creative Economy, respectively.

UNESCO (the programme partner during the third webinar session) will present policies and recommendations, data, and results shared during the cultural diplomacy forum to the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (Mondiacult) in 2022. The **KONNECT ASEAN Cultural Diplomacy** Forum was attended by 487 participants from 20 countries.

4. Shifting Orientations: 'Cast but One Shadow'

Shifting Orientations: 'Cast but One Shadow' is a long-term research and curatorial project that features a two-site touring exhibition in Manila and Busan and a combined virtual conference in Singapore.

Shifting Orientations: 'Cast but One Shadow' kicked off with a Singapore virtual conference titled 'In Our Best Interest.' An exhibition was then hosted by the UP Vargas Museum in Manila. The exhibition explored racial presence, anti-colonial struggle, and colonial and neo-colonial relations throughout ASEAN. The exhibition continues its tour to Busan in 2022.

The virtual conference was attended by 390 participants and the exhibitions attracted 95 visitors.

5. KONNECT ASEAN Contemporary Print Show 'Arise'

The exhibition, a collaboration between the ASEAN Foundation and ASEAN Culture House, assembled artworks by young artists from ASEAN and Korea to explore the idea of trauma, healing, and collective identity through the medium of printmaking and works on paper.

The artworks featured in Arise embraced a wide range of emotions coming from either the collective or personal memories of each artist. In capturing the results of historical conflicts in the ASEAN region, the artists demonstrated that whereas history is recorded and remembered, trauma can fade away, like delicate paper, and can be dealt with. Altogether, contemporary society's collective interest and concerns are illustrated, alongside various coping strategies.

The exhibition featured 16 artworks from ten ASEAN artists and six ROK artists and attracted 1,558 visitors. The exhibition will continue with a residency in Chiang Mai in 2023, in collaboration with the SOMCA Thailand Focal Point



6. Jogja Biennale 'Bilik Korea'

Curated by Jongeun Lim (ROK) and Alia Swastika (ID), the exhibition focused on women artists. It featured seven artists from Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and ROK. Under the theme of 'Hacking Domesticity,' the exhibition hosted public events with artists and curators to discuss women's rights and empowerment.

The exhibition showcased important artworks related to various urgencies such as the environment, race and class, and religiosity and identity. There were guided tours and visits where students, mothers, activists, and others learnt different stories and narratives about ASEAN and ROK. The exhibition was opened from 6 October to 14 November 2021, attracting 5,400 enthusiastic audience members.

"I was excited to see the visitor tag the artwork to my Instagram that makes me connect with the project even from far away. It was important for me to see the reaction from the audience, and the Biennale gives me the opportunity to communicate with the Indonesian and Yogyakarta audience and learn different history from other artists."

Sao Sreymao
Artist from Cambodia

7. Art and Market Writing Competition

Partnering with Art and Market, a multimedia platform, ASEAN Foundation launched a writing competition on 15 April 2021. The contest asked for analysis, opinion, and article reviews on the arts and culture of ASEAN and ROK. The writings will support the production of the KONNECT ASEAN journal, which will include arts policy recommendations for ASEAN and ROK. There were 32 submissions from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and ROK. The selected winners were from Malaysia, Singapore and ROK, with special mentions given to Indonesia and the Philippines.

8. ResArtis Virtual Conference

KONNECT ASEAN supported 20 artists from ASEAN and ROK to participate in the first-ever fully digital ResArtis Conference hosted by SAC Gallery, Bangkok. Titled "Defining the Next Decade," the conference examined the tremendous impact of COVID-19 and the future of international arts residencies. The conference presented Res Artis survey data results and examined new models of arts residencies that evolved in response to the pandemic. This included the rise in local exchanges, virtual residencies, and digital residency activities while physical exchanges were paused.

The conference was attended by 205 people from more than 45 different countries around the globe. ResArtis is the peak international body representing artist residencies across the globe, and this event gave KONNECT ASEAN global exposure to decision-makers and practitioners engaged in international cultural exchange.



KONNECT ASEAN Impact 2021



31,482

people visited KONNECT ASEAN's exhibitions



67

artists empowered



2,783

people empowered through KONNECT ASEAN's webinars

Story of Minji Chun (Republic of Korea)

Minji Chun is a Korean curator who managed to win the 2nd prize for the Art & Market's 'Fresh Take' writing contest under KONNECT ASEAN. Her opinion piece 'From Gwangju to the Globe,' observed trends within the contemporary art scene in South Korea. She explored how art has been used to narrate historical experiences and provide spiritual healing for all.

As Minju is a non-native speaker of English, she had to overcome the challenge of writing her essay in English. However, she feels that she has improved in her English ability which will help her use the language to make more international connections.

One of the main areas in the field of international cultural relations which Minju was currently researching on was the creation of solidarity from traumas. After participating in the contest, she got the opportunity to present what she wrote at a Korean studies workshop. Minju was able to receive constructive feedback from specialists such as editors and professors who are also working in her area of research.



MAYBANK WOMEN ECO-WEAVERS: "WEAVING TALES" SHORT STORY COMPETITION

In partnership with Maybank Foundation, the ASEAN Foundation organised Maybank Women Eco-Weavers (MWEW): "Weaving Tales" Short Story Competition to invite beginner and professional writers from ten ASEAN countries to write short stories based on the theme "*Preservation and Acknowledgment of the Ancient Art of Textile Weaving Across ASEAN.*"

The MWEW competition aims to preserve the traditions and cultural heritage across the region, promote traditional textiles globally, and indirectly support the economic independence and financial inclusion of women weavers across ASEAN. The competition welcomed beginner and professional writers, requiring the participants to submit a 500-word essay to be eligible.

Following a rigorous assessment process, ten winners from the "Beginner" category and ten winners from "Professional" category were selected. The 20 winners were awarded USD 250 each in a ceremonial webinar held on 24 August 2021. The webinar involved guest speakers to discuss the topic of "Preserving Tradition, Embracing Diversity, and Empowering Women." A special feature of the webinar was a poem reading by Theoresia Rumthe. She read a poem she wrote entitled Tentang Perempuan or About a Woman.

Below is the list of winners from both categories:

Beginner category

No.	Name	Country
1	Atiqah Rabihah Rafieh	Brunei Darussalam
2	Lyhour Sok	Cambodia
3	Nabila Salma Huwaida	Indonesia
4	Somphone Soukhathammavong	Lao PDR
5	Wong Jo-Yen	Malaysia
6	Kyay Mon	Myanmar
7	Karl Kirby Z. Costales	The Philippines
8	Vanessa Ng Qiu Rui	Singapore
9	Kamonporn Punthong	Thailand
10	Nguyen Thi Thanh Ngoc	Viet Nam

Professional category

No.	Name	Country
1	Atikah Rumaizah Binti Dr. Haji Harun	Brunei Darussalam
2	Meth Montary	Cambodia
3	Aprina Murwanti	Indonesia
4	Lusiana Limono	Indonesia
5	Sheena Gurbakhash	Malaysia
6	Karen Shepherd	Malaysia
7	Shekinah Angiwan	The Philippines
8	Trisha Joi D. Esperanza	The Philippines
9	Ng Sue Chia	Singapore
10	Bui Thi Giang	Viet Nam

A photograph of a middle-aged man and a woman standing outdoors in front of green foliage. The man, on the left, has grey hair and a mustache, wearing a striped shirt, and is giving a thumbs up. The woman, on the right, has dark hair and is wearing a grey t-shirt, also giving a thumbs up. A white face mask hangs from her neck. The image has a semi-transparent dark overlay at the bottom where the text is located.

ASEAN Foundation's Programmes

COMMUNITY BUILDING



EMPOWERING YOUTHS ACROSS ASEAN

In partnership with Maybank Foundation, the ASEAN Foundation implemented eMpowering Youths Across ASEAN (EYAA) to empower young people in creating meaningful impact to communities across the region.

In 2021, the Foundation implemented EYAA: Cohort Two virtually, harnessing the power of 75 young changemakers from the ten ASEAN countries to implement community projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. In partnership with local civil society organisations (CSOs), the youth volunteers developed and ran projects that touched on socio-economic and environmental issues in ten community areas in the four countries.

The programme was opened with a virtual capacity building workshop involving the youth volunteers and CSOs learning about project management, financing, design thinking, and impact measurement. Using the knowledge from the workshop, the youth volunteers worked with the CSOs

Project “Village Weaving Gallery”

CSO: Color Silk
Location: Siem Reap, Cambodia



A project aimed at promoting local tourism and Cambodian weaving cultural heritage while at the same time creating a better livelihood for rural weavers and farmers.

-  **155** young people
-  **30** local farmers
-  **30** women empowered
-  **325** trees for dyes planted

Project “CREATONME”

CSO: EcoFun
Location: Bogor, Indonesia


A project aimed at establishing an open-access platform for youth in exploring the creative industry and stimulate future skills through game-based learning.

-  **115** youths from 49 cities empowered
-  **4** board games about upskilling, water sanitation, mental health and culture conservation created

Project “STEAM CHIME and SMART”

CSO: Nexus3 Foundation
Location: Lombok, Indonesia




STEAM CHIME was a project aimed at building greater awareness about ecological child rights to live in a safe and healthy environment, improving students' learning skills through educational experiment activities, and encouraging teachers to apply new educational approaches. SMART was a project aimed at teaching junior high schoolers English using technology.

-  **269** students and **27** teachers in **7** primary schools and **1** junior high school were empowered through the projects

Project “Digital Farming and Agripreneurship”

CSO: Rikolto
Location: Poliwali, Indonesia

A project aimed at supporting local cocoa farmers with digital farming tools and digital marketing platform for better access to market.

-  **50** young cocoa farmers engaged and empowered
-  A digital marketing platform called www.mitraagribisnismandiri.id created
-  **4** prototypes of digital farming tools were developed



Project “Digital Entrepreneur”

CSO: Me.reka

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A project aimed at strengthening employment opportunities for Malaysian B40 youth, preparing them for future digital careers, and increasing social mobility upward.



107 youths from marginalised community empowered



42% participants earned additional RM 1,200 after the project

Project “SenikidZ Online”

CSO: Persatuan KakiSeni

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A project aimed at providing a safe space for expression and encouraging creative thinking for problem-solving through Wayang Kulit.



30 underprivileged students benefited from the project

Project “Nurture Nature: Eco-Farmer”

CSO: WormingUp

Location: Kuching, Malaysia

A project aimed at addressing the environmental issues caused by the over usage of chemical farm inputs such as chemical fertilisers and pesticides.



9 local farmers trained on sustainable farming practices



A sustainable farming educational hub (SFEH) established to train more farmers



120 kg of organic waste collected

Project “Improvement of Livelihood Centre in All Lights Village Tamale”

CSO: Global Peace Foundation

Location: Nueva Ecija, the Philippines

A project aimed at providing an opportunity for youth of Sitio Tamale to get involved with productive work and deliver adequate income for their families through organic mushroom production.



30 youths trained on organic mushroom production



Local employment improved by **30%**

Project “Bayi”

CSO: Keep Hope Alive

Location: Mindoro, the Philippines

A project aimed at improving income and job opportunities for poor income women in Roxas, Mansalay, and Bulalacao by training, organising, and improving the quality and diversifying their products through the establishment of a livelihood centre and establishing market-driven promotional activities and demand.



150 indigenous and rural women trained on local handicraft production, weaving products, and food processing



500 handicraft products developed

Project “Advancing Self-Sufficiency and Better WASH Behaviours”

CSO: Masy Consultant

Location: Cebu, the Philippines

A project aimed at building greater awareness about the importance of water, sanitation, and hygiene education (WASH).



452 young WASH advocates and **13** educators trained on social entrepreneurship and WASH skills



5,403 households facilitated by the installation of **31** new WASH facilities



7,971 students and **12,134** persons benefited from the WASH facilities



EYAA Impact 2021



75

young changemakers
empowered



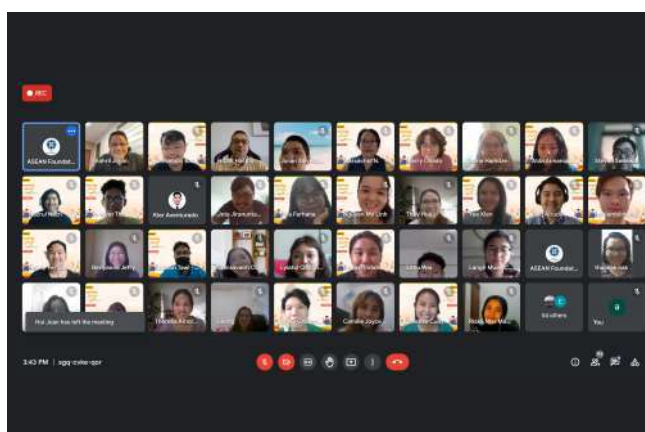
21,106

beneficiaries positively
impacted by the 10 community
projects



851,910

people benefited from the online
events organised by the youth
volunteers



Apart from the implementation of the ten community projects, a series of EYAA webinars was also organised throughout 2021 with a satisfaction rate of 97%:

- Series 1: Becoming the Volunteer for Change
- Series 2: Advancing Social Cohesion and Tolerance through Education and Youth
- Series 3: Empowerment of Young Women during COVID-19
- Series 4: Exploring Youth Roles to Sustaining Harmony in ASEAN



Story of Nazrul Nazri (Malaysia)

For five months, Nazrul participated in the Project CREATONME with EcoFun as a designer, facilitator, and mentor. He was part of a team that built a virtual board game that incorporated current social and economic issues. Together with his group members, they held workshops on the Sustainable Development Goals, self-advocacy, and cross-cultural understanding.

As the project secretary, he enhanced his administrative skills in project reporting, monitoring and evaluation, and external relations. The virtual capacity building workshops held with ASEAN's network of experts on project management, financing, design thinking, and impact measurement have helped him build a strong foundation for his career. Although it was challenging, Nazrul had to juggle different responsibilities for the project which has allowed him to become more flexible and agile at work.

"This was an eye-opening experience that provided a first-hand look at how our education systems should accelerate efforts to adopt gamification methods in creating adaptable and empathetic learners," said Nazrul.

Nazrul expressed that the potential for miscommunication is potentially higher when trying to organise a project virtually. Language barrier and internet connectivity issues slowed down game sessions. Time management was also an issue. However, faced with any challenge, Nazrul felt that team camaraderie was important in overcoming any challenge.

"I felt like our group was understanding towards each other's issues and busy schedules. We understood the issues of scheduling, given work commitment concerns. Thus, we maintained constant communication through various messaging platforms and made sure the entire team is on the same page. We communicated whenever a situation arose, came together on where we could compromise, and moved forward towards our goals".



BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE: ASEAN YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The ASEAN Foundation in partnership with Plan International and with support from Google.org has been implementing Bridges to the Future: ASEAN Youth Employment since 2020. The programme is implemented with one goal in mind: to support ASEAN youth in not only acquiring the necessary 21st century skills to (re)enter the workforce, but also building a more sustainable and secure economy post pandemic.

In partnership with Plan International, Yayasan Plan International Indonesia, and Plan International Viet Nam, as well as with support from Google.org, the ASEAN Foundation has worked to identify the most needed skills for vulnerable young job seekers in the region, particularly Indonesia and Viet Nam, through market research, market-driven vocational training, and job-matching assistance. One of the key deliverables of the programme is regional deep-dive research focusing on youth skills and market demands that will serve as a strong basis for the key stakeholders from the ten ASEAN countries to address the potential skills gap and enhance the labour market opportunities for underserved youth in the region. The research project involved more than 30 researchers with 1,076 respondents from both qualitative and quantitative data collection process.

Another important deliverable will be the Bridges to the Future: ASEAN Youth Employment's job information centre called ASEANJobs.org. The website will play key role in providing help for young people in ASEAN to connect with employers from across the region and secure job opportunities. The website is expected to be launched in June 2022.

"Through my involvement in the research, I learned that youth need to become a job creator rather than a job seeker. I also found out that that awareness regarding the importance of digital literacy, SDG values and global citizenship is still lacking in youths."

Sharran Loganadzan
Field Researcher from Malaysia

Story of Nattaya Kay Jaratruangsaeng (The Philippines)

In late 2021, Nattaya (Nat) was assigned to support the assessment of the current state of the labour market amid COVID-19 and skills demand for the future as part of the deep-dive research of Bridges to the Future: ASEAN Youth Employment. Throughout the research period, Nat had to gather data from participants from the government, NGOs and private sector, and individuals from economically challenged backgrounds and those with disability.

The COVID-19 pandemic shrunk economies throughout ASEAN and caused anxiety to many jobseekers. Nat learned first-hand the struggles and difficulties faced by those from impoverished backgrounds. She listened to stories of how her disabled interviewee was being taken advantage of at work and how hard times were for those trying to improve their lives.



Working with governments, Nat learned of the various programs that the Philippines government have put together to support youth, however there were still gaps as those from underserved communities were not aware of the help that was available. Adaptability is also essential in the workforce. The pandemic accelerated peoples' skills in digital literacy and ASEAN youths must upskill themselves to ensure good employment for their future.

"I hope that the research project will provide in-depth insights to the skills gaps in the job market and its findings will be used to implement programmes, to improve the condition of youth employment in the region or even create policies that will allow the workplace environment to become more friendly to those with disability," said Nat.



ASEAN COVID-19 ACTIVE AND ROBUST RESPONSE



ASEAN COVID-19 Active and Robust Response (ASEAN CARES) was implemented by ASEAN Foundation with support from 3M, Community Chest of Korea and United Way Worldwide. The programme aimed to help the at-risk and vulnerable communities in Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through the distribution of food supplies and hygiene kits.

In the implementation of ASEAN CARES, the ASEAN Foundation worked with three civil society organisations (CSOs) in Malaysia (EcoKnights, The Lost Food Project and TrEES), one CSO in Myanmar (Mae Nam Khone Institute) and three CSOs in Thailand (Ruam Jai Public Health Association, Public Health Volunteer Association and Buapetch Rescue Association). Through the CSOs, the programme managed to reach beneficiaries from low-income families, people with disabilities, elderlies, women headed households and pregnant or lactating women, ethnic and indigenous people, refugees and migrants. Additionally, demonstrations of proper handwashing were also conducted in the most affected areas. An awareness campaigns on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 was also rolled out with the support of the CSOs.

From its launch in October 2020, ASEAN CARES has provided food supplies and healthcare packages for 15,843 at-risk and vulnerable individuals in several areas in Malaysia (Johor, Kuala Lumpur, Sabah and Selangor), Myanmar (Ywarngan Kalaw, Taunggyi, Lawsaw and Mong Pong) and Thailand (Nonthaburi and Pathum Thani). Furthermore, the demonstrations of safe sanitation and proper handwashing have also benefited 15,199 people in the three countries.

"In the last year, we saw many families struggling to make ends meet as jobs are affected and some rely on income from daily-wage work. The realisation that the pandemic has strained the ability of many families affording basic needs moved us to action as we at 3M are committed to staying true to our core value of improving lives. We would like to extend our gratitude to United Way Worldwide, ASEAN Foundation and our local activation partners for making this outreach a success."

GT Lim,
Country Leader of 3M Malaysia

"I think ASEAN CARES is essential than ever, in the midst of current crisis which have caused lots of trickling down miseries from not only health problem but education, social, business and economics, it is at utmost a very noble act of ASEAN CARES for being thoughtful to distribute the care packages for communities in Thailand. It is very much appreciated, and I hope ASEAN CARES not just stopping here to continue the good-will deed."

Sandy Boonnaphorn Hydon,
Volunteer from Thailand



ASEAN CARES Impact 2021

Malaysia



9,237

people received food supply and healthcare



55%

of total recipients are women



2,719

recipients are refugees and migrants



1,310

recipients are indigenous people



8,699

people benefited from demonstration of handwashing

Myanmar



1,506

people received food supply and healthcare



79%

of total recipients were women



863

recipients were PWDs and elderly



643

recipients were people with families



+1,500

people benefited from demonstration of handwashing

Thailand



5,100

people received food supply and healthcare



63%

of total recipients are women



+2,000

recipients were migrants, refugees and from marginalised communities



+5,000

people benefited from handwashing socialisation



ASEAN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

With support from GIZ (the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and SAP, the ASEAN Foundation implemented ASEAN Social Enterprise Development Programme (ASEAN SEDP) to empower youth-led social enterprises across the ASEAN region by promoting productivity, technology and innovation, increasing access to finance, enhancing market access and internationalisation, and promoting entrepreneurship and human capital development. The programme served to support the realisation of six key SDGs in the region and the priorities of ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.

The journey of ASEAN SEDP started with the selection of 20 social enterprises focusing on women empowerment, digital training, waste management and environmental education. These social enterprises were provided access to participate in the entire cycle of the programme and gained access to structured capacity-building workshops and comprehensive mentorship from social entrepreneur coaches and corporate mentors. Representatives of the 20 social enterprises were also involved in networking sessions, discussions and were given access to key events, masterclasses and sharing sessions under the Social Enterprise World Forum 2021. The social enterprises also received seed and micro-grants amounting to USD 30,000 to assist in the operation of their social enterprises.

Areas in which the 20 social enterprises are creating positive change:

1. Climate change
2. Poverty reduction
3. Quality of education
4. Health and wellbeing
5. Gender and women empowerment
6. Sustainable consumption and production

Additionally, the programme successfully reached out to ASEAN youth and a diverse range of stakeholders through several online engagements initiated by the ASEAN Foundation, such as the launching of ASEAN SEDP, MSME webinar and ASEAN Social Enterprise Development Forum 2021.

Webinars

1. Launch of ASEAN SEDP (16 April 2021)

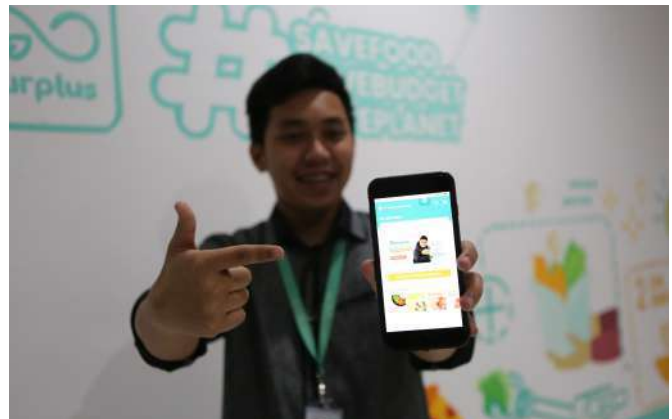
Under the theme of “Inspire and Enable Youth of ASEAN to Scale-up Their Social Enterprises in the Region,” the webinar aimed to build anticipation for the call for applications seeking the most qualified social enterprises in the region.

2. The Celebration of MSME Day 2021 and Announcement of 20 Selected Social Enterprises for ASEAN SEDP (9 July 2021)

Under the theme of “Promoting Youth-led Social Entrepreneurship to Empower MSME industry during COVID-19,” the webinar was used as a momentum to announce the 20 selected social enterprises for ASEAN SEDP.

3. ASEAN Social Enterprise Development Forum 2021 (12 November 2021)

Carrying the theme of “Social Innovations for Sustainable ASEAN,” the webinar aimed to appreciate the hard work and dedication of the 20 selected social enterprises participating in the programme and an opportunity to expose youth to the knowledge, insights, and opportunities for social entrepreneurship in ASEAN through panel sessions and masterclass. Furthermore, the webinar was also used to announce the three seed grant recipient of ASEAN SEDP entitled to receive a total of USD 21,000 seed grants to further scale-up their social enterprises. Below were the seed grant recipients of ASEAN SEDP:



Borderless360 (Singapore)

Borderless360 was selected due to their role in providing inclusive education for refugees. They take pedagogical approach that meets each unique child where they are, provide multicultural education, and foster learning through hands-on experiential activities.

Dao Ethical Gifts (Thailand)

Dao Ethical Gifts stood out because of their role in providing a platform for women-in-need to gain additional income by promoting and selling their hand-made products.

Surplus Indonesia (Indonesia)

Surplus Indonesia was considered exceptional in their role in reducing food waste and food waste in Indonesia. They approached hotel and farms to sell their overstock or imperfect products to customer with a minimum of 50% off.

ASEAN SEDP Impact 2021



1,146

beneficiaries empowered
through ASEAN SEDP's capacity
building workshop



20

social enterprises empowered

ASEAN SEDP was endorsed
as a programme that
contributes to ASEAN
Strategic Action Plan for
SME Development
2016-2025



"Both our mentors and coaches were very supportive and encouraging. Our mentors provided a lot of input related to technical matters such as business management, human resources, and finance. Not only that, but our mentor also introduced us to her colleagues who were experts in marketing. On the other hand, our coaches helped us to get to know ourselves better and see what opportunities we could look into."

**Osa,
Life and Co from Indonesia**

Story of Chitsuda Chinati (Thailand)

Chitsuda is proud of her work as the Project Manager for Dao Ethical Gifts and Dao Women Empowerment Project. She feels that it provides her invaluable opportunity to give back to the community by helping marginalised women living in construction campsites and urban slums to get additional income by selling handmade products.

Chitsuda's learning journey during the ASEAN SEDP has been rich and valuable. She learned how to cultivate a business growth mindset, understand about sector landscape and how to create a business model canvas. Through the programme, she was given access to a network of social enterprises who were in the same sector. For example, she connected with a social enterprise in Malaysia which upcycled used jeans. She learned what worked for them and what challenges they faced.

During the programme, she further developed communication, problem solving, and project management skills. She also learned the importance of how to tell a story and pitch Dao Ethical Gifts in an effective and impactful manner. "It was inspiring to hear other entrepreneurs' success and challenges and it helped guide my own reflection about how to further maximise Dao Ethical Gifts' social impact," said Chitsuda.

Due to reduced social interactions because of the pandemic, she felt the programme supported her to meet many like-minded entrepreneurs. Action Learning Sets was one of the components of the programme which made a big impact on her. The session encouraged her peers and her to share their workplace challenges, to reflect on them and think of opportunities and solutions. She felt more connected and supported.



ASEAN Foundation's Programmes

EDUCATION



ASEAN DATA SCIENCE EXPLORERS

ASEAN Data Science Explorers (ASEAN DSE) is a digital empowerment programme implemented by ASEAN Foundation in partnership with SAP. The programme invites ASEAN youth aged 15 to 30 taking full-time education at high schools and institutes of higher learning based in the 10 AMS to immerse in a series of enablement sessions and data analytics competition. Since its inception in 2017, the programme has equipped more than 31,470 youths, inclusive of underserved youths, and 2,246 educators from over 713 institutes of higher learning with data analytics skills.

ASEAN DSE engages youth to develop data-driven solutions that highlight six Sustainable Development Goals, namely Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Climate Action (SDG 13), by harnessing SAP Analytics Cloud. ASEAN DSE aims to support the priorities of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community 2025, ASEAN Economic Community 2025, ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025, ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025, and ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025. The programme was recognised by the ten ASEAN leaders as a creative digital initiative at the 31st ASEAN Summit in 2017 in Manila, the Philippines, and as a digital skills development initiative to prepare ASEAN youth to be future-ready at the 35th ASEAN Summit in 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

In year 2021, ASEAN Foundation and SAP share the common objective of continuing the implementation of ASEAN DSE 2021 as a way of transforming ASEAN youth into agents of change that can bring about sustainable impact to communities across the region, and supporting the theme of Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship, which is "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper." Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme was organised virtually throughout the year, culminating in the online regional final of data analytics competition involving ten best teams from the 10 AMS, which was livestreamed on ASEAN Foundation's Facebook and YouTube on 6 October 2021.

The enablement session is one of the two key interventions of ASEAN DSE, providing training for students and lecturers on data analytics using SAP Analytics Cloud. In 2021, 30 virtual enablement sessions were held with 29 Institutes of Higher Learning from the 8 AMS. To make the programme more inclusive, the programme expanded the target beneficiaries to include disadvantaged youth. ASEAN Foundation worked with eight local implementing partners in the 6 AMS to hold virtual enablement sessions, where over 6,400 underserved youths in 50 communities in tier two and three cities were capacitated.

Another highlight of ASEAN DSE programme is the data analytics competition. The competition, which is divided into national and regional competition, invited students to look into issues across the six selected SDGs and to develop data analytics storyboards or proposals using SAP Analytics Cloud. During the call for applications of ASEAN DSE, 2,000 students applied for the programme, with 654 students submitting data-driven storyboards aimed at tackling socio-economic issues. Following the storyboard submission, the ASEAN DSE virtual national competitions were organised to select the best ten teams from ASEAN to compete at the regional level. The 5th ASEAN DSE 2021 culminated in the virtual regional finals which saw Team Youth Forward from Saint Joseph Convent School, Thailand, won the first place.



The ASEAN DSE virtual regional finals were held as a three-day virtual event, where ASEAN Foundation and SAP organised a series of engaging activities for the regional finalists to build connections, strengthen their future-ready skills and grow their appreciation for being a citizen of ASEAN. The activities include team building and networking sessions on the first day, storyboard presentations and winners' announcements on the second day, and sharing sessions with the ASEAN Secretariat, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to ASEAN, alumni of ASEAN DSE, and social enterprises on the final day.

Below are the details of the winners of 5th ASEAN DSE 2021:



1st Winner:

Team Youth Forward (Rada Prapaikornkiet and Kanjaree Suppawittaya), Saint Joseph Convent School, Thailand

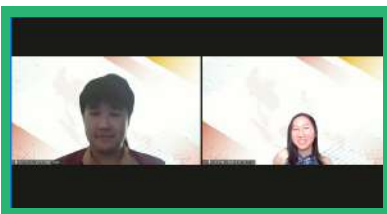
Their presentation was focused on empowering farming towards a sustainable future of the ASEAN Community covering SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, SDG 4 – Quality Education, and SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth.



1st Runner-up:

Team Sprinkle (Chakriya Suy and Serei Neath Reasey), Kirirom Institute of Technology, Cambodia

Their presentation was focused on recycle centre as the solution for waste management covering SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities.



2nd Runner-up:

Team Brain Drain (Ryan Kok Lam Liew and Jia Hui Ng), Sunway University, Malaysia

Their presentation was focused on prioritising e-waste covering SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production.

ASEAN DSE Impact 2021

15,675

students and lecturers trained on data analytics



8

local implementing partners engaged to reach out to disadvantaged youth

86%

of survey participants agreed that the competition helped improve their problem-solving, decision-making, critical and analytical thinking skills



92%

of survey participants were satisfied by the enablement sessions



"The ASEAN Data Science Explorers competition, the ASEAN Foundation's flagship programme, has proven ASEAN's commitment to preparing our youth to be future-ready. This initiative plays a vital role in igniting students' creative minds in tackling problems with innovative, creative, and sustainable solutions."

**The Honourable Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah,
Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam**

"We are so surprised, excited, and honoured to be the ASEAN DSE Regional Finals Winner! We didn't expect this at all. This journey has been memorable and life-changing for us. We learned so many new skills from this competition. Lastly, here is our message to ASEAN's youth: Go for it! Don't hesitate to join ASEAN DSE and your voices will definitely be heard, as our slogan: Let's grow together as one ASEAN community that harmonizes in one vision, one identity, and become the remarkable changers of ASEAN's future!"

**Team Youth Forward,
Thailand**

"It is my belief that participating in the ASEAN DSE regional forum is a great opportunity for Thai children to learn skills outside the classroom in terms of communication, exchanging knowledge, sharing opinions which will enhance the skills of working as a team as well as other essential skills such as soft skills, which are 21st century skills that modern Thai children should have."

**General Prayut Chan-o-cha,
Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Thailand**



ASEAN – CHINA YOUTH LEADERS' SUMMIT

In collaboration with Peking University and with support from the Mission of the People's Republic of China Mission to ASEAN, ASEAN Foundation launched the virtual ASEAN-China Young Leaders' Summit (ACYLS) 2021 to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations. The programme aimed to strengthen ASEAN-China relationships in advancing peace, stability, integration, and development in the region.

The programme ran from 23 to 26 September 2021 and offered a Model ASEAN Meeting process which allowed delegates to learn about ASEAN's decision-making processes, develop their leadership skills through role-playing at meeting simulations and address current issues creatively and effectively.

The summit consisted of six Sectoral Ministerial Meetings, three Community Councils, and one ASEAN-China Summit simulations. After recruiting 143 delegates across ten ASEAN Member States and China, 11 groups of delegations will be formed where they were assigned to take the roles of Ministers and the Head of State. Subsequently, the delegates needed to draft statements and Blueprints that showcased their discussion outcomes and to produce a joint declaration during the ASEAN-China Summit simulation.

Through this fun and interactive experience, ACYLS encouraged the young generation to hone their diplomacy skills and foster cross-cultural understanding and friendship. This initiative aimed to provide a model of meaningful collaboration for both ASEAN and China to gain mutually beneficial cooperation and contribute to the betterment of the region.

ACYLS Impact 2021



143

students from ASEAN and China
empowered

Skills which the delegates developed



Leadership



Diplomacy



Communications



Professionalism



In-depth analysis
of complex issues



Negotiation



ASEAN YOUNG CLIMATE LEADERS PROGRAMME

The climate crisis has become one of the most urgent issues of the decade. Youths have been vocal about their concerns regarding the continuity of the planet and young people are seen as active agents of change contributing to solutions for the planet.

In partnership with SAP, GIZ and Common Purpose, the ASEAN Foundation is implementing ASEAN Young Climate Leaders Programme (ASEAN YCLP) to gather young talents across the region to share and exchange ideas on sustainability, environment, and climate action-related issues in the region and build collaboration to contribute to resolving the issues.

The programme started in September 2021 and ran through to June 2022. Selected young individuals participated in a 4-day virtual leadership programme to sharpen their skills and increase understanding of ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment and the current trends of the sustainability, environment, and climate action-related issues in the region.

Selected youth leaders received:

- A 4-day virtual workshop involving experts from governments, NGOs, developmental agencies, private sectors and relevant ASEAN bodies
- Training on cross-boundary leadership and project management skills
- Mentorship sessions with experts from public and private sectors
- Seed grants

"Needless to say, this programme has provided myself a new way and approach for sharpening the ideas and bringing it into reality by dozen of impact, specifically on creative problem solving approaches. It eases my job on mapping the social impact programme related to renewable energy implementation."

Moh. Wahyu Syafi'ul Mubarak
Young changemakers from Indonesia

AYCLP Impact 2021



2,120

youths applied for the
programme



108

participants empowered through
cross-boundary leadership
trainings



ASEAN FOUNDATION VIRTUAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

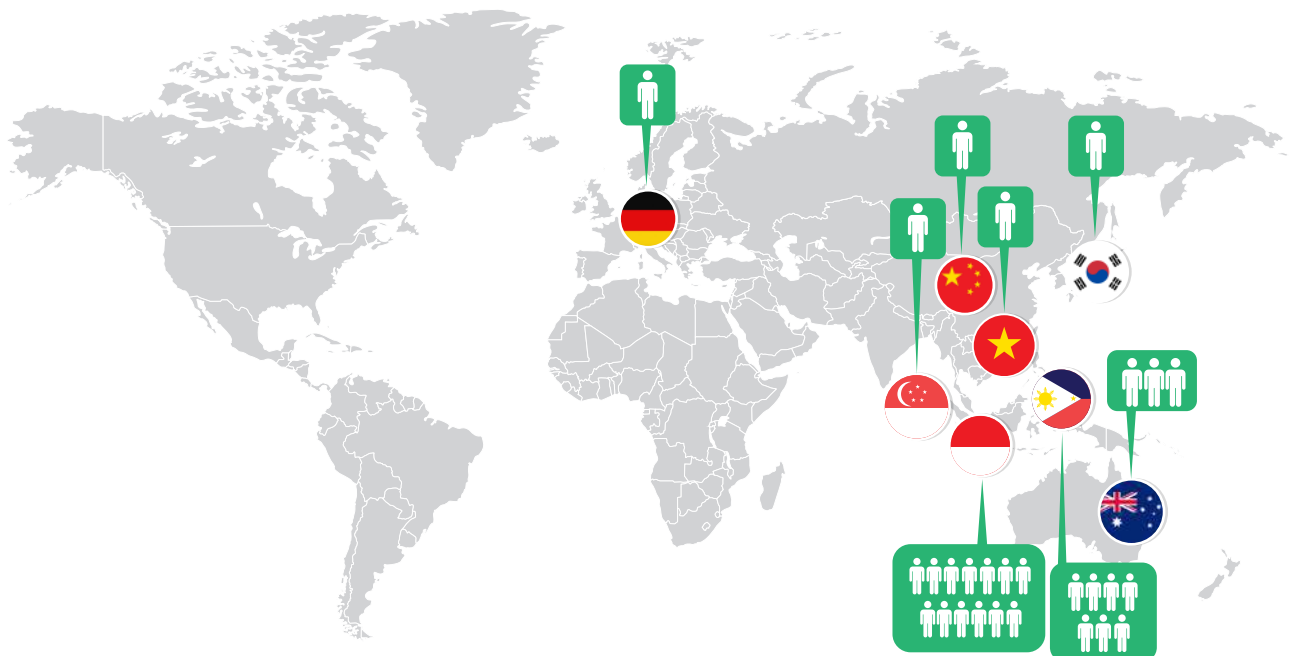
To solidify and further explore the potential of the ASEAN youth, the ASEAN Foundation runs an Internship Programme for undergraduate and postgraduate students from the ten ASEAN countries and the dialogue partners. The Internship Programme is for two to six months where they actively learn and contribute to the development of a dynamic, prosperous and resilient region. The interns work under the Foundation key working units, such as Programme Unit, Communications Unit, and Operations Unit, to further unleash their skills and potential. The interns are tasked to work on a day-to-day responsibilities surrounding programme and research proposal development, implementation, and monitoring. They are also tasked to develop content for the Foundation's social media platforms to increase outreach.

In 2021, the Foundation continued to implement virtual internship programme to provide an immersive learning platform for ASEAN youth. This format allowed interns to develop their 21st century skills as well as contributing to the ASEAN Community building from the comfort of their home or dormitory. To ensure seamless working process, mentoring and delegation of tasks were done virtually using various digital tools. The virtual internship programme received positive responses from students with more than 300 applications submitted. A total of 28 students from various ASEAN countries and ASEAN's dialogue partners were welcomed to intern at the Foundation



30

students from ASEAN,
Australia, Germany and
Chinese empowered through
mentorship





ASEAN Foundation's Programmes

MEDIA

ASEAN PHOTO COMPETITION

With support from ASEAN-German Energy Programme (AGEP), the ASEAN Foundation implemented ASEAN Photo Competition focused on the theme of “ASEAN Youth Shaping the Vision of Sustainable Energy as the New Normal” in 2021. The competition aimed to contribute to the awareness of the benefits of sustainable energy (solar, wind, hydro, tidal, and biofuel), paving the way for ASEAN’s cleaner and greener future. The competition was opened for youth aged between 18 – 30 years old. The competition attracted 82 applicants, and ten best photos were selected for the finals.

Two webinars were held as part of the competition. The title of the 1st webinar was “Facts and Myths about Energy Transition.” The 2nd webinar session was on “Youth and Women in Energy Transition.” The sessions aimed to raise awareness on the current state, challenges and potential of renewable energy. The sessions discussed the benefits of sustainable energy. Additionally, it also aimed to create a youth community network on Sustainable Energy.

The best ten winners were given access to participate in APC virtual storytelling workshop. During the workshop, AGEP shared about sustainable energy while the Foundation introduced the ASEAN Foundation’s initiatives youth development in the region. Participants learned how to deepen their photo projects and the trainers evaluated and fine-tuned each participants’ photo projects.

At the end of the workshop, the participants produced their final photo stories that captured their communities’ sustainable energy efforts. Their photo works were published on social media channels and websites. A selection of prizes worth up to USD 2,000 was awarded to the three main winners and the winner of People’s Choice Award of APC. The winners of APC were also announced and acknowledged during the 39th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting 2021. Below is the list of the winners, including the winner of People’s Choice Award:

1st Winner & Winner of People’s Choice Award:



“Amihan’s Haven”
by April Jieren R. Muska,
the Philippines

2nd Winner:



“Legacy of Dewi Sri”
by Malida Magista, Indonesia

3rd Winner:



*“Singapore New Vision:
City in a Garden”*
by David Lee, Singapore

“I have learnt so much during this competition, not only learning about visual storytelling but also about what each country is struggling and what they are improving on. Each country in ASEAN has its strengths and weaknesses, but each country helps one another to reduce carbon emissions and start using renewable energy as the new normal. Each of us can play a part to make something different to the world with renewable energy.”

David Lee,
3rd Winner of APC from Singapore



ASEAN YOUTH SOCIAL JOURNALISM

With support from USAID and the Embassy of Ireland Following, the ASEAN Foundation implemented the second ASEAN Youth Social Journalism (AYSJ) in 2021. The programme aimed to engage youth as social journalists to provide compelling media products to express their critical thinking and to allow them to raise their voices on COVID-19 related issues. The theme in 2021 was “ASEANYouth and COVID-19 — Response, Recovery, and Resilience.”

The programme generated the interest of over 650 people who submitted their essays for the competition. A total of 18 participants were selected as finalisits. They attend a virtual social journalism workshop to learn more about what social journalism means, the tools and skills of the trade, and to refine their social media campaign strategy.

Following the workshop, nine teams improved their social campaigns and and posted them on Facebook for one month, covering a range of topics, from addressing rising rates of domestic violence experienced by young women during lockdown to raising awareness about considering needs of persons with disabilities in public health measures to countering disinformation online about the pandemic. Participants were judged based on campaign performance, how compelling the content was, and its creativity. Based on the assessment, three teams from the Philippines, Malaysia and Viet Nam were identified as the winners of AYSJ 2021.



1st Winner:

Jefson Romeo Felix and Maria Isabel Seares, the Philippines

Their campaign was pledged to fight against false and misleading information online hindering COVID-19 recovery efforts.



2nd Winner:

Hanusha Durganaudu and Wern Sze Goh, Malaysia

Their campaign was pledged to fight against false and misleading information online hindering COVID-19 recovery efforts.



3rd Winner:

Vi Nguyen Nhat Hoang and Vinh Quang Pham, Viet Nam

Their campaign was pledged to fight against false and misleading information online hindering COVID-19 recovery efforts.

“Representing the country in an international competition is, in itself, a mark of prestige, but there is no greater honour than playing the role given by such a significant opportunity. Building and sustaining a campaign for the betterment of the nation amidst a public health crisis takes a lot of courage, strength, inspiration, and conviction which are all geared towards the advancement of collective advocacies.”

**Jefson Romeo Felix and Maria Isabel Seares,
1st Winner of AYSJ from the Philippines**



WEBINAR SERIES AND VIRTUAL EVENTS

To engage ASEAN youth and encourage them to discuss current topics affecting them and their communities, ASEAN Foundation organised two webinars, namely the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Webinar Series and the ASEAN Foundation Alumni Townhall Series.

CPR Webinar Series

Under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam, the CPR to ASEAN sought to promote the ASEAN identity through a series of webinar. In 2021, the CPR Webinar Series themes were, **“Cohesive and Responsive under the New Normal”** and **“ASEAN Community-Building and Education under the New Normal.”** A total of 295 participants attended the webinars. Attendees of the webinar came from every spectrum of society.

They included university students, academics, representatives of think tanks from the ASEAN Member States, and representatives of ASEAN chambers of commerce. As well as reaching out to participants from ASEAN, several participants also came from outside the region. Reaching out to a broader scope of the audience allows ASEAN’s programs and activities to be known to the public at large and allows ASEAN’s diverse stakeholders to come together.

ASEAN Foundation Alumni Townhall Series

For the past 23 years, the ASEAN Foundation has implemented various initiatives to support ASEAN youths. The ASEAN Foundation has been running various youth programmes which promote students' mobility in ASEAN and equip youth with different skillsets to prepare them for their future development.

In 2021, ASEAN Foundation’s second interactive Alumni Townhall sought to maintain close connections with our alumni. Our alumni consisted of those who were involved with ASEAN Foundation’s projects and initiatives, and former staff of the ASEAN Foundation. The alumni presented their work, shared their experiences and successes with other alumni formally and informally. The townhall was also an opportunity for the alumni to strengthen relevant professional networks across the region by establishing ‘Communities of Practices’. In total, 118 participants attended the townhall series.

ASEAN Foundation Webinar Series Impact 2021



412

youths directly empowered
through the webinars



MORE THAN 2,000

participants educated through
webinars’ livestreams



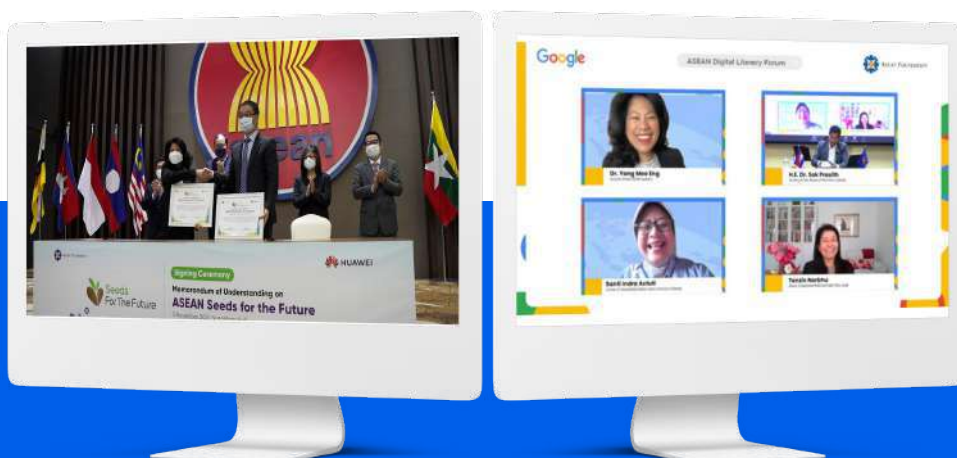
The ASEAN Foundation organised two major virtual events in 2021 with a focus on digital literacy and ICT talent.

In commemoration of the annual Global Media and Information Literacy week, the Foundation organised ASEAN Digital Literacy Forum virtually with support from Google on 28 October 2021. The online forum provided a platform for digital literacy experts from public and private sectors to discuss and identify the best solutions to combat the spreading of misinformation and disinformation amid the COVID-19 crisis through exchange of lessons learned and best practices.

The forum also saw the launch of ASEAN Digital Literacy Programme; a new regional initiative aimed at combating misinformation and disinformation in ASEAN. With a grant of USD 1.5 million, the Foundation will lead the implementation of the programme with support from Google.org starting 2022. Furthermore, the forum was also marked with the launch of Digital Literacy 101 comic. Containing essential tips on how to fact-check and verify credibility of news sources, the slice-of-life short comic aims to make media and information literacy accessible to all ASEAN citizens through a simple click of a button. The comic can be downloaded for free at bit.ly/aseandigit101.

To bridge the digital talent gap in the region, the Foundation organised the Asia-Pacific Innovation Day – Digital Talent Summit 2021 in partnership with Huawei on 3 November 2021. The hybrid event brought together policy makers, researchers and industry experts to share solutions and best practices in building a sustainable ecosystem that will help foster digital talents in the region.

Another highlight of the event was the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN Foundation and Huawei ASEAN Academy. The agreement highlights both entities' readiness to implement ASEAN Seeds for the Future, which is a scaled-up version of Seeds for the Future, Huawei's global CSR flagship initiative that has been providing world class digital skills training for young people across the globe since 2008. Through ASEAN Seeds for the Future, ASEAN Foundation and Huawei ASEAN Academy strive to build the digital capacities of youth in the ten ASEAN Member States so that they can thrive in the era of digital economy.



OVER 9,000

people were reached by
the two online events

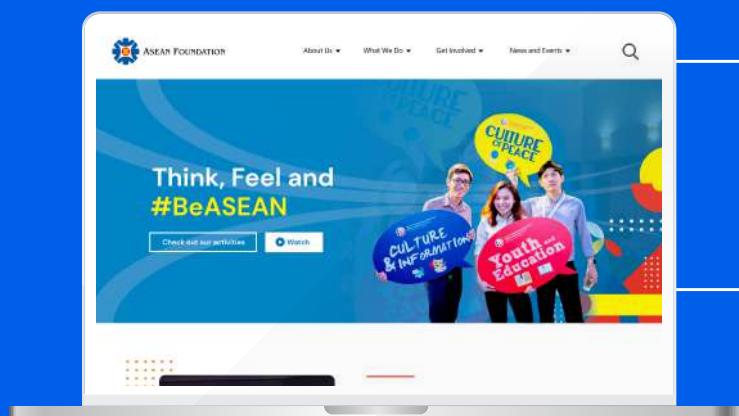
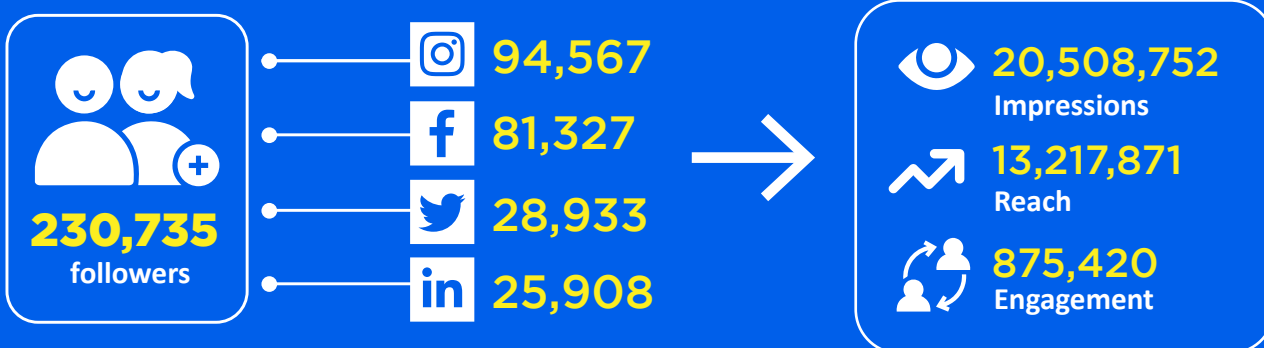


COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The ASEAN Foundation was established with the sincere intention to strengthen ASEAN Community building process and solidify the people-to-people connection between citizens of ASEAN. Henceforth, it is within the Foundation's strategy to ensure two-ways communications in engaging audience. This is simply being done with a realisation that a common vision and identity can only be achieved through an organic method of communications, that the people themselves speak on their behalf. With this spirit, the Foundation continues to make its communications channels publicly accessible openly and freely. The objective is to gather wide public participation and synergy in the Foundation's programmatic approach, that reach all layers of the ASEAN communities. At the same time, the Foundation also strives to bring ASEAN forward, closer, and reachable to its people through its approach.

In carrying out its mission to promoting ASEAN awareness through people-to-people interaction, and collaboration with ASEAN stakeholders to build caring, cohesive, equitable, inclusive and peaceful ASEAN Community, the Foundation harness the power of digital technology. Beyond the conventional use of website, the Foundation also shares its ASEAN contents through Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, TikTok, Podcast and YouTube. Additionally, a series of e-newsletters was also generated regularly to keep the audience engaged.

ASEAN FOUNDATION'S COMMUNICATIONS IN 2021



Website
www.aseanfoundation.org

155,869 New Users
386,215 Pageviews

E-Newsletter
65,786 Subscribers

Media Coverage

1,929 online clippings
46 millions in PR Value



CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

To engage ASEAN youth and encourage them to discuss current topics affecting them and their communities, ASEAN Foundation organised two webinars, namely the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Webinar Series and the ASEAN Foundation Alumni Townhall Series.



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland





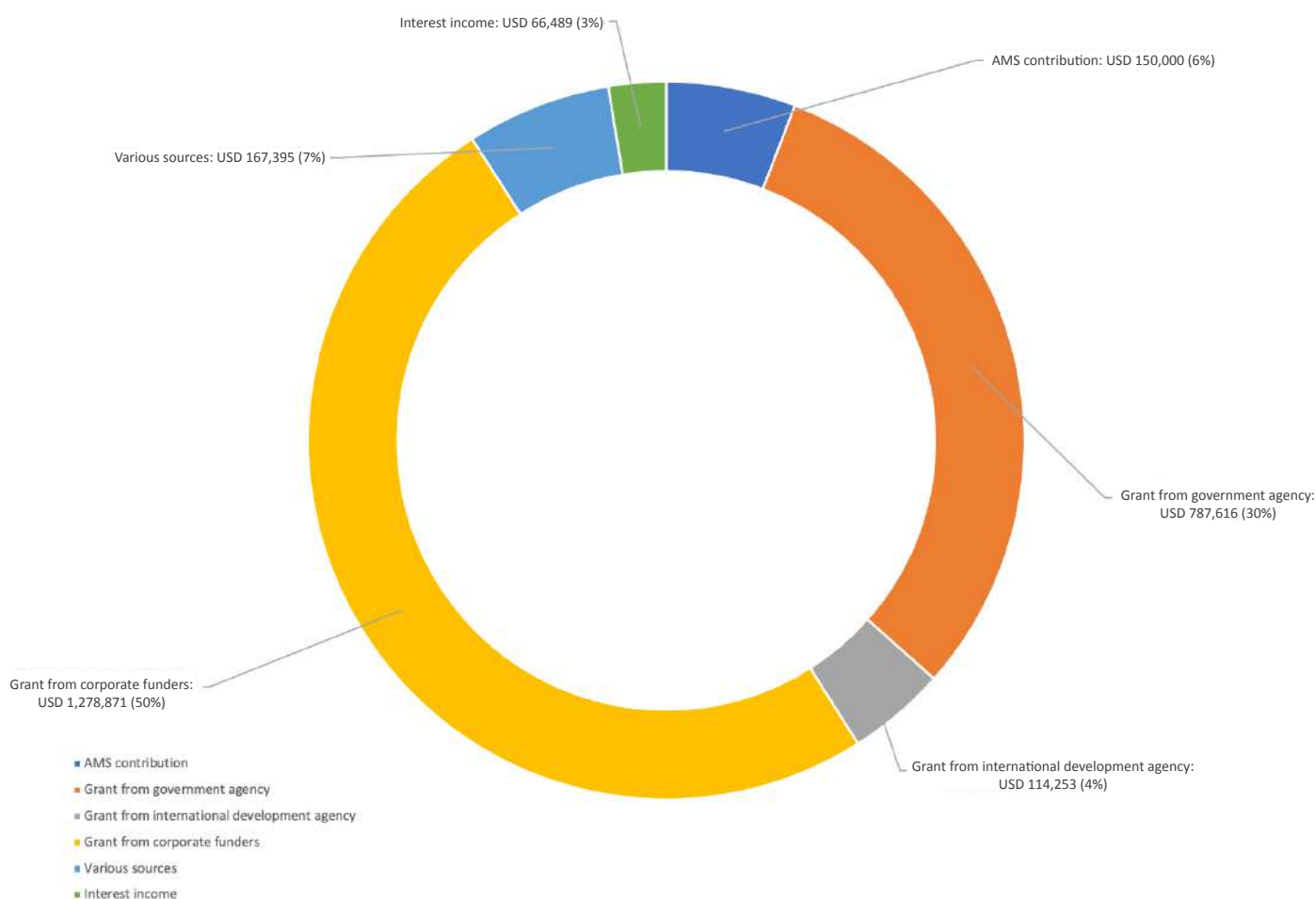
FINANCIALS



SOURCE OF FUNDING (INCOME)

The Foundation's source of income comes from ten ASEAN Member States annual contribution, grant from government agency, grant from international development agency (GIZ), grant from corporate funders (Google, Maybank Foundation, SAP Asia Pte Ltd.), various sources (fee for services, donations from online campaign), interest income from ten ASEAN Member States's equity and interest income from projects' dedicated bank accounts.

Source of Funding

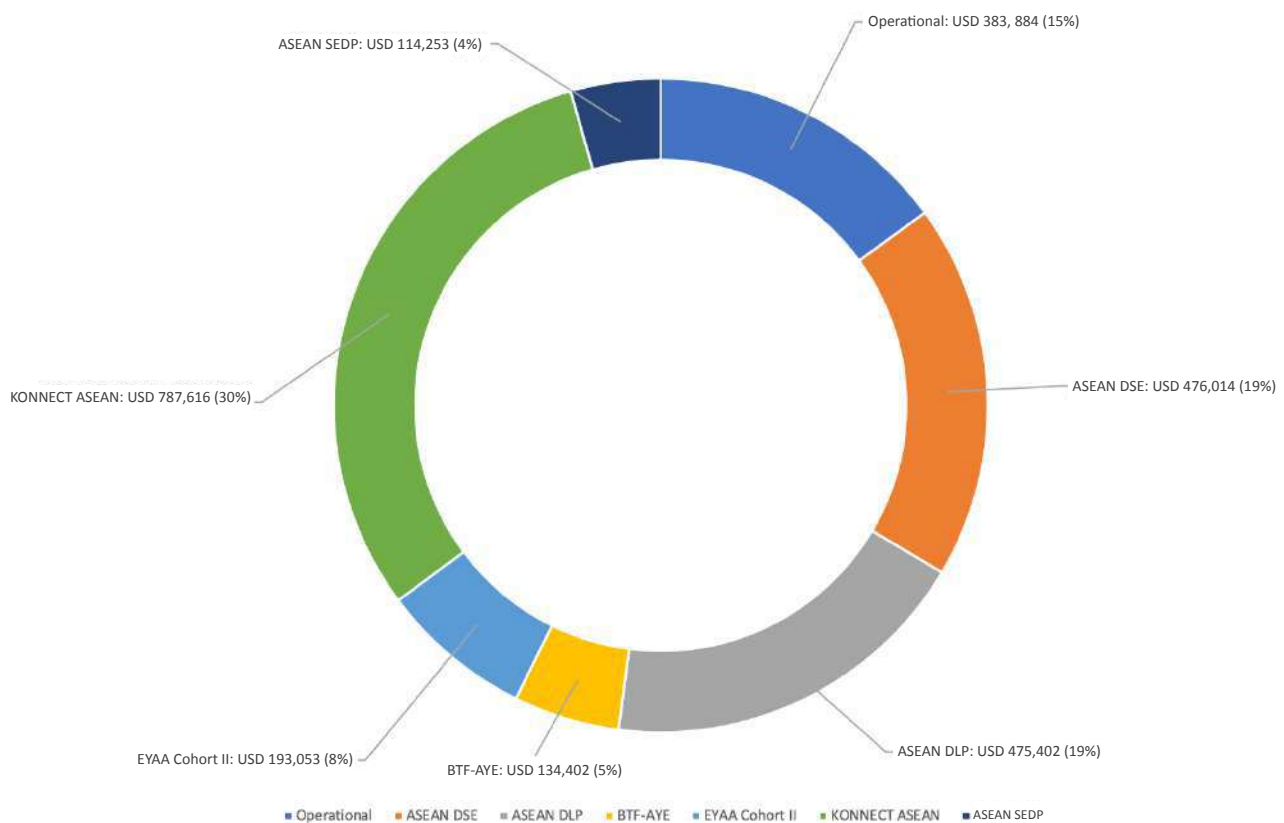




BREAKDOWN OF INCOME

Income earned from various sources each is dedicated to the project the Foundation has committed with such as ASEAN Data Science Explorers (ASEAN DSE), ASEAN Digital Literacy Programme (ADLP), Bridges to the Future - ASEAN Youth Employment (BTF-AYE), eMpowering Youth Across ASEAN (EYAA), KONNECT ASEAN, ASEAN Social Enterprise Development Programme (ASEAN SEDP) and including operation to fund management, small projects initiated by the Foundation (webinars, ASEAN Photo Competition, ASEAN Youth Social Journalism and ASEAN Foundation Model ASEAN Meeting) and general expenses.

Breakdown of Income



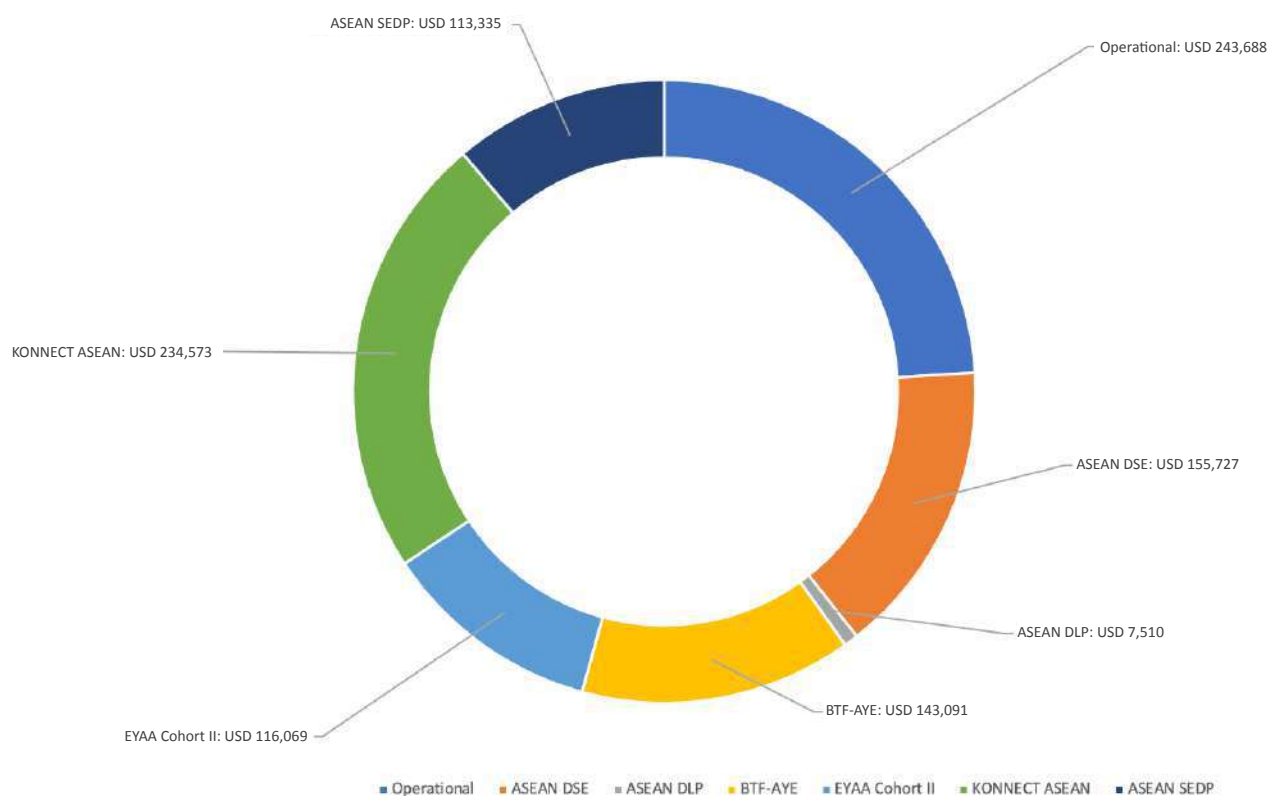


EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

Referring to breakdown of income, BTF-AYE has the highest burning rate (106%), and this is not considered as deficit since the funder has an obligation to transfer remaining fund to the Foundation in fiscal year 2022. The lowest burning rate (2%) is ADLP where the project has just started in December 2021.

The budget absorption was heavily influenced due to pandemic that resulted in most of the activities being adjusted and transformed into fully virtual delivery. In the ideal scenario that allows the programme to run without restriction, the overall burning rate could reach a minimum of 80%, however, the global pandemic has generally influenced the overall burning rate to be within an average of 55%. However, this lower burning rate still resulted high quality programme delivered without major obstacle.

Expenditure by Project

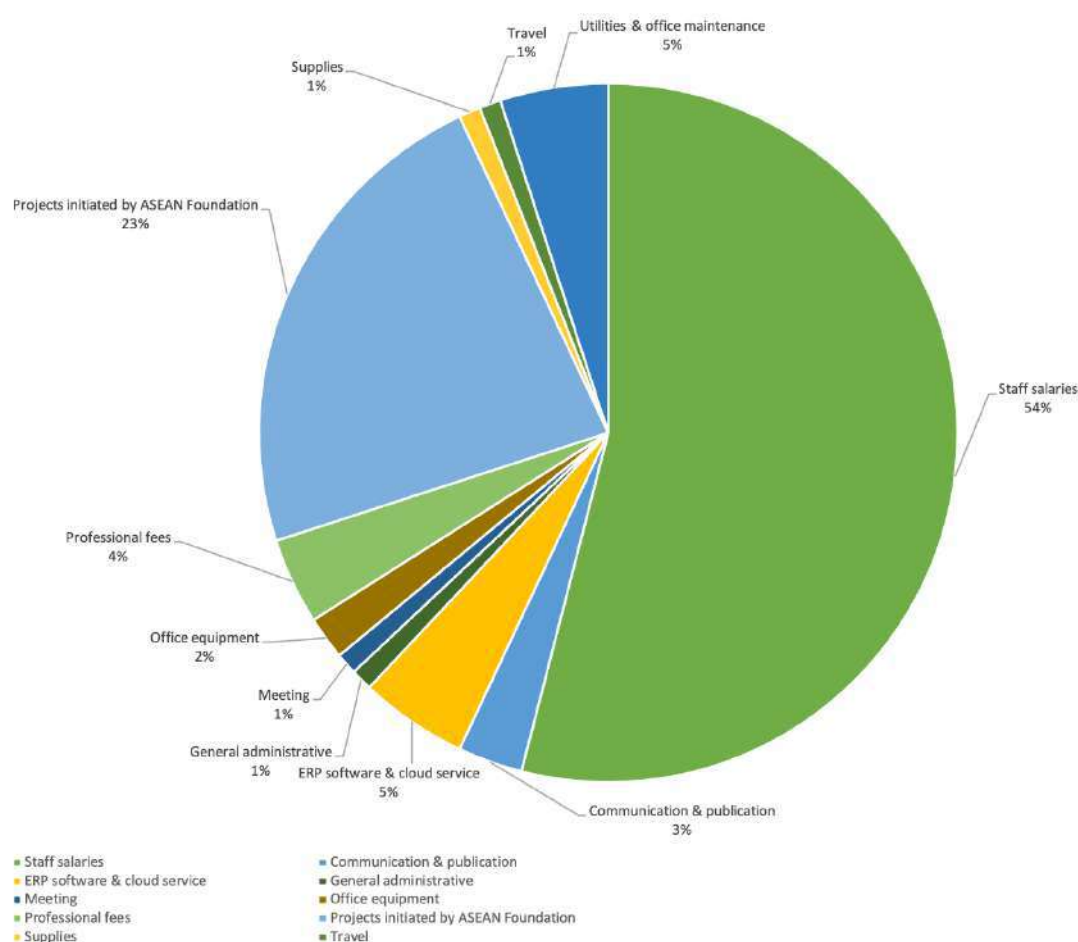




ALLOCATION OF OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

The Foundation's operational costs are mostly funded by ten ASEAN Member States (AMS) annual contribution, interest income generated from AMS' equity, various contributions and (3% - 20%) project cost share. AMS strong commitment to support the Foundation enable us to operate smoothly. These funds are used to support staff salaries, communication and publication, general administrative, meeting, office equipment, professional fees, projects initiated by ASEAN Foundation, supplies, travel, utilities and office maintenance.

Allocation of Operational Expenses

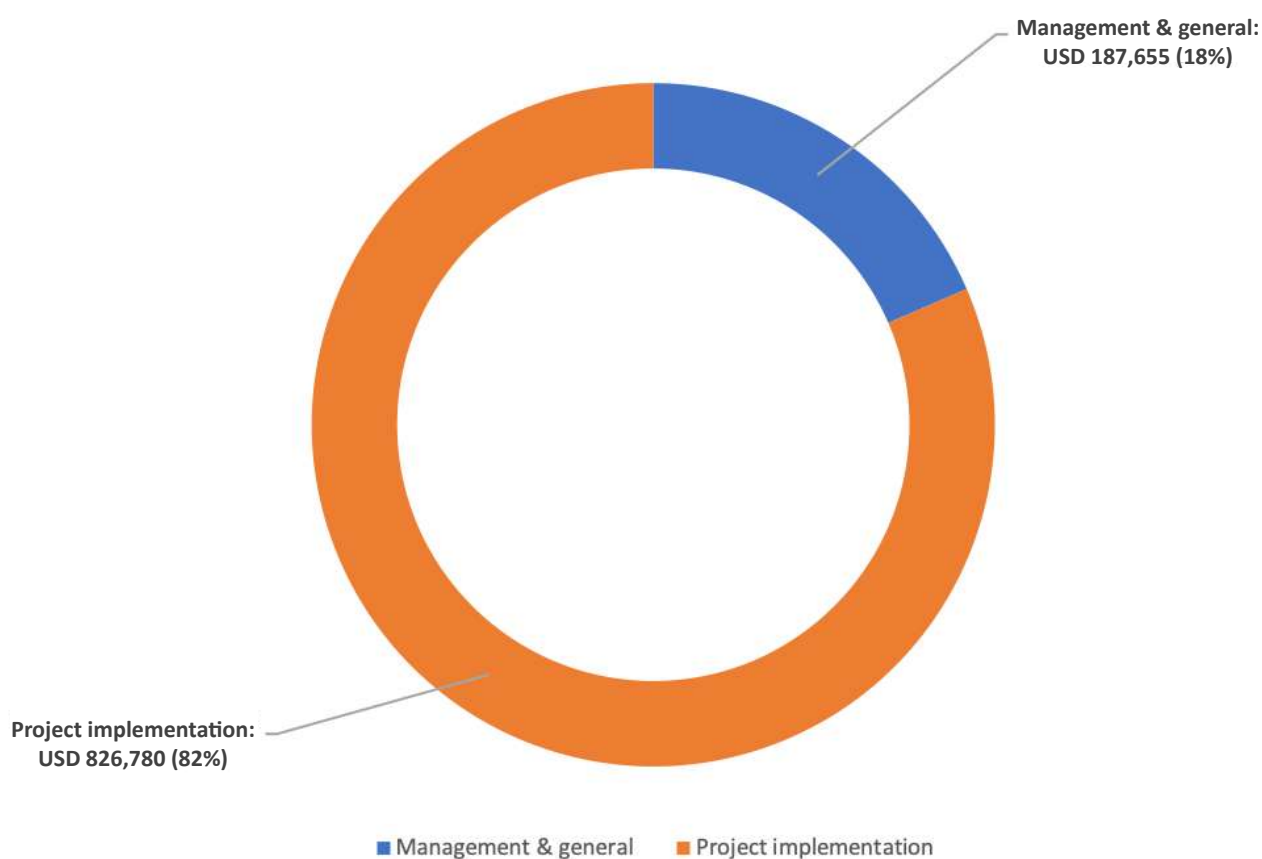




ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

Over the years the Foundation has always been aiming high efficiency in terms of expense allocation. In this case, we have managed to ensure that the administrative costs are within the level of 15% to 30% from total spending.

Allocation of Expenses



AUDIT REPORT 2021

This year the Foundation will conduct general audit for fiscal year 2021 in the forth week of March 2022 and the final audit report which consists of financial statements is expected to be finished on 25 August 2022. The report will be published in the Foundation's official website (www.aseanfoundation.org).



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Secretary General of ASEAN



OUR TEAM

Dr. Yang Mee Eng - **Executive Director**

PROGRAMME UNIT

Mahmudi Yusbi - **Head of Programme**

An Nisaa Yovani - **Programme Management Coordinator**

Caron Toshiko Monica - **Programme Coordinator (resigned in February 2021)**

Eci Ernawati - **Programme Coordinator (joined in August 2021)**

Ilan Asqolani - **Project Manager for ASEAN Data Science Explorers Programme**

Muhamad Nuzul - **Project Coordinator for Bridges to the Future: ASEAN Youth Employment (resigned in May 2021)**

Caleb Benjamin Hukom - **Project Coordinator for Bridges to the Future: ASEAN Youth Employment (joined in July 2021) and Programme Support Officer (resigned in July 2021)**

Barnev Theodore Soukotta - **Project Coordinator for ASEAN Social Enterprise Development Programme**

Amy Darajati Utomo - **Project Coordinator for KONNECT ASEAN**

Hani Samantha - **Project Coordinator for eMpowering Youths Across ASEAN**

Jeniar Mooy - **Programme Support Officer**

Millatul Hanifiyyah - **Programme Support Officer**

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Anthoni Octaviano - **Head of Communications**

Ayu Pratiwi - **Digital Communications Coordinator**

Muhammad Adam Malik - **Inhouse Designer**

OPERATIONS UNIT

Ninik Rahayu - **Head of Operations**

Mery Shynta Natalia Sinaga - **Finance and Accounting Officer**

Tia Rahmi Fitriasaki - **Human Resource and Alumni Officer**

Ratieh Ayuningtyas - **Executive Support and Administrative Officer**

Ahmad Mubarak - **General Support Officer and Driver**

Slamet Achrizin - **Driver**




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