

PRESS RELEASE

YOUNG LEADERS FROM AUSTRALIA AND ASEAN GATHER IN JAKARTA TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE ASEAN-AUSTRALIA STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP

Today, forty-one aspiring young leaders from across South-East Asia and Australia have met in Jakarta, Indonesia, as part of the inaugural four-day ASEAN-Australia Young Leaders Forum.

The group of young leaders were selected out of almost nine hundred applicants for the chance to participate in the Forum. Today they met for the first time to discuss how they can further cross-border collaboration to create positive impact in their respective communities and countries through supporting the ASEAN and Australia strategic partnership.

The delegates, aged between 18 and 29 years, were welcomed to Jakarta by Her Excellency Ambassador Jane Duke, Australian Ambassador to ASEAN, who encouraged the delegates to fully step into their roles as ASEAN-Australia Young Leaders and take the time to network with one another.

“As our region experiences unprecedented strategic, economic and technological change, understanding how ASEAN and Australia can work together to address challenges and harness opportunities has never been more important,” she said.

“Delegates, you are our future policy, social and business leaders.”

His Excellency Dato’ Lim Jock Hoi, ASEAN Secretary General, delivered the keynote address highlighting ASEAN’s commitment to further strengthening people to people links with a focus on the vibrancy and optimism of the younger generations.

“One of ASEAN’s most important priorities is to prepare the leaders of tomorrow,” he explained. “Investing in youth is investing in the future.”

H.E. Jane Duke was joined by H.E. Director General Jose Tavares from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Indonesia, Dr Evi Fitriani, Associate Lecturer, International Relations, Universitas Indonesia and Dr Imran Lum, Australia-ASEAN Council Board Member, to discuss ‘ASEAN-Australia relations: Future of the Strategic Partnership’.

Delegates also held an interactive conversation with Mr. Edwin Hartanto Mailoa, AVP of Logistics at Tokopedia, on the startup unicorn’s goal to democratize e-commerce through empowering entrepreneurs and promoting economic inclusivity in Indonesia.

Mr. Khunapong Khunaraksa, Community & Advocacy Winner 2019 of the prestigious 40 Under 40: Most Influential Asian-Australian Awards, led a practical story-telling workshop to equip delegates with the communication skills required to create impactful conversations about models of leadership in a global context.

The Forum will continue over the next three days with a series of themed expert panels and further in-depth discussions and hands-on workshops to assist the delegates develop deeper knowledge of the ASEAN-Australia

relationship, foster stronger intercultural leadership skills and build a regional network of like-minded young people.

ABOUT THE ASEAN-AUSTRALIA YOUNG LEADERS FORUM (AAYLF)

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.

It 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.

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.

Information on the AAYLF 2019 young leader delegates can be found [here](#).

For further information and images:

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