Participants from Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, discussing at the YVIC regional workshop in Thailand.

Youth Volunteering Innovation Challenge IMPACT ASEAN: our successes and ways forward

Today, there are 213 million youth in ASEAN countries, the largest ever cohort of ASEAN youth. To support young innovators in this region to scale-up their efforts in approaching social and environmental issues through leveraging volunteerism, Youth Volunteering Innovation Challenge was held under the theme “IMPACT ASEAN” in 2017. This was a unique event where regional organizations, a private sector actor, and international organizations not only interacted with the youth during the events but also after through mentorships and follow-up meetings.

The winners!
Out of 220 applications, three winnings teams strengthened their business models and expanded their activities through receiving mentorships and a small grant. Read more about how they made significant moves forward in the three-month mentorship with volunteers from SAP, a market leader in enterprise application software.

Ecofun (Indonesia) uses fun games to change people’s behavior to protect the earth.

“We have successfully increased our volunteer members in Ecofun Community. Before August (when the mentorship period started), our volunteers were only 15, but now we have 54 active members.”
- Ms. Annisa Arsyad of Ecofun Indonesia

NinoNina Co. (the Philippines) empowers urban communities by creating links between skills and markets.

“Over the past three months, Nino Nina Co. has been able to improve on its assets and extend its partnerships with various organizations, thanks to the funding and mentorship courtesy of UNV and SAP.”
- Ms. Maria Carmela Suarez of Nino Nina Co.
What is YVIC?

The Youth Volunteering Innovation Challenge (YVIC), under the theme “Impact ASEAN,” was designed to support young volunteers throughout the ASEAN region in their journey to catalyze youth-led innovation for social impact and sustainable development. From ASEAN countries, teams with members aged between 18-30 and are residing in their own home country proposed their innovative projects in one of the following areas: leveraging volunteering for the localization of the SDGs; Sustainable behavior; and developing skills for life and work. National workshops were held in Myanmar and Indonesia, and a regional workshop was held in Thailand to cover all ten ASEAN countries. Find out more about the scope and process of YVIC and criteria for the teams.
Focus Areas

Leveraging volunteering for the localisation of the SDGs
How can volunteerism contribute to data collection and tracking of SDG progress? What are new ways to localize SDGs?

Sustainable Behaviour
How can you influence sustainable behavior through youth volunteerism?

Developing Skills for Life and Work
What solutions can you create to measure and recognize volunteering experience? How can volunteering experience prepare for more fulfilling life and career?

What people thought about YVIC

Comments from youth participants

“The lessons learned during the workshop were really insightful, especially on how to build and evaluate project in a more structured way. I learned a lot about volunteerism and how it can impact different areas for progress and development. I enjoyed how our mentor helped us integrate volunteering in our social enterprise.”

“I love how this event gathered youth organizations which are in various kind of stage. I had a chance to learn from those who already in the next level yet I also able to articulate my suggestions as well."
Comments from partners

“As ASEAN is aiming to move to a more people-oriented approach in the community building process, social enterprise and volunteers definitely play a big role to highlight how an individual can contribute to the community and addressing challenges.”
- Ms. Elaine Tan, Executive Director, ASEAN Foundation

“Volunteers play an important role in the social entrepreneurship economy because social enterprises have a tough goal to be both profitable and impactful in the community that they operate in. Volunteers bring their skill sets to further enhance the social enterprises to go a long way and to be more sustainable.”
- Mr. Eugene Ho, Head of Corporate Affairs, Southeast Asia, SAP

Teams who joined the regional workshop

Ten teams from ASEAN countries gathered in Bangkok to refine and pitch their ideas to scale up their projects. Click the logos to see the latest updates from each team, and see the young women and men working to make positive changes in their communities.


- youth • Youth for the SDGs • ASEAN • Asia and the Pacific • Indonesia • Philippines • Thailand

Sustainable Development Goal: SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 10: Reduced inequalities, SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals