Commemorating the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

JENESYS2023 ASEAN-Japan Students Conference

December 18th, 2023

Declaration of Thematic Recommendations and Action Plans

A. **Climate Change and Disaster Prevention**
B. **Internet and AI**
C. **Startups**
D. **Tourism Development**
E. **Population Issue**

Thematic Recommendations

A. Climate Change and Disaster Prevention:

1. **Awareness of the Issue:**

    ASEAN, Timor-Leste, and Japan face pressing challenges from climate change, including economic and environmental losses due to frequent disasters. Urgent cooperation is needed to implement regional countermeasures addressing various disaster risks, from coastal erosion to urban vulnerability.

    - In particular, the participating countries struggle on two identified fronts, namely, (1) lack of or inadequacies in disaster prevention, awareness, and response, and (2) the action-intention gap and the behavioral intent to act on climate change threats, particularly in promoting reducing the energy consumption in our daily lives.

    - We, Participating Students, therefore focus on formulating and implementing collaborative strategic solutions to resolve issues in these climate change aspects.

    - This mutual agreement emerged from the 50th Year of Commemorating ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation Student Conference, where representatives from the involved countries discussed and analyzed the prevalent challenges. Based on the collaborative efforts and information gathered, it is collectively recognized that climate change is the most pressing threat across all ASEAN-Japan countries. In addition, it became apparent that a lack of awareness among society and a low behavioral intent to combat climate change are significant contributors to these issues.

    - It is understandable that increasing environmental awareness is crucial for building resilience, reducing the impacts of disasters, and achieving sustainable development. To create a community well-prepared to face disasters, awareness must be fostered within the community. Many people lack the knowledge and resources to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, leading to panic, delayed responses, and increased vulnerability during disaster events—an issue shared by most ASEAN countries.

    - Increasing public awareness about disaster preparedness is vital. Governments can collaborate with non-governmental organizations and community leaders to provide understanding and training to communities for dealing with disasters. By fostering disaster awareness, communities can better understand potential disasters, assess their severity, and take measures to reduce their impact.

    - In addition, while many people are aware and educated on how to conserve energy, not everyone is motivated to take action and reduce their energy consumption in their daily lifestyle. For example, the majority would agree that burning fossil fuels is the main cause of climate change, but not everyone is ready to reduce their reliance on energy generated from the burning of fossil fuels and transition to a more clean, sustainable, and environmentally friendly energy source.

    - During one of the lectures at the TKP Akasaka Conference Center attended by participating countries, Mr. Matsuo Naoki, a senior researcher in the Strategic Management Office at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), shared data from the Global Carbon Budget (2023). Despite years of commitments from countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat global warming, emissions are still rising.

- The data reveals that, despite significant growth in renewable energy, fossil fuel use continues to increase. While emissions experienced a sharp decline in 2020 due to the global response to the coronavirus pandemic and a slight reduction in energy use during the war in Ukraine, they have rebounded and are once again on the rise. The study predicts that carbon dioxide emissions in 2023 will be 1.4 percent higher than in 2019.
- This upward trend is attributed to continued reliance on coal, oil, and gas, particularly in rapidly growing economies. Despite efforts to transition to cleaner energy sources, the data indicates a persistent challenge in curbing emissions globally.
- In addition, global observations suggest an increase in the frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation events across many land regions, primarily driven by human activities, especially greenhouse gas emissions. This trend is expected to continue with further global warming. At a 4°C warming level relative to pre-industrial times, rare heavy precipitation events are projected to become more frequent and intense. This heightened intensity is likely to result in increased pluvial floods, including surface water and flash floods, as precipitation surpasses the drainage capacity of natural and artificial systems.

2. **Policy Recommendations**
   Promotion of International Cooperation and Sustainability
   - Disseminate well-established flood control and renewable energy policies and frameworks by actively advocating them in international conferences, during state visits, and through multilateral meetings.
   - Foster collaborative research and development (R&D) initiatives among nations sharing comparable challenges and common risk factors.
   - Promote a stricter and more multifaceted implementation of international global agendas and treaties such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030, the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Conference of Parties (COP28), ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2016–2025, and the Paris Agreement through the contextualization of these international frameworks into local circumstances.

   Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) among Governments and Energy Companies
   - Sign agreements with public and private energy companies to promote sustainable energy practices and renewable energy sources to increase reliance on climate change-resilient energy production and consumption.

   Increased Investment on the Digitalization of Climate Change Initiatives in terms of Flood Control and Renewable Energy
   - Develop, modify, and release software applications (apps), such as a proposed incentivized energy consumption tracker (VoltApp) and an integrated flood control, notification, and awareness app (SafeMap), in ASEAN-Japan areas most vulnerable to climate change.
   - Support the use of modern technology as a paradigm shift from antiquated to adaptive strategies by providing financial grants to disaster application startups.
   - The applications proposed will be linked with public-private partnership between the local council and the power supply company, to encourage the public to track their energy consumption with offers of rewards, for each

consumption made.

B. Internet and AI :

1. **Awareness of the Issue:**
   - The pros of AI are certainly evident through various points such as being cost & time efficient, the ability to solve complex problems, big data analysis, personalization and much more. For example, statistics have shown that AI has the ability to complete a 9-hour job in 6 minutes thus saving time and being efficient and allowing resources to be allocated elsewhere.
   - However, everything has its pros and cons. Some cons of AI include displacement of occupations, security risk, lacking emotion and creativity and misinformation & fake content. Although we would like to address all issues that AI brings, we feel that it is most efficient to focus on the most pressing issue and we feel that it is Misinformation & Fake content.
   - Misinformation and fake content have always been around long before the introduction of AI. For example, in India, there has been mob killings where at least 20 people were killed after fake news was spread. On a more international level, the Iraq war was justified based on misinformation that Iraq has possessed weapons of mass destruction. However, that ultimately proved to be false, and it has been estimated that there were 180,000 to 200,000 civilian deaths. Hence misinformation has an impact on a domestic, and international level.
   - Furthermore, data has shown that less than 50% of people can detect fake news and that the main spread of fake news is through direct conversations. Hence, we need to target the root cause to ensure the most efficient results.
   - With the introduction of AI, the ability to create misinformation has grown exponentially. Building on the points mentioned beforehand, we know the consequences and disastrous impact that misinformation can have. Now with AI, the issue has grown severely worse. Tools such as DALL-E and Stable Diffusion allow for AI generated images and AI has also brought deep fakes and voice spoofing. For example, fake images of the Shizuoka flood were posted on social media platforms and spread like wildfire. The images only took 1 minute to make. On the other hand, in Bangladesh, deep fakes of politicians have been spreading and tools to create such videos could cost as low as 24 USD. Hence the ease of access to such tools and not requiring any technical background to operate them has contributed to the growth of misinformation and fake news.

2. **Policy Recommendation: Establishment of an ASEAN organization to oversee standards of education on digital literacy and guidelines for future AI developments**
   - To maximize efficiency by ensuring that resources will not be spread thinly across multiple organizations and to ensure that guidelines set are accepted across nations.
   - The organization aims to have 3 main functionalities
     1. To set standards on education for digital literacy by producing content to educate others and accrediting experts to spread awareness and teach others
     2. A fact checking portal for public to refer to check the legitimacy of only trending and wide spreading news hence reducing the workload needed to be done by the public.
     3. To connect and collaborate with experts from different countries to

develop technological solutions with the use of AI and its guidelines ensuring minimal waste of resources and maximum efficiency.

C. Startups:
1. **Awareness of the Issue:**
   - Economic growth in the ASEAN region has spurred a rise in startup numbers, drawing significant interests due to their potential regional influence.
   - The team explored the role of startups in ASEAN, shedding light on the challenges they faced. Key stakeholders encompassing social entrepreneurs, investors and incubators grappled with shared obstacles such as information disparity, limited ac funding and lack of education needed to effectively capitalize on ongoing initiatives.
   - With the aim to foster sustainable growth, the team envisions a robust ASEAN startup ecosystem driven by entrepreneurship and inclusive initiatives by 2030. This seeks to harness the distinctive strengths of the diverse countries in ASEAN.
2. **Policy Recommendation 1. Building the Startup Ecosystem:**
   - Support regional (ASEAN) startup ecosystems, encourage entrepreneurial spirit, and promote the creation of new businesses.
   - Bridge the gap and provide more room of opportunities for startups.
   - Utilize and leverage existing ASEAN resources to suitable candidates.
   - Collaborate with universities, local startup, government, and NGO to maximize the utilization of product.
   - Educate on social entrepreneurship.
3. **Policy Recommendation 2. Support for Innovation:**
   - Facilitate cross-border partnerships and networking events within the ASEAN region to foster collaboration and expand market opportunities for the project.
   - Offer research and development grants, patent support to encourage innovation and protect intellectual property rights, and foster a culture of continuous creativity.

D. Tourism Development:
1. **Awareness of the Issue:**
   Sharing of issue by each country
   - Myanmar: lack of tourism knowledge and language barriers to communicate with the travelers both in the working persons and the locals
   - Timor-Leste: Faces environmental conservation issues yet lack the local knowledge and strategy building to balance conservation and tourism.
   - Singapore: the lack of local and community engagement compared to the eager effort of companies and government.
   - Laos: Lacks social media, websites, and channels to promote local information.
   - Japan: Facing depopulation in rural, local communities but lack of knowledge and cooperation with major stakeholders to create and convey their attractions to travelers.
   - Cambodia: Rely too much on the existing resources (Ankhor-wat) and locals lack knowledge to spread and promote further

   Why is engaging the local community important?
   - Travel is an exploration of the place's culture and land. Local people are crucial successors and communicators (contributors) of the culture.

Therefore, without them, it is difficult for travelers to actually experience the culture through different activities.
- Empowering locals would lead the local community to rediscover their own country's fascinations and love the country more. Increase the word-of-mouth from locals to foreigners
- It can foster community pride, which motivates the promotion and preservation of tourism assets because locals acknowledge the beauty and the benefits of them

Conclusion: Breakdown of Issues
- Lack of tourism knowledge by locals (need for capacity-buildiing)
- Language barriers to communicate with travelers
- Lack of harmonization with major stakeholders trying to develop the region
- Points learned from Japanese case study
- Hakone: Working to foster local people as storytellers by developing activities with them to convey their culture.
  →Importance of direct interaction of locals and tourists
- Naoshima: Major stakeholders were able to empower and involve locals by shifting their recognition of them as "receivers" to "carriers of culture", such as having them collaborate in the art projects and making them guide the tour guides.Importance of engaging locals in developing ideas

2. **Policy Recommendation 1.** Lack of tourism knowledge by locals (need for capacity-buildiing)
- Establish a system of providing knowledge, and later to output and assess them
- Provide knowledge: Implementation of community education programme by government/agents of necessary knowledge to local people engaged in tourism
  (e.g) Guest speaker sessions, sharing documentaries via social media, etc.
- Output and assessment: Event that is organised by the agents and those working in the tourism industry (implemented with the assistance of government)
  (e.g.) organise locals and agents into different groups, each of them to create a promotion video which will be competed to get adopted by mass voting (30%) and assessment by experts (70%)

3. **Policy Recommendation 2.**
Language barriers to communicate with travelers
- Provide and initiate education of languages through the utilisation of technology and online platforms such as ChatGPT
- Instruct locals on how to use them in workshops

Lack of harmonization with major stakeholders trying to develop the region
- Ensuring multidimensional interaction and feedback system between different stakeholders e.g. not unilateral interaction
- Involve locals in creating ideas for service.

E. Population Issue:
1. **Awareness of the Issue:**
- Population issues have been emerging in ASEAN nations in recent times. Such population issues have an impact on the country's workforce, economy, healthcare, etc. However, different countries face different issues.
- Japan and Singapore have been facing ageing population and declining birth

rate, which are common population issues. On the contrary, other ASEAN nations and Timor-Leste face different issues, such as high unemployment rate and low income. Although these are not solely population issues, they impact the country's population in terms of labour/workforce market, economic development, dependency ratio and migration.

- From a long-term perspective, all these countries will face ageing and population decline issues in the future. Hence, ASEAN countries and Timor-Leste need to aim for social development to avoid falling into the middle-income trap in preparation for the ageing society.
- With migration being a common global phenomenon currently and set to grow in the future, the team has decided to use that to collaboratively address the ongoing population issues faced by ASEAN countries, Japan and Timor-Leste.

2. **Policy Recommendation 1. Increased Labor Mobility with Co-prosperity Relationship:**
- Promote the exchange of human resources as term-limited trainees between ASEAN countries which are currently facing unemployment issues and development issues and Japan and Singapore which are facing labor shortages.
- This should be done with increased options of jobs such as those in the fields of infrastructure, public service, and technology, so that workers can give back learning to their society more effectively than today's system.
- What should be noted is that this policy focuses on dealing with temporally issues. To secure the prosperity of each society, ASEAN member countries, Timor-Leste, and Japan should simultaneously promote a sustainable and mutually beneficial vision after the 2030s, as that is the expected turning point when the labor force population in the ASEAN nations begins to decline

3. **Policy Recommendation 2. Construct the Partnership of Sharing Resources:**
- Shift from a system of term-limited trainees and building an ASEAN-Japan economic zone to pool and share human resources with technical and professional skills from each country after the 2030s, when all countries gradually start facing labour shortages and ageing society problems.
- Efficiently utilize limited human resources by jointly promoting mechanization and the use of AI through cooperation in the economic zone.
- Shift away from the concept of brain drain at the individual country level and toward a concept of shared prosperity at the global level rather than brain-sharing.

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Declaration of Our Action Plans

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A. Climate Change and Disaster Prevention

1. **OUR Way: Formulating a Three-Layer Disaster Framework for Climate Change Mitigation**
   - Establishment of a three-layer disaster framework fostering the mobilization and cooperation of three stakeholders, namely, (1) the youth, particularly university students; (2) local councils; and (3) local residential areas.
   - The framework focuses on the development of an integrated disaster response that mobilizes youth volunteers under the proposed Youth Disaster Task Force (YDTF) and local government units as promoters of flood control, renewable energy practices, and most importantly concrete evacuation plans in case of disasters among residential areas.
   - The co-curricular activities and evacuation drills at the residential areas aim to resolve the localized accessibility and communication problems to ensure efficient disaster mitigation and response.
   - The OUR Way framework will be strengthened by the policy recommendations and mobile applications.

2. **Implementation of Collaborative Projects:**
   - Disseminating information through bulletin boards or Social Networking Services (SNS)
   - Approximately 40-50 university students will be promoted to join the Youth Disaster Task Force (YDTF) under a co-curricular activity initiated by the proponents.
   - The module and training workshop will be provided to train the volunteers working in the YDTF.
   - The trained youth and university students will be attached to a particular residency area to help prevent disaster.
   - The local councils and YDTF will delegate the evacuation efforts together with the credible authority, including the firefighters, defence forces, and power supply companies.
   - The evacuation drill in the residency area will be scheduled every four months, equivalent to three times a year.
   - The local residents will be familiar with the location of the evacuation center, the local residence in charge, and the expected support needed for the real disaster response in the future.
   - The policy will also mitigate the risk of disaster, including pecuniary and non-pecuniary losses, to ensure the sustained well-being of disaster victims.

3. **Implementation Schedule and Expected Results:**
   - The OUR Way is expected to be realized in designated residential areas across ASEAN-Japan countries.
   - The detailed focus on residential areas will provide local councils and the youth with a practical way to monitor each type of locality of the disaster-prone area and the needs of the local residents accordingly.
   - The first step of the OUR Way framework, namely the co-curricular activities to develop the Youth Disaster Task Force (YDTF) across selected universities across the ASEAN-Japan sphere, will be initiated within three months of preparation.
   - Following that, expectedly in March 2024, the YDTF will be assigned to a

particular local government unit for collaboration with the local residents in the disaster-prone area.
- The expected short-term results would be the establishment of the YDTF, which acts as one of the co-curricular activities in the university located near to the local residential areas.
- Beyond the three-month framework, OUR Way is expected to be implemented across larger local divisions up to the national level.

B. Internet and AI :
1. **Develop our AI skills and knowledge:**
   - Learn about the capabilities and limitations of AI systems
   - Become familiar with common AI-powered misinformation
2. **Raise awareness and educate others:**
   - Organize workshops and seminars
   - Create educational content
   - Advocate for AI education
   - Join and create online communities dedicated to debunking information
3. **Policy and Advocacy**
   - Engage in political discussions
   - Join advocacy groups
   - Influence others with social media
4. Collaboration and Networks
   - Connect with other students
   - Collaborate with experts
   - Participate in international events

C. Startups :
1. **Building a Startup Network:**
   - Create online platforms for sharing startup ideas among students in ASEAN and Japan, fostering entrepreneurial spirit.
   - Support fieldwork and research projects for students and entrepreneurs addressing social issues.
2. **Innovation for Social Issues:**
   - Organize startup contests to propose and support innovative solutions to social issues.
   - Provide accelerator programs for building sustainable business models, boosting the growth of startups.
3. **Implementation Schedule and Expected Results:**
   - Who (by national level or regional level)? Why? When? Where? To whom? How?
   - Expected results in short term. .

D. Tourism Development:
Three basic policies
1. Assisting locals to thicken relationships with tourists
2. Education and awareness: Assisting locals with knowledge and technology
3. Spreading the importance of CBT to customers

1. **Initiate external events that locals can contribute to prospering thicker relationships between the locals, country, and tourists.**
   - A Myanmar representative will cooperate with other Youth organizations and

other schools to host a local-unique event for domestic traveler season
- A Cambodia representative as a tour guide in Siem-Reap, will negotiate with associations and the Department of Tourism to host external events and exhibitions

2. **Promoting local awareness of sustainable practices and how to utilize technology through direct interaction with locals**
   - A Japanese representative will the rural area of Shirakawago in February. The hotel there does not admit foreigners due to language barriers, so introduce the use of Chat-GPT.

3. **Using technology and platforms to spread awareness of the importance of CBT to surroundings:**
   - Representatives from Singapore, Timor-Leste and Lao PDR post various content on social media regarding the above.

E. Population Issue:

1. **Initiate Media Campaign Awareness:**
   - Raising awareness about population issues and its potential impact on countries is key in making people understand the severity of the issues. Hence, it is the first step in the long implementation process. As social media is easily accessible and utilized by people all over the world, online campaigns through social media platforms will be foremost in raising awareness about population issues to people in ASEAN, Timor Leste, and Japan regions
   - Equipping various contents from the basic to in-depth knowledge about population issue for all ages shared by expertise from various background.

2. **Advancement the Accessibility for people in Alignment of context, community, convenience, and conversion:**
   - Strengthen the social media campaign and in retaining process to mitigate misinformation and disinformation.
   - **Context**: Adapting the comprehensiveness of the social media campaign according to the context of respective countries' living situations
   - **Community**: Adjusting media contents that are more community-based
   - **Convenience**: Create the media contents that are suitable, have a good outreach, and are available in the regional targeted areas
   - **Conversion:** Recall the act of an effective transformation from audiences engaged in participation to share their knowledge via social media platform in celebrating SDG Global Festival of Action

3. **Implementation Schedule and Expected Results:**
   - **Who/Why:** The Project Plan is expected to be at a regional level, catering to the people of ASEAN, Timor Leste and Japan as it focuses on countries that share and tended to have similar and common situation issues in the future ahead
   - **When:** The Project Plan aims to kick off 3 months after the JENESYS2023 with the duration of 5 months from April 2024 until August 2024 with the method of Project Survey and Evaluation from the audiences and stakeholders to indicate the effectiveness and efficiency after the project Implied
   - **Where/How:** The Project Plan will provide online platform of social media campaign in different topics discussed via Blog/Podcast/Video series presented and delivered by expertise speakers from various backgrounds including the government officers, professors, researchers, and other

potential guest speakers
- **Expected result:** The project is expected to have the capacity to enable the target groups to gain comprehensive understanding and knowledge about emerging population issues and prepare for the future ahead of them.