

# PRESS RELEASE

Forty-one aspiring young leaders from across South-East Asia and Australia are meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, this weekend as part of the inaugural ASEAN-Australia Young Leaders Forum.

The ASEAN-Australia Young Leaders Forum (AAYLF) is a four-day intensive programme which aims to cultivate the next generation of leadership in the ASEAN-Australia relationship.

Through a series of expert panels, in-depth discussions and hands-on workshops, delegates to the Forum will develop a deeper knowledge of the ASEAN-Australia relationship, foster stronger intercultural leadership skills and build a regional network of like-minded young people.

Uniquely, the Forum will focus on designing scalable projects that the delegates can implement in their own communities following the Forum to improve ASEAN-Australia relations.

“Our goal is that the chosen delegates will leave the Forum as advocates and agents for increased partnership and collaboration between ASEAN and Australia,” explained AAYLF Director Mr. Cameron Allan.

“We’re really excited by the diverse range of perspectives, backgrounds, education and professional interests being represented.”

The Forum is an initiative of the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership (AASYP) – a youth-led organization to drive dialogue, partnership and innovation between young people aged 18-29 years from across ASEAN and Australia.

AASYP Chair, Ms. Hayley Winchcombe, congratulated each of the delegates for their creativity and entrepreneurialism, which ultimately saw them beat almost nine hundred other applicants for the chance to participate in the Forum.

“The ASEAN-Australia Young Leaders Forum aims to empower our next generation of leaders to address issues of regional significance,” she said.

“Each delegate has already demonstrated keen leadership skills and an infectious passion for finding solutions to the most pressing issues of the region; we hope this interactive Forum will build even further on this.”

The AAYLF 2019 is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia-ASEAN Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia-ASEAN Council in addition to Australia Now in ASEAN 2019, the Australian National University and the University of Western Australia Public Policy Institute.

The Forum is being held from 29 November to 2 December, hosted by Tokopedia.

**For more information:**

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