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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUPPORTING ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING THROUGH YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING



Ten young filmmakers from all ASEAN Member States joined a filmmaking workshop in Singapore as finalists of the 2015 ASEAN Youth Video Contest.

The launch of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Community in 2016 aims to deepen regional integration, further cultivating shared values and understanding the rule of law, good governance, and equitable opportunities among its citizens.

The United States government through the ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (PROGRESS) project, is supporting ASEAN by strengthening its institutional capacity to communicate its impact and conduct outreach across the incredibly diverse ASEAN Community, as well as the international community- with a special focus on youth engagement.

- **Annual ASEAN Youth Video Contest:** In 2015, the U.S. supported an ASEAN Youth Video Contest garnering 70 entries from nine ASEAN countries. After receiving video production training, the top ten finalists posted on the ASEAN Secretariat YouTube channel and since July 2015 have received over 70,000 views. In 2016, the contest will showcase social consciousness among youth under the theme of “volunteerism.”
- **Regional Model ASEAN Meeting:** In 2015, the U.S. supported 76 university students from across ASEAN to attend the first-ever regional Model ASEAN event, which ran concurrently with the ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur. This year, through a grant to the ASEAN Foundation, the U.S. will support the second regional Model ASEAN event in Vientiane to coincide with Lao PDR’s Chairmanship.
- **Talking ASEAN and Ambassador Seminar Series:** Through a grant to the Habibie Centre, the U.S. supports a series “Talking ASEAN” public discussions closing the space between ASEAN leaders and civil society. In addition, the U.S. is supporting Habibie Centre to host “Ambassador Seminars,” providing opportunities for Ambassadors to ASEAN to engage with civil society.
- **Professional opportunities for alumni of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI):** In 2016, up to five selected YSEALI Fellows will receive professional development through opportunities embedded within the ASEAN Secretariat supporting among other sectors, the ASEAN-U.S. Science & Technology Fellowship and the ASEAN Network of Social Service Agencies.
- **Stimulate inter-community engagement and dialogue by supporting citizen journalism:** In 2016, the U.S. will support a regional workshop to develop the skills of young citizen journalists from across ASEAN. Participating youth, selected competitively, will have an opportunity to organize and host an national level event on a pressing topic of their choice.
- **Support improvements to the ASEAN website:** The U.S. continues to assist the ASEAN Secretariat to improve overall content presentation and functionality of its website.

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