



TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX (YDI)

24 August 2016
Sokhalay Angkor Resort and Spa
Siem Reap, Cambodia

CONCEPT NOTE

A. BACKGROUND

The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) was established in 1992 as a recognition of the importance of the role of the youth in ASEAN community building and the need for development of future leaders of ASEAN. Over the years and through the AMMY, the ASEAN Member States (AMS) have given attention and resources in support of developing the youth. Under the guidance of the Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY), projects and activities to develop youth's potential in ASEAN community building have continued and intensified over the years in the key areas such as promoting ASEAN awareness, strengthening entrepreneurship skills for youth, instilling leadership values in youth development, and volunteerism.

In light of the growing role of the youth in ASEAN and the world, and considering the various initiatives of the AMS, dialogue partners, and other international organisations that are geared towards youth development in ASEAN, the need to measure the status of development and achievement of youth in ASEAN is deemed necessary as this will inform policy-makers and development partners on the opportunities and barriers on improving development efforts for the youth.

1. The need to develop an ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI)

The need to develop an ASEAN YDI has been mandated by the AMS since 2009 and the intention was included in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2009-2015 with the objective of evaluating the outcomes and effectiveness of youth programmes in ASEAN, and to assist AMS in planning new interventions for the youth. Due to varying priorities, the development of an ASEAN YDI was not pursued aggressively and remained in the pipeline of the AMMY and SOMY for several years.

In 2015, the development of an ASEAN YDI continued to be in discussion, and with persistence of the AMS through the SOMY, the initiative became a key activity in the draft ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020.

Pursuant to the directive of the SOMY VII on 8 October 2014, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Cambodia as Chair of the SOMY coordinated the initial discussion on the proposed ASEAN YDI which was held back-

to-back with the Workshop on the Finalisation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020 on 14-15 March 2016 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

At the meeting, four AMS that have experiences in developing YDI at the national level volunteered to form the steering group for the development of ASEAN YDI. The Philippines committed to serve as lead country with members such as Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

2. The elements of an ASEAN YDI

The development of an ASEAN YDI will be the first of its kind and will significantly contribute to the dire need of ASEAN to profile its youth and determine areas that need greater attention and further investment. The development of ASEAN YDI does not intend to compare the AMS. Instead it aims to provide the landscape profile of ASEAN youth and in the spirit of “ASEAN communityhood”, and what collective efforts are needed considering ASEAN’s vision and hope for its young people.

The existing YDIs of some AMS comprised a number of indicators which collectively measure youth development in the country, and the domains are based on particular contexts and necessities of the respective countries such as education, employability, youth participation and others. During the initial discussion in Phnom Penh in March 2016, the four AMS shared their experiences including the domains and indicators they included in their YDI’s, and what might be adopted for an ASEAN YDI. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia Pacific had also shared its extensive experience in the development of YDI including YDIs that were developed by various groups globally. Comparisons were also presented as well as challenges encountered in the development of those YDIs.

In deciding the domains and indicators for an ASEAN YDI, it is important to anchor on the agreed-upon areas of youth collaboration in ASEAN such as those included in the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2016-2020, namely, entrepreneurship, employability, awareness and appreciation of ASEAN Community through people to people exchange, youth involvement and participation, and competencies and resilience with advanced technological and managerial skills. It is also beneficial to align the indicators of the ASEAN YDI with existing global indicators such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Human Development Index (HDI).

Moreover, the development of an ASEAN YDI will necessitate an agreement among the AMS on the definition of youth in ASEAN. This could be resolved by identifying specific age range of young people to be included in the YDI.

B. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN YDI

To move forward the establishment of the ASEAN YDI, the ASEAN Secretariat consulted the SOMY Chair and the ASEAN YDI Steering Group and relevant partners such as the UNFPA on key activities and timeline in the development of the ASEAN YDI. It is estimated that the first ASEAN YDI can be produced in a period of two years beginning August 2016 to August 2018. Major activities may include two

regional workshops, national workshops and consultations, data collection and validation, and data analysis and reporting.

Technical expertise, particularly in the formulation of the ASEAN YDI design as well as the analysis of data to be gathered, is critical and will determine the success of the first ever ASEAN YDI. Moreover, the cost for the conduct of the two-year project will need to be considered which is estimated at USD 400,000. This estimate may be able to cover the regional workshops, national consultations, and report writing and publication. Technical support which is not included in the estimate may be solicited from partners as in-kind contribution.

The development of the ASEAN YDI will be under the purview of the SOMY and coordinated by the ASEAN Secretariat through the Education, Youth and Sports Division (EYSD). Recognising the cross-cutting nature of the ASEAN YDI and the issues to be tackled as part of it, collaboration with and support from other ASEAN sectors and development partners is a must.

C. THE FIRST TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN YDI

In consultation with the SOMY Chair and the ASEAN YDI Steering Group, the ASEAN Secretariat proposes a technical meeting to discuss ways to move forward the development of ASEAN YDI.

To take advantage of the SOMY leaders availability and participation in the SOMY VIII and 7th SOMY + 3 to be hosted by Cambodia in Siem Reap on 25-26 August 2016, the ***ASEAN Secretariat proposes to convene the Technical Meeting on the Development of ASEAN YDI at the Sokhalay Angkor Resort and Spa on 24 August 2016 which is a day before the meetings of the SOMY.***

The one-day meeting has the following objectives:

1. Clarify purpose and scope of ASEAN YDI;
2. Identify dimensions and indicators of ASEAN YDI; and
3. Determine steps, timeline, resources and stakeholders in the development of ASEAN YDI.

Expected participants are the SOMY Leaders and/or their representatives (2 per ASEAN Member State) and the ASEAN Secretariat. Invited partners are UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNV, UNDP, ASEAN Foundation, and SEAMEO Secretariat.

Please see separate sheet for the programme and agenda of the meeting.

D. COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENT IN THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING

The ASEAN Secretariat using its overhead cost for JENESYS will shoulder the cost of the meeting venue, lunch and two snacks during the meeting.

Officials from the ASEAN Member States and partners are kindly requested to shoulder the costs of their air tickets and accommodation during the meeting.