



**FIRST ASEAN YOUTH DIALOGUE**  
*(ASEAN-ROK Cooperation)*

*“Youth in the Era of Fourth Industrial Revolution:  
Opportunities and Challenges in Post-Pandemic Recovery”*

*25-26 July 2022, Siem Reap, Cambodia*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**WE**, the youth delegates from Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) gathered on 25-26 July 2022 for the First ASEAN Youth Dialogue in Siem Reap, Cambodia;

**DELIBERATED** on various issues affecting us and how we can collaborate with the youths from across the ASEAN and ROK and other stakeholders in reaping the benefits and opportunities from 4IR and addressing the challenges in post-pandemic recovery;

**DISCUSSED** ideas and recommendations along eight (8) thematic areas that represent the voices of youth on how the governments of ASEAN and ROK can learn from each other and work together in pandemic recovery; how technological and social innovations, including inter-generational collaboration can narrow the development gaps between ASEAN Member States in the post-pandemic era; and how ASEAN-ROK cooperation can create more opportunities for youths from both regions to become future-ready.

**DO HEREBY AGREED** to recommend the following:



***On Governance,***

1. Standardisation of the focus of knowledge and skills development across education systems by teaching all youth on how to address the challenges of digital gaps, which includes differences in the level of digital awareness and literacy, as well as limited access to online resources.
2. Promotion of lifelong learning to teach new skills and help youth gain full awareness of Internet Communication Technology (ICT) through quality education especially in remote areas, and accelerating digitalisation by conducting inter-regional seminars and workshops in collaboration with ASEAN and ROK.
3. Intensification of the promotion and improvement of youth policies through National Youth Councils and educational institutions, in order to empower the youth to best benefit from existing development sponsorships and technical assistance.
4. Development and dissemination of reports on critical annual performance reviews of member states regarding youth-related policies and strategies towards improving the accessibility of opportunities for the youth.
5. Convening of dialogues between youth-government by establishing a network of “ASEAN Youth Representatives”, for youth and by youth who may devise policies, proposals, raise concerns or recommendations to the ministers of ASEAN countries once a year in a bid to involve youth in decision making processes, especially in the field of political and social developments.

***On Science, Technology and Innovation,***

1. The purpose of science and technological innovation should be to retain connectivity, enhance collaboration, and promote revolutionary advances that can cover various circumstances of people at any levels – through a universal platform serving as an ecosystem to address all people in the international society including ASEAN and the ROK.



2. Inclusive channeling of research investments into various issues and disciplines in the context of 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution, instead of focusing only on specific concerns.
3. Developing a universal platform to accommodate the decentralised mindset of various individuals by providing the local community with infrastructures for digitalisation.
4. Advancing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to harmonise the diversity of languages, culture, and geographical circumstances across ASEAN and ROK regions; the use of AI should create opportunities to bring information to target beneficiaries who do not have immediate access to the latest technology.
5. Acknowledging the need to increase the accessibility of internet and technology for all, there is a need to establish a universal platform that only requires low bandwidth and foster an ecosystem where scientific research can create more influence on decision-making process of youth to address societal issues need to be adapted.

***On the Future of Work,***

1. Integrating digital tools and digital literacy into the foundation of education to ease school-to-work transition.
2. Standardising certification to ease the job application across ASEAN and validating skills across borders.
3. Deeper integration of work training and inculcate employability skills in the education curriculum to increase relevance to the development of local and regional economy.
4. Ensuring the rights and safety of workers in all sectors in their pay and welfare for their livelihood.



5. Promote inclusivity in the workforce for the marginalised by deterring discriminatory behaviours at work and provide support in terms of managerial infrastructure and systems.

***On Infrastructure and Connectivity,***

1. There should be equitable distribution of infrastructure in all areas with reallocation of stakeholders' funds to build essential infrastructure such as public services and public facilities in ASEAN Member States in need. The government should consider the sustainability of the infrastructure by allocating the budget for maintenance.
2. There should be capacity building for human resource working in public facility development by creating accessible, equal virtual online resources, expert support across ASEAN Member States by organising workshops and exchange programmes to foster knowledge sharing, among others.
3. Regional technological connectivity should be guaranteed across ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, by enhancing partnership between governments, high-level institutions and the private sectors, through exchanges on policy developments.
4. Beneficiaries and stakeholders should participate in the development of smart city action plans, which include analysis, monitoring, and evaluation on infrastructure and connectivity.

***On Inclusive and Sustainable Growth,***

1. Children deprived of parental care due to the long-and-short-term impacts of COVID-19 should be given resources and sufficient social-emotional support through the establishment of support programs by the government, governmental organisations and NGOs, to ensure safe, comprehensive and proper personal development.



2. There should be a revision of protocols for the recruitment of female, underprivileged communities and neurodiverse youths in workplaces that have been disproportionately impacted due to the pandemic to provide them with equal opportunities in terms of working roles. These revisions will be made by a group of young females, underprivileged communities and neurodiverse individuals from various backgrounds.
3. There should be crafting of more well-rounded and inclusive curriculums that put equal emphasis on social sciences or artistic subjects and STEM-related subjects and careers, in order to avoid the unhealthy bias towards natural sciences. It should be clearly stated and taught to students that the social knowledge and soft skills acquired through the study of social sciences and artistic subjects are also of great necessity to their future working life.
4. There should be increased relevant and country-specific supports for grassroots organisations and volunteer groups, so that they are able to act as liaisons to the marginalised areas. This is among others to enhance the distribution of educational materials and enhancements in infrastructure in the rural, remote and marginalised areas for equitable access to education.
5. By promoting more green jobs for youths, youths should be engaged in roles that are more sustainable, safe and equity-driven. Going further, the youths should promote more green roles at the community level. This could further lead to the creation of safer and friendlier workplaces, thus improving the living conditions of the workers, especially those from underprivileged conditions.

***On Climate Change Movement,***

We suggest adopting a two-pronged approach in order to combat the problems brought about by climate change in ASEAN and the ROK, namely: preventive and curative approaches.



**As Preventive Approaches:**

1. Empowering youth advocacy groups in ASEAN by providing a regional fund for their programmes and involve them in a consultative process for climate-related policymaking. To support the funding initiative, ASEAN should allocate an annual budget for supporting existing and new youth advocacy groups.
2. Education focusing on climate change to **raise awareness among students/the youth to ultimately inculcate climate consciousness**. School curriculums should incorporate climate change-related topics, projects, and practical lessons into existing school subjects such as Physics and Chemistry. To mitigate unequal access to education facilities and resources, ASEAN Member States should bolster cooperation with NGOs in ASEAN who take up actions for climate change.
3. Build a standardised framework in the ASEAN community to reduce consumption and production of single use plastic by creating a Mapping and Assessment of Standards and Labels on Plastic Packaging.

**As Curative Approaches:**

4. Promote public-private partnership in climate change adaptation by including discussions or dialogues between ASEAN governments and private sector stakeholders regarding climate-related policy. Through these dialogues, ASEAN Member States can identify key areas for growth and support required from new green businesses. For example, new subsidies can be created to incentivise young entrepreneurs using renewable energy.
5. Establish an ASEAN subcommittee to develop and implement measures to regulate ASEAN Member States by monitoring and evaluating their current and potential environmental impact, energy consumption, waste byproducts, pollution, etc.



***On Narrowing the Development Gap among ASEAN Member States,***

1. Expanding the student exchange programs across the ASEAN-ROK community where the youths can learn technological skills that will reduce the urban-rural gap brought by the 4IR within the ASEAN-ROK communities; as well as to intensify the teacher exchange programs that will provide ideas on the respective educational curricula in the ASEAN-ROK communities, for the improvement of the educational systems amid the growing effects of the 4IR.
2. Encouraging the participation of the youths in ASEAN and ROK for entrepreneurship by intensifying the creation of hackathon programmes and providing the resources which will help the youth in starting up businesses with the necessary skills and continuing to grow their businesses.
3. Developing a mechanism that encourages direct foreign investors in ASEAN and ROK to drive the scalability of local businesses and help youth start or expand businesses.
4. Improving the productivity and product quality by providing technology exchange among the young farmers across the ASEAN and ROK through existing platforms where they can learn to trust and accept technological advancement and modernisation to meet global market standards.
5. Strengthening ASEAN-ROK cooperation programs on mental health literacy, and enhancing the capacity building for health workers to reduce the impacts of the mental disorder, address stigma, and alleviate the mental health awareness gap among ASEAN Member States.

***On ASEAN-ROK People-to-People Exchange,***

1. There should be programmes to give room for actions and highlight the role of ASEAN-ROK inter-organisational cooperation. The emphasis in people-to-people exchange should not only be given individually, but collectively as well. By networking those organisations sharing similar goals and targets, the implementation of people-to-people exchange between ASEAN and ROK will be



more effective and exert wider scale of impact on people via the unified action plans.

2. The ideas and concepts discussed in multi-field exchange activities should be taken into consideration and applied into practice to create a realistic impact on the society. Thus, there should be a post-program mechanism to support and moderate the process deploying ideas and concepts in practical situation in ASEAN and ROK.
3. Exchange in education remains the key role in bridging the ASEAN Member States, as well as between ASEAN and the ROK. Following that, there should be a mechanism to legitimise the evaluating methods among educational institutions in ASEAN and ROK. By doing so, there would be more opportunities for students, young scholars and researchers in the region to participate in various exchange programs provided by a unified network of institutions.
4. Exchange programmes should be operated in equity, fairness, and impartiality regardless of status, gender, age, and other aspects. More people to participate and integrate means more opportunities and more contribution. Hence, the exchange programs for citizens of ASEAN and ROK should consider the accessibility for marginalised and underprivileged groups of people in our community.
5. The opportunities for youth networking should be the major motivation in developing people-to-people exchange activities. The implementation of people-to-people exchange between ASEAN and ROK should focus on opportunity-sharing activities, not only for cultural-based values, but also other sectors that are necessary for the post-pandemic recovery context and long term pathway, to develop and sustain the interest of young people regarding the value of companionship and friendship on the foundation of technology, and the bilateral benefits.





**WE EXPRESS** our sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Government of ROK, and the Ministers and High-Level Officials of ASEAN and the ROK, for the opportunity to voice our aspiration and ideas, forge ties with our fellow youth delegates and strengthen our resolve to proactively contribute to the betterment of the region and strengthening of ASEAN-ROK people-to-people ties.

**SUBMITTED** on this Twenty-Sixth Day of July in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two, in a single original copy, in the English language for the consideration of Ministers and High-Level Representatives of the First ASEAN Youth Dialogue and further shared with the relevant ASEAN Sectoral and Ministerial Bodies and agencies in the Republic of Korea.

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