

# VOICES OF SEAYLP

Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program

Volume 4, Issue 1 • Summer 2017



SEAYLP 2017 participants were always down for a jam session

*“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”*

*- Jane Goodall*

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*SEAYLP 2017 Participants in front of Altgeld Hall*

## Director's Message

Dr. Eric Jones

SEA!?...YLP!! Greetings to our friends and alumni of the Southeast Asia youth leadership program. Many of you know me from Northern Illinois University and I am happy to share with you that I am the new acting director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Each year I continue to be impressed with the high level of citizens and junior scholars that you are and remain. I look forward to seeing you when I return to the region and also to when you join us as students enrolled at Northern Illinois University. Thank you for all that you do and continue the leadership you provide in Southeast Asia.

Sincerely, Eric Jones



**Dr. Eric A. Jones**

Dr. Eric A. Jones is the Acting Director for the Center of Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University. He is an Associate Professor in History, with a special interest in Brunei, Malaysia, and Indonesia.



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## Rai's Report

I divide each year into three parts—planning and tension, a whirling storm of activity and noise, and a time of basking in the glow of SEAYLP alumni. I love every part of it.

I love making each SEAYLP better than the one before. The geeky high-achiever in me loves to out do last year sessions, with a better scheme for sharing information, a cool new session, or new ideas for getting people together. I enjoy sifting through the data from your evaluations and finding new solutions.

Then the intense, sleepless event takes place; I'm trying to remember 60 new names, 26 days of events, and a million little tasks and reminders. It's like a sporting event: stressful, goal driven, relying on teamwork, and fun, but there will be some losses.

But perhaps my favorite time is this season of afterglow and evaluation. I thrill at seeing your pictures and watching the compilation videos, love hearing about the details of your action plans as they come together, delight in hearing from long-ago alumni who are studying in interesting places or neat new jobs, and adore sharing inspiration via social media. You might not believe it, but I still remember you all!

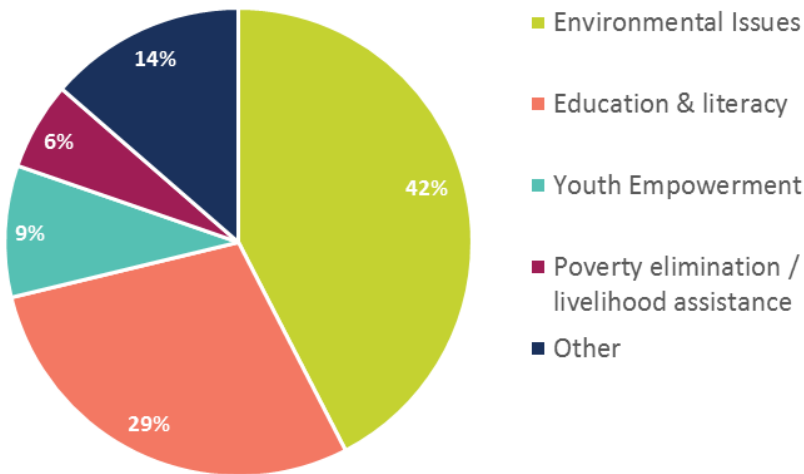
I'm thrilled to have, for a short time longer, six alumni studying here at NIU and this newsletter, because they help me to stay connected with the wider community. This helps me to make time to check-in with so many of you out doing amazing things. It's wonderful to see how far you've all gone and I, and all of us at CSEAS, are so proud to have been a part of your journey.

SEAYLPers, keep on being the amazing young leaders you are!

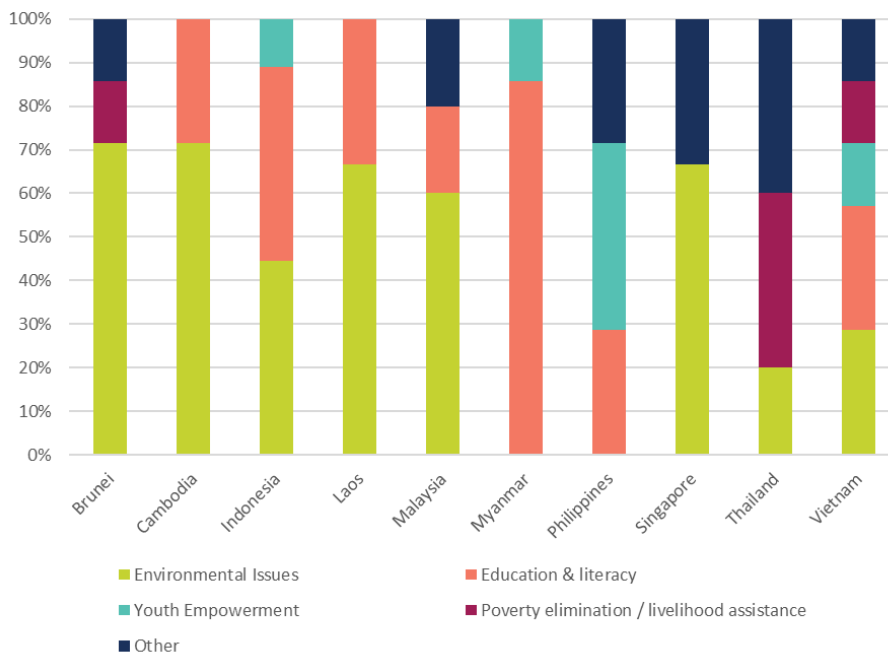
## Action Plans over the Years

Here is a summary of the Action Plans put together by participants to help their communities. It is interesting to see the difference in needs and priorities as well as the overall impact of SEAYLP projects over the past years.

Projects by SEAYLP alumni groups



Project Topics by Country



SEAYLPers have made a big difference in their communities, from initiating recycling programs in their schools, to providing education to the less fortunate, to helping build healthy relationships between varied members of their community. Each project is different, and some are very different. All have helped young people in ASEAN to see themselves as capable of more and empowered more people to be active and educated members of local and global communities. I think it is a testament to your intelligence and care that there have such a diversity of issues dealt with. As youth in ASEAN, as youth in individual communities, you are able to see the needs where you are and make a change.

### Environmental

- Recycling
- Environmental Education
- Water Quality
- Tree Planting
- Stopping Food Waste
- Wetland Development
- Coral Transplantation
- Mining Lake Rehabilitation

### Education

- Classes or Summer Camps
- Libraries or Reading Corners
- Study Materials for the Poor
- Teaching English
- Encourage Reading

### Poverty Relief

- Food and Supplies Drives
- Urban Farming Lessons
- Art Camps and Art Sales

### Youth Empowerment

- Leadership Classes
- Volunteer Resource Center
- Connecting Youth and Government

### Others

- Cultural Revival
- Women's Empowerment
- Disaster Preparedness
- Drug Education
- Stop Animal Abuse
- Helping the Elderly
- Sexual Education
- Elder Youth Connections
- Helping Kids with Cancer



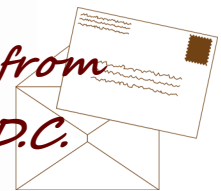


SEAYLP 2017 Participants at the White House in Washington D.C.



**J.P. Jenks**  
U.S. State Department  
SEAYLP Program Officer  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

*A Letter from  
J.P. in D.C.*



I want to thank all of the participants, adult mentors, staff, hosts, and the Embassy partners in the Southeast Asia region for your great work this year making SEAYLP 2017 another banner year for the program. You are such a multifaceted, talented, beautiful, and promising group. I hope I taught you at least one thing you will remember! Adult mentors, you inspired me as I experienced your commitment not only to the youth, but also to the outcomes of the program – you all rocked! For me it was such a privilege meeting all of you on campus in DeKalb long before you came to Washington, D.C. where I really enjoyed being your host!

On the day of your State Department visit, I bounced around the three diplomatic simulation groups and enjoyed watching you put on the caps of diplomats – you all did so very well!

I could see that the future of ASEAN is indeed bright if great *young leaders like you* continue to take the challenge and step forward. I know that Assistant Secretary of State, Mark Taplin, enjoyed meeting with you, our Southeast Asia honored guests, the American participants from Illinois, and the support staff from NIU who made all of this happen. I look forward to following your successes and wish you all inspiration, opportunity and friendship in the years ahead!

***“... the future of ASEAN is indeed bright if great young leaders like you continue to take the challenge and step forward ”***





# Southeast Asian Youth Leadership Program

Are you an active, young future leader looking for pathways to help develop social and leadership skills to contribute to your community? If so, the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP)

is the perfect program for you.

SEAYLP is a program that seeks to promote young future leaders to guide and assist individuals in need, as well as uphold a positive environment in their community. It is a program that will not only help you to develop many skills to become a leader, but also broaden your views on life and challenges from many different aspects.

**Lay Pyay Thway**  
Myanmar



Being a part of this program has shaped me into a person that I never thought I'd become. It has boosted my confidence, developed my social skills, and has shaped me into a strong and independent person.

The program was an eye opening experience, which inspired me to be a role model in my community and to the upcoming generation. I seek to lead and to inspire, like many people in the program and the program itself has inspired me. SEAYLP has given me the will to fight for a better future, and best of all, it has given me a family that I will always love and remember.



## During the program, we:

- engaged in team building activities where we made many friends that will stick with me for eternity.
- had daily sessions on different topics, where we adopted necessary skills for becoming a leader and the future of my community.
- did a homestay where we lived with an American family for a week, for a taste of American culture.
- became American high school student for a day.
- volunteered with Feed My Starving Children and visited NGOs in Washington, D.C.
- spent the night in Chicago, strolling downtown with my fellow SEAYLP friends.
- made a lot of new friends when we joined American students at Camp White Eagle and on a trip to DC.
- completed a diplomatic simulation at the US Department of State, which sharpened my negotiating skills, as well as, developed my interest in being a diplomat.

“ SEAYLP has given me the will to ”





# SEAYLP 2017

## A Band of Future Leaders

**Neung  
Chalernphon**

Laos



### *Life is Better with Friends*

Things may come and go, but ‘friends’ stay. They are valuable as gems that stay in our hearts forever. SEAYLP gave me countless memories, knowledge and discoveries.

Perhaps, for some it’s their first trip abroad or first encounter with different people, so they are timid. However, with the interactive sessions, we got out of our comfort zones. We had a lot of talks, time to get to know each other more.

We shared all kinds of things and embraced our differences. We hung out a lot, even after sessions were over. Let’s not forget pizza night; we sang together at the bonfire. It was so much fun. We also got lost in Chicago, but even with this we shared loads of laughter and happiness. Together, we made memories.

By the time when we considered each other family it was time to bid goodbye; the day that no one would really want. A day of sorrow, sadness and gloom; tears were shed. But, I know this “goodbye” also means “until we meet again”. Lasting friendship is indeed, a blessing. Good friends are great pillars of life, thanks to SEAYLP, we surely found those.

*“ We shared all kinds of things and embraced our differences. ”*

**Nha Tran**  
Vietnam



### *Being an Adult Leader*

Before the program began, I thought I might join the program as an adult leader to help lead the kids as their chaperone. I thought I could stand outside the activities as an observer but everything changed when I joined the SEAYLP kids for nearly all the activities.

I was surprised to find that we were able to eat together, interact with one another, and become friends. We could share our thoughts and feelings and better understand one another. I felt more active, energetic, and proud of myself when I was capable of participating in all the teambuilding activities too. There were some games that I thought were not for people my age, but I was surprised to find I was capable.

Nothing could stop us from going ahead if we did it with respect, with trust in one another, and with de-



termination. I learned from the kids, both the American and the ASEAN youth, because they were so smart

**Shirley  
Losmithgul**

Thailand



### *Campfire Guitar*

One of the most memorable experiences during my visit to America happened amidst my stay with my host family. A few nights before we would all leave our host families, the families planned a gathering of most participants.

That evening, we gathered at The Smith’s place. When I arrived, some had already gathered around the campfire, some occupied the trampoline, and others gathered with friends to mingle. Around 6 o’clock, the air grew chilly and more people collected themselves closer to the campfire.

Having felt that it was about the right time to introduce some music to this fortunate night, I struck up a simple tune on the guitar and started singing. It did not take long for the rest of the people around the campfire to join in singing. The progression was so subtle, but it was definitely there.

There we were, a little battered by the long day, happier than ever, and connecting through music. This campfire was never put on the official SEAYLP schedule, but in my opinion, it was pivotal in bonding the SEAYLPers there.

# American Families



**Julius Nguyen**  
Vietnam



## **American Lifestyles**

Americans are calm and warm. They can love you and treat you like a part of their family, like my host family did to me. They are also open-minded in sharing and thinking.

*They obey laws:* my American dad made me fasten my seatbelt even when I was sitting in the backseat.

*They are respectful:* I was wearing a bright-yellow-minion hat to Fashion Center at Pentagon City - a huge mall with a lot of people and no one said I was ugly, stupid or crazy. Some even complimented me.

*Americans are humorous:* they love joking. I mean they *love* joking.

I really enjoyed how many Americans are direct. Time is everything. They talk fast and straight. Why do I like this? It's because I want to do things faster and more effectively.

**Min Aung Thu**  
**(Matthew)**  
Myanmar



## **A Young Yet Caring Family**

If anyone were to ask me what my favorite part about SEAYLP was, I would tell them about my host family. Not only did I enjoy the warmth

and care of my host family, but I also had a chance to experience true American culture.

Although they are young and have no experience raising or taking care of children, they treated us (me and my host brother, Marwin) in a very splendid way. They gave us a genuine sense of living in an American family, treated us

like their own children, and taught us some cultural tips.

We had experienced tons of amazing things thanks to our host family. They let us visit Chicago, accompanied us for shopping, and took us to some famous restaurants in town.

They are like my real parents; I remain connected with them, asking for advice if I encounter perplex problems.

Wholeheartedly, I am looking forward to meeting with them again for a family reunion.

**Jonah Lau**  
Malaysia



## **The Joy of Giving**

I had the chance to celebrate Easter with my host family by going to a church called *the Christ Community Church*, a contemporary denominat-ed church which was quite an experience.

The day before Easter, my host family brought my brothers and I to the DeKalb Park District to volunteer as staff for a children's Easter egg hunt where we hid Easter eggs in the park and gave the children candies and sweets. You should've seen the smiles that came to their faces when we gave them candy. I was overjoyed to see those priceless smiles.

Suddenly, the whole "joy of giving" narrative seemed clear to me.



**Jiratchaya Sritaksinakul**  
**(Japan)**  
Thailand

## **Easter Egg Hunting**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, I woke up with an exciting task: to fill my Easter basket with presents hidden around the house. I spent around thirty minutes looking for Easter eggs. Together, Jane (my housemate from Laos) and I were sent on the task to find all the Easter eggs. Some members of our host family came to join us. They set up a large Easter egg hunt in the yard, and hid large eggs all over.



I really loved that moment because it was my first time to experience an America holiday; it was so much fun! For me, my host family was always considerate. I got a big pack of candy, two gold one dollar coins, and eighteen dollar bills.

I will never forget this memory and amazing opportunity to experience Easter with my host family.



# Traveling

**Dave Estanque**  
Philippines



## **Memories of Chicago**

Chicago is the place where we found cherished moments, shared, and gathered experiences to cherish our whole lives. It is where we made better friendships and better relationships with each other.

We had lots of good memories in Chicago. All the participants were very excited and happy about the Bean and in Millenium Park, where they captured many pictures. Some participants used the Bean as a mirror, and others pretended as if they held it.

Our trip to the Skydeck in Willis Tower was memorable, too. Everyone was scared to look down on the glass floor. They were frightened that the glass might crack and that they would fall, but I enjoyed the experience.

The SEAYLP 2017 participants made my time in Chicago great. I will cherish those moments they will live on with me forever.

**Dachawat Wattanakla (Tiger)**  
Thailand



## **Washington D.C.**

Of my 25 days in America for SEAYLP 2017, I enjoyed my time in Washington D.C. the most. My first impression of the city was that it was peaceful yet urbanized. We visited many monuments and museums. I had

the opportunity to see the Lincoln, Jefferson, and the Washington Monuments. The sight of them was beautiful, even though it was raining that day.

I also got a chance to visit the National Air and Space Museum, Natural History Museum, and the National Art Museum. There were many wonders inside each museum, which I loved.

My favorite museum was the Natural History Museum because it was the museum in which the movie called "The Night at the Museum" was filmed. The Natural History Museum has a variety of wonders ranging from sea creatures, to diamonds, and even bugs. I loved the bug exhibition the most because they had real life insects which left me in a ponderous mood, thinking of the greatness of the creatures on the Earth.

**Hassanal Peuto Abusama (Hash)**  
Philippines



## **Starved Rock, Rocked My Heart**



I was able to go outside and discover America in its grand natural existence at Starved Rock State Park. This was a chance of a lifetime for me to visit an outstanding natural view of Illinois.

I will never forget the fresh air during the time that Drew Wells brought us to Starved Rock. As I stepped into the wilderness under the canopy of the trees that cover the park, I was astounded by the breath taking views. This trip satisfied my passion for admiring Mother Nature's beauty.

I was able to see endemic plants and animals that I had only seen in books. As a naturalist, it was a dream come true to actually experience America's natural beauty. The rock formations were so inviting and intriguing to my curiosity. The water falls there will turn into ice during winter; this thought made my imagination chill, full of excitement.

Never in my wildest dreams did I believe I would visit America in such an unexpected and unforgettable way. I always admired this country as one of the most beautiful and most powerful in the world. I am forever grateful for the experience that the Wells' family gave me. Even in writing this article, I could not help but smile as I relived my time at Starved Rock.



# Global Youth Leaders Camp

**Angel  
Kristianti  
ButarButar**  
Indonesia



## *Growing to be a Confident Leader*

At the GYLC, I explored White Eagle and went hiking with the American participants. It was dark outside, but I was not scared because we walked together. Trusting each other is key to good teamwork.

My first day in the United States was scary. I was not confident in myself, but in time, I grew to be more confident. I interacted with many and adapted so well; I learned to care for others even if they were from a different country. I enjoyed all the games we played. We always spent time to study, learning about American culture, social life, time management, and civic action plans. The civic action plan sessions were my favorite because they taught me how to solve problems in my country. Being a part of the youth generation, I have a good ability and big opportunity to create change. We must be good leaders and be innovative to solve problems.

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**Soudaphone Viravongsa (Jane)**  
Laos

## *My Favorite Memory: The Night Hike*

We make choices in life. But sometimes, someone makes them for you, and it usually doesn't turn out that good; except the one that made me take a challenging night hike.

It started off easy since we just walked across the field. But a minute later, we were struggling through everything you've seen in those "cabin-in-the-woods" type of movies.

"Why am I here?" I asked as we were all holding on to each other as if we were a train. Some of us avoided branches of trees like spies avoiding lasers. Some looked out for others following them, which made the hike much easier.

I was with Lina and Rain from the starting point until each of us all had to stop at a spot, alone. I was left near a river where I could hear the sound of the stream, the calm wind blowing through my hair, animals' voices whispering goodnight. I could see stars up in the sky. I could smell nature. Somehow, my mind was completely at ease.

After 15 minutes of peace, people behind started coming to pick every one up from different spots so we could make our way to the end of the trail together.

The hike, I think, was about an hour long but it was one of the best hours spent at Camp Kupugani.



**Sitpasert Lattanavong  
(Sit)**  
Laos

## *GYLC*

SEAYLP was a life-changing experience. I gained new knowledge and friendships all over Southeast Asia as well as those from the United States. The most indelible memory throughout the entire program was the Global Youth Leadership Camp (GYLP). Not only was it enjoyable, it taught me how crucial teamwork is. When we did team-building, games were always involved, and each person in the group had opportunities to lead the group. I believe that was one of the main goals of the program.

In addition to team-building activities,

I felt that two days of GYLC was a time where we were able to have the opportunity to get to know one another. The trust fall, in particular, truly solidified our friendships. We had also hiked in the woods at night, and we were divided into three groups. These groups were easy, moderate, and difficult. I wanted the most challenging one, the difficult group. We were instructed to hold onto each other's hands, and we walked in line. Everyone was very supportive toward one another because the hiking was slightly dangerous, yet it was great to see nature at night. So, for me, I consider GYLC as the most valuable time during my stay in the U.S.





# Seaylp Sessions



Researchers



Dreamers



Leaders





**Danial  
Ariyansyah**  
Brunei



**Public Speaking Workshop**

One of the most memorable sessions for me was the Public Speaking Workshop facilitated by Lakhi Siap.

During this session, we got the chance to learn how to deliver a monumental public speech through voice projection, articulation, proper tone, and consistent eye contact with the audience. What made it memorable for me was being chosen by Lakhi to deliver a scene depicting fear using only gibberish in front of not only the SEAYLP delegates, but also some of the SEAYLP staff. I was obviously intimidated because numerous eyes were watching me doing embarrassing stuff, but as time went on, I got more comfortable and just let it all go. Because of this, I am now a less reserved person and able to overcome my stage fright.

This program created a memory that will never cease to burn in my heart because through this program, I had made a lot of friends from the nine Southeast Asian countries present. I believe we all are the future leaders of our countries. Not only has this program provided wonderful memories, it has also boosted my confidence level for embarking on a new journey ahead of me. I am now more aware on the issues currently happening in my country as well as the other Southeast Asian countries.



**Sreynoch Lauch**  
Cambodia



**Learning in SEAYLP**

I have learned so much about America. There were many sessions and activities with topics I always wanted to know more about. SEAYLP gave me the opportunity to learn about team-building, American culture, leadership skills, meditation, public speaking, conflict resolution, professional communication, planting vegetables, and packing food for children.

The thematic group sessions were my favorite because I learned how to do CPR, how to help people during an emergency, and recovery from disaster. The important part of the SEAYLP program is the civic action plan, so I can now do something for my community. The diplomatic simulation in D.C. was also memorable; this simulation made me realize that I have a chance at creating change.

**“ I can now do something  
for my community ”**



**Hanna Wirena  
Putri**  
Indonesia



**Thematic Session: Security**

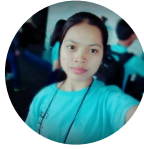
In the Security team, we learned about food insecurity, first aid for emergencies, visited the non-profit organization All Chicago, and learned from lessons focusing on our topic.

Initially, when we were divided up for our thematic sessions and heard my name called for the security group, I wondered “what should I secure, huh?” However, when I went to my first class, I was instantly interested. I thought, “hey, it’s not what I thought this would be,” and I now know how useful the knowledge from these sessions were for me. I also learned that knowledge provided, while seemingly useless at the time, could be beneficial later on. Of course, we need to pay attention.

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**Hakk Sreynea**  
Cambodia



***Learning a  
Multitude of Skills***

SEAYLP is a very good program, and while I never thought I could participate in such a program, I gained so many skills during my time in the program. I studied under many sessions and participated in a diplomatic simulation, learned to assess a community, studied civil engagement, learned time management skills, learned about homelessness in Chicago, worked to build a civic action plan, participated in self-reflection, developed skills for public speaking, explored conflict resolution, and much more.

I also learned a lot from my host family. They are very kind. They were always helpful during my stay and taught me how to make pizza, hamburgers, and sandwiches. Once I knew how to make them, I made a pizza and hamburgers for my mom, dad, and sisters. We always had fun and every evening was a delight. We shopped at malls, watched movies, and watched cartoons nearly every night. I fondly remember the times we talked until it was about 1 o'clock in the morning. My family really wanted to listen to me talk about my community and culture in Cambodia.



**Muhammad Imam Adham Armon**  
Indonesia



***A Perfect Family***

What comes to my mind when someone mentions the United States? I think about a country that is full of perfection: a perfect life, a perfect career, and perfect happiness.

SEAYLP 2017 was a great opportunity for me. All my memories from this trip makes it hard to move on. I never thought I could visit the United States, and my visit gave me a sense to know how to be a good citizen in my own country, to clean up waste, obey rules, respect time, and respect others in need. This program opened up my point of view to see how beautiful and great the world I live in is. I realized that there are still a lot of people who care; we are not alone.

My best moment was my week with my host family, the Findley family. Why? Because they treated me like their own child. They took care of me and gave me the love I needed. Family are the first we should go to when we are happy, upset, angry, or in trouble. The Findley family taught me to laugh and be happy for a while and how to smile sincerely.

All the moments I had in United States are irreplaceable. I still have a million dreams I want to catch, and I promise myself I will come back to the United States someday for something better.



**Muzayyanah**  
Indonesia



***Oceans  
Diplomatic  
Simulation***

SEAYLP was an amazing opportunity. Everything was new; my days were filled with new experiences, new friends, and new opportunities to practice my English. One of the most challenging sessions for me was the diplomatic simulation in Washington D.C. We split off into separate groups, and I was in the Ocean group, a simulation about illegal fishing. We were divided into five groups, representing organizations, and each group was instructed to defend their assigned position.

I was at a loss for words because most participants were highly engaged while defending their positions. I was impressed with how active the participants were, though I found it difficult to keep up with the simulation at times. Each SEAYLP and GYLC participant was active in this session, and I found their sharing of ideas and knowledge to be remarkable. For me, this was an experience I had never had before. I was constantly learning during this trip, and these experiences will always stay with me.



**Vilaya Sirivong  
(Ling)**  
Laos



***Unexpected Friendship***

SEAYLP was everything I had ever wanted in my life. I had been looking to be a part of the program for some time and was broken-hearted when I failed my first interview last year. I nearly gave up, but I am glad I did not. I spent the year finding answers that I could not answer for my last interview. I tried again the year after, and unexpectedly, I was accepted.

SEAYLP is full of great people; they showed confidence, trusted me, and gave me the courage to do things I did not ever think I could do. I know I can truly trust them.

This program taught us to have courage, to take action, and to bring positive change to our communities. But this program also gave me friendships that will last a lifetime.

When you surround yourself with positive thinking people, it makes your life better. And in the end, the hardest thing to do is not leaving a place, but to leave amazing people. They changed me; they changed the way I used to think about Southeast Asia. Thank you for coming into my life and for making such a beautiful impact

**Huynh Huyen  
Dieu (Jenna)**  
Vietnam



***International Friendship***

Do you believe in a thing called *International Friendship*? I do. To be honest, I had never had any concept of international friendship before I took part in SEAYLP. Fortunately, I had an opportunity to participate in SEAYLP, which made my life change and helped me understand more about international friendship. If you ask me about what interested me most during my 25 days in the U.S., surely I will tell you that it was my great time with my lovely new friends. I believe I will never forget this time; there were so many memorable moments. We learned, ate, played, sang, and took photos together. We cared for each other when someone was hurt. We all come from different cultures, but we all respected each other. We also tried to learn phrases in different languages. I would like to say “thanks” to my friends who asked me how to say “I love you” in Vietnamese. They then tried saying it to me after I taught them. Although we were together for a short period of time, I learned many things from my clever and talented friends. I am so grateful for everything. I just wish we could keep in touch and meet each other again someday.

**Yayi Puspita  
Sari**  
Indonesia



“ ...At NIU, I was guided by extraordinary speakers; they shared their experiences taught me many things I had never learned before. My ways of thinking are more open and my knowledge has been enriched... ”

**Hanna Wire-  
na Putri**  
Indonesia



“ ...SEAYLP helped me to develop, communicate, cooperate, be active and make a positive impact. SEAYLP encourages us to have passion, especially in our productive age. SEAYLP also motivates us with the lessons that are very useful for our environment, society and, of course, ourselves. The SEAYLP team have done their best to teach and guide us, to persuade us to get involve, and make us feel fresh ... ”

**Mohamad  
Robbiandi  
Alamsyah**  
Indonesia



“ ...Before this trip, I did not have friends in any other country but I made a friend on this trip. His name is Nadzrie and he’s from Brunei. He was always with me; we were roommates, housemates, and even groupmates at GYLC... ”

**Thanh Ha Do  
(Hailee)**  
Vietnam



“ ..the best thing I enjoyed here is my host family, they showed me a lot of things, especially the slogan “No regret”, it meant, when you decide to do something that you want but scared of it, you must do or you will regret about it in the rest of your life. I followed their slogan, and that helped me a lot. ”



# SAVING INDONESIA'S CORAL

2017's Participants from Indonesia are trying to save a global and local resource— coral! They have begun the long process of rehabilitating the coral of Tidung Island. With advisement of coral experts, they have already begun 50 coral with strong bases in a shallow area, and will be watching them carefully there and late in the deeper in the damaged area.



We are INDONESIA



# LAOS SOARING HIGH

This year's participants from Laos completed a variety of events. From selecting 22 active volunteers to fundraising their project, the group was able to organized a week long community project at Hongsouphab Elementary School. The project aimed to raise awareness of the environment and to increase the quality of life for the local people, especially the young students.







In August the team from Myanmar conducted their first activities. They faced various impediments—like lack of electricity and school exams—but they put together two fine programs, teaching in Chankalay and Pha-an. They taught subjects ranging from youth empowerment to public speaking to environmental care as part of a rigorous curriculum and long days.

# LEAN ON MYANMAR





Project Hestia of the Thailand team started its movement in Chiang Mai and Bangkok. Part of the team conducted interviews and fact finding in a home for elders. Soon after, Tiger conducted geriatric simulations at two schools in Sankampaeng. The project aimed to create a strong familial ties, closing the existing generation gap through empathy, and make elders feel relevant again.

# THAILAND REACHING OUT





# VIET NAM ON THE GO!!!

SEAYLP 2017 from Vietnam organized two events in July at Tay Ninh City. Their project is called RIFAR, meaning Reading Is Fun and Rewarding. In the event, around 250 students participated, engaging in discussion and learning activities and enjoying a book exhibit and open forum.



# SEAYLP 2017 Action Plans



## Brunei

### Jernih (Clear)

The 2017 Bruneian SEAYLP delegates - Najib, Danial Ariyansyah, Nadzrie, Amal Bazilah and Umi Nasuha – aim to promote the culture of proper waste management techniques and the habit of recycling to Bruneians.

Other than promoting recycling amongst Bruneians, they seek to solidify Brunei's international image as a green country, leading to an increase potential of tourist influx into their country.

They will compile case studies and tests involving physical activities and educational courses with mostly youth. They will collaborate with their college's Green Council members, as well as other institutions. In particular, they will reach out to the Department of Environmental and Recreational Parks as well as local recycling companies to ensure this project's success.



## Cambodia

### Book Donation

Chan, Seat, Sophearith, Sreynea, Sreynoch, Terry, and Van of Cambodia seek to find new lives for reading materials in rural libraries.

This project will collect and reuse old books which are left behind by people, donating and transporting them to libraries in rural areas. Moreover, they want to improve reading habits of students, from primary school to high school.

Students nowadays spend so much time on social media which reduces their time spent reading. We will also increase the diversity of books in school libraries so that every student can find something enjoyable to read.



## Indonesia

### Coral Transplantation

Angel, Hanna, Imam, Robbiandi, Yayi, and Moza will tackle the degradation of an ecological and economic resource in their community.

Their action plan will take place on Tidung Island, which has been developed into a tourist attraction, with visitors swimming, snorkelling, diving and fishing. But every day the coral is damaged; one of the main attractions is being lost. The Coral Transplantation project will coordinate with organizations that specialize in coral in order to flourish.

They will start small by transplanting at least 500 coral in the areas damaged surrounding Tidung. They plan to be complete the transplantation project by the end of July 2018, and will monitor the project throughout its development. They will also socialize others to value and care for their coral in the community. While they realize that coral takes a long time to grow and may not see results right away, they expect the effects will be huge for the environment.

*Let's save our island!*



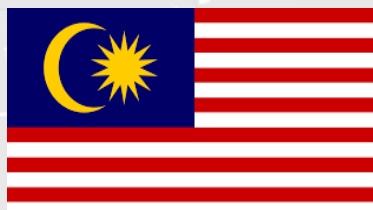


## Laos

### HexaGreen

Jane, Lina, Ling Ling, One, Rain, Sit, and Ting will lead HexaGreen to deliver more environmental and sanitary knowledge for our nation's future.

HexaGreen will conduct public fund raising through social media and also recruit up to 15 volunteers. Environmental lessons and activities, prepared by SEAYLPers, will encourage children to do waste sorting so that they can earn money by selling recyclable rubbish. In addition, they will supply bins and water purifiers to make clean water accessible.



## Malaysia

### Wanita Malaysia Boleh

*(Women of Malaysia are Able)*

The Malaysian team's civic action plan provides actionable solutions to eradicate the barriers of female oppression to conjure progressive mobility for female equality and equity. Our team name is Wanita Malaysia Boleh, which translates as the Women of Malaysia are Able. Our goal is eliminating the "women cannot do this and that" narrative so that by the mid-2020s at least five women will be actively involved in leadership roles within our society.

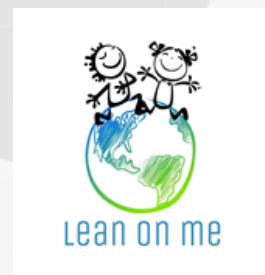
In Penampang, Sabah, we would be conducting a program for underprivileged students called the Change Maker Studios. In Papar, Sabah we will organize Girl Empowerment Camp for primary and secondary school girls. In Miri, Sarawak, we will organize soup kitchens and donations for underprivileged men and women that are living on the outskirts of the city. In Bintulu, Sarawak, various talks for women, girls and females of all ages will be organized in an event, I Am Able. Last but not the least, The Female Development Program (FDP) would be conducted in Kuching, Sarawak to give more opportunities to females who are interested in learning new skills and trades.



## Myanmar

### Lean on Me

Lean on Me will include workshop sessions and fruitful activities to enhance children's awareness in lesser developed parts of Myanmar. Our group's focus is on youth who lack fundamental knowledge of health care and major issues in our country – such as domestic violence and human trafficking – and those who lack of motivation. We aim to spread awareness, to educate and to motivate these individuals, and to give them a role and a purpose in our society. The very first destination of our project shall be Pha-an, in the Karen State. We will facilitate a four-day workshop consisting of: health education, child protection, gender studies, and youth motivation. Our trip will take place in August, and our team has already set up a budget plan which will cover our travel fees and necessary supplies for our activities. We hope to gather funds in the future to carry out our workshops in other under-developed areas in Myanmar.





## Philippines

### Community Reading and Feeding Program for Non-Reader Children and Youth in Maguindanao Province

The MoroSettlerIndigenousPeople Youth Organization (MoSeIP YO SEAYLP) in Maguindanao, Philippines will conduct projects to uplift the literacy skills of our young children and adolescences. We believe that if we want to empower youth, we should start with quality education. This project will target the non-readers of a school and give them remedial sessions that aimed at helping them to read and increase their confidence in schooling. We also believe that having good health will help them boost their participation; hence, the project will also provide healthy foods for the target participants.



## Thailand

### Hestia

Project Hestia, named after the Greek Goddess of family, aims to create a strong society through fostering strong familial ties and closing the generation gap. This can be done through raising awareness, running workshops, and youth engagement. We believe that some of society's problems can be solved if the youth and the elderly can communicate effectively. We will meet with the elderly in nursing homes and try to understand things from their point-of-view and apply this to interactive workshops in classes with fifth to eighth grade students in two different regions of Thailand. We will also use the information we gain to make a short film to raise awareness. The success of our project will be measured through interviews after students complete our workshop.



## Vietnam

### RIFAR

*(Reading Is Fun And Rewarding)*

RIFAR aims to improve youth awareness of the advantages of reading by introducing inspiring books and promoting skills needed to read all materials more effectively.

Here are several benefits our project provides:

1. Improved reading skill: Just think of how effective you will become after our workshop on skimming and scanning techniques and receiving helpful advice from experienced readers. You are bound to succeed in doing reading tests.
2. More social engagement: As a volunteer helping us shape our project, you will be given a certificate for your contribution, adding appeal to your CV when applying for scholarships or for a job.
3. Connect with others: We will bring out highly interactive and cooperative teambuilding activities learned during our stay in the US.
4. Exchange experience: We will tempt you with sit-down discussions of our visit to the U.S and how we applied and got selected for the program. You will learn more about the process of pursuing scholarships.
5. Make a difference where you live: Volunteers will help build little free libraries with the motto: "Take one, return one" we will provide book-lovers with an opportunity to exchange books free of charge







# Expanding Horizons

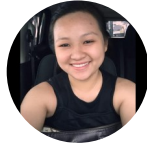


Beyond ASEAN, beyond SEAYLP



## North America

**Abigail Cabonita**  
Philippines  
SEAYLP 2011



Abi arrived in the United States last May to work as a Medical Technologist at **Marshall Brown-ing Hospital in Du Quoin, Illinois**. She was hired by the hospital through a working visa.

Now that she is just six hours away from NIU, she hopes to visit DeKalb and the SEAYLP staff soon.

When asked how SEAYLP changed her life, she said that SEAYLP gave her a new perspective of what leadership is. Leaders can continually serve the community by doing good in your job and the things you do everyday, which includes having excellent work ethics and being mindful and sensitive to other’s feelings.

*“ Leaders can continually serve the community by doing good ”*

# SEAYLP

## Alumni Across the GLOBE

### The Journey Continues...

After seven years, SEAYLP continues to touch the lives of youth in South-east Asia. Every year, 60 outstanding youth from across the region travel to the United States to learn about leadership and American culture.

Now, the alums are scattered around the globe, pursuing and reaching their dreams and making an impact in their communities.

Here we highlight what a few SEAYLP alumni have achieved since their participation in SEAYLP.

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**Trang Pham**  
Vietnam  
SEAYLP 2011



Trang is currently studying Educational Leadership at **Pennsylvania State University**. She enjoys the academic environment in her university, which is practical, supportive, encouraging, and research-based.

After SEAYLP, Trang travelled for business or leisure to many countries such as China, Indonesia, UK, Burma, Laos, and Thailand.

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**Naing Thant Phyo**  
Myanmar  
SEAYLP 2011



After finishing high school in the United Kingdom, Zac is currently in **Vermont, USA**. He is studying International and Global Studies at **Middlebury College**, and hopes to graduate next year.

According to Zac, going to college in rural Vermont is a unique experience. It allows him to focus on his studies, while giving him a peaceful break from busy city life.



# Back to Where it all Began

**Ye Pyae Thu**  
Myanmar  
SEAYLP 2014



Eric was the first alumni to receive the SEAYLP scholarship. He is now in his senior year as a student in **Business Administration**.

Aside from excelling in school, Eric is also a notable entrepreneur. He is the founder and CEO of Hexagon Social Enterprise Co., Ltd., operated in Mandalay, Myanmar.

As a social entrepreneur, he fulfills social welfare development need in his country by providing youth the access to professional and personal development skill

**Hnin Eaindray Lin**  
Myanmar  
SEAYLP 2014



Scarlet is currently a junior at Northern. She is majoring in **Mechanical Engineering, with an emphasis in Mechatronics and Robotics**.

Aspiring to become a robotics engineer and a research scientist, she participated in several undergraduate research programs at NIU and the University of Tokyo.

As an undergraduate student, she is involved in the University Honors Program, Global Friends Network Program, and Northern Ambassador, promoting academic excellence and cultural diversity at NIU.



**I younan An**  
Cambodia  
SEAYLP 2014



Iyounan is a junior SEAYLP scholar studying **Political Science**.

In an interview, he said he enjoys how each day his teachers challenge him. It has allowed him to be exposed to new and diverse ideas, which he applies to real-life situations.

He is very involved in the school community. He is a community advisor and National Residence Hall Honorary, serve on the Political Science Student Advisory Committee, and is the Executive Assistant to the Student Association's

**Thimoro Cheng**  
Cambodia  
SEAYLP 2014



Thim is also in his junior year as a **Biochemistry** major. Recently, he was awarded as one of the most outstanding students in the Biochemistry program.

He is also part of the University Honors Program.

**Kyi Zay Min**  
Myanmar  
SEAYLP 2011



Kyi Zay is a junior student in **Biological Science** here at NIU. He is an active member of the Kappa Pi Beta Fraternity Inc.

Also, he has been working with both SEAYLP and YSEALI throughout the years. He continues to share his time and experiences with the group and well adored

**Mar Louie Mayubay**  
Philippines  
SEAYLP 2012



Louie is our first SEAYLP Masters-level scholar. He is currently excelling in **Accounting Science (Leadership)**, both as a student and soon as a teacher and soon be graduating this December.

Recently, he was honored as a member of two international honor societies— Beta Alpha Psi and Beta Gamma Sigma. He has also been recognized as the first accountancy student to receive the Kevin D. Knight Leadership Award.

## Travelling the World -by May Pwint

Travelling is one of those things I love to the extent where I openly call myself a “travel addict.”

I love getting totally lost in a foreign country even though I hate appearing lost. I love talking to strangers in gestures or whatever language I can come up with, even though I hate talking in general. I love the thrill of not knowing what will happen next, even though I am afraid of the unknown. Travelling gives me all of that and more.

Travelling teaches me to trust the process, to enjoy the moment, and most importantly to believe that people are kind. Also, when I travel (mostly solo travel), I can be me. I do not have to worry about not doing enough or about pleasing others. I can sit somewhere quietly and read a good book or I could grab a coffee with someone I just met.

I am still trying to figure out precisely why I love travelling so much, but I guess I should just trust the process and perhaps travel some more.



**May Pwint**  
**Thair Chu**  
Myanmar  
SEAYLP 2012



May just finished her bachelor's degree in Art History at **Roanoke College in Virginia, USA.**

She is truly fascinated with historical arts as she already visited some UNESCO World Heritage—such as the Pyramids in Egypt and Mexico, Machu Picchu in Peru, and Borobudur in Indonesia.

**Angela Romero**  
Philippines  
SEAYLP 2014



Angela is currently studying AB Organizational Communication at **De La Salle University (DLSU)**, a top universities in the Philippines.

Recently, she attended a conference at the **Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.** To her, this trip was a blessing in disguise. She took two weeks off from school to attend the conference and still managed to do her school work. She said, “I’m always open to joining conferences and programs because I get to connect with people in so many different ways, in unexpected ways even.”

Angela has also been travelling around the world since SEAYLP. She has visited Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, France, Italy, Spain, and, most recently, Korea.

*“ ...Connect with people in so many ways... ”*

**Nantanick**  
**Tantivasadakan**  
Thailand  
SEAYLP 2014



Nantanick is currently a student at **Stanford University** in California. Although he has not declared a major yet, he is thinking of pursuing Symbolic Systems.

When asked about his SEAYLP experience, he said, he misses his friends so much. He also added that SEAYLP taught him to have a wider perspective on world problems.

**Jason Wee**  
Malaysia  
SEAYLP 2012



After graduating from United World College in Costa Rica last year, Jason is now studying Public and International Affairs at **Princeton University, New Jersey.**

He said after SEAYLP, he has a greater sense of what ASEAN integration is. His exposure to Western liberal democracies helped to shape his world views.



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**Annie Hanh Vu**  
Vietnam  
SEAYLP 2015



Annie finished her bachelor's degree in Marketing at the **University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Louisiana USA**. She is now working as a Marketing/Procurement specialist at Brewster Procurement Group in Louisiana.

She says misses her friends from SEAYLP and her host family.

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**Zaw Lin Htet**  
Myanmar  
SEAYLP 2012



Calvin is studying Liberal Arts at **Soka University of America in California**. What he likes about his school is that it requires every student to study abroad and take a foreign language for two years.

When asked what he missed about SEAYLP, he said, he misses his SEAYLP friends so much. Last December, he spent his winter break with two of his friends at NIU.

“ *Her strong sense of community lies at the very heart of her SEAYLP experience.* ”



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**Nur Syazana Idris**  
Malaysia  
SEAYLP 2011



Syazana is on her first year as a medical student at the **National University of Ireland** in Galway. She believes Galway is really peaceful compared to Dublin.

She has traveled around Europe for the past few years. She visited Paris, Copenhagen, Brussel, and Amsterdam. To her, the freedom of being able to explore the world without restriction is what she likes from her travels. Seeing new places, learning new cultures, and meeting people that teach you lessons along the way are a few reasons why she continues to travel.

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**Anna Nguyen**  
Vietnam  
SEAYLP 2016



Anna is currently taking Politics– Philosophy– Economics (PPE) at **Brockenhurst College in Hampshire, UK**. At over 100 years old, the university hosts about 200 international students from 32 countries all over the world, which makes it a diverse institution.

When asked about SEAYLP, she said that her strong sense of community lies at the very heart of her SEAYLP experience. It is where she found her values, beliefs, and vision for a world of diversity.

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**Safwan Idris**  
Brunei  
SEAYLP 2009



Safwan spent his college years in in **Manchester, United Kingdom**, where he finished his bachelors degree. Now, He is back in Brunei as a Material and Corrosion Engineer at Brunei Shell Petroleum. When asked about what he likes about his job, he said, “What I like most about my work is everyday is a new challenge and there is always something new to learn. Furthermore, due to our ageng facilities, I believe my role is crucial in ensuring our assets and facilities are safe to operate.”

## Who else is living abroad?

Update us to be included in the next year's Newsletter.

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**Kyle Chan  
WeiRen**  
Malaysia  
SEAYLP 2010



Kyle is a full scholar of Maybank–Malaysia since 2012. He is currently in the United Kingdom, studying Accounting and Finance at the **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)**.

He has stayed in Europe for almost four years, and he has travelled quite a bit. He has visited Portugal, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Denmark, France, Switzerland, and parts of the United Kingdom.



## Asia

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**Kitiphonh  
Phengthavongsa**  
Laos  
SEAYLP 2014



Kitt is an Electrical Engineer student at **Hohai University in Jiangsu Province, China**. He describes his school's environment as incredible because of its various

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**Vansouly  
Khamphanthong**  
Laos  
SEAYLP 2014



Fon is currently studying Social Welfare at **Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea**.

She can now speak in both Korean and English, which she finds valuable. She spends most of her free time reading books at their library. She says the library is her second home.

After SEAYLP, she has been joining different exchange programs. She participated in other programs that took her to Japan, Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia.

functional buildings, teaching strategies, and transportation system.

He has been travelling around China and recently went on a city tour in Shanghai. When asked about his trip, he said that his impression of the city is a combination of Western and Eastern culture. The food and architecture are full of variety. He said there's just so much to see in China.

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**Lynel Lucañas**  
Philippines  
SEAYLP 2015



Last year, Lynel attended a cultural immersion and 1st International Conference on Medicine and Health Science at the **University of Jembar, Indonesia**.



**Gene Png**  
Singapore  
SEAYLP 2010



Gene is also studying at **Yonsei University**. She is currently taking Asian studies, which is a liberal art curriculum in Underwood International College.

She said that their small cohort makes it possible for faculty members to know the students really well. Under the guidance of her professor, she has improved her critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, and has fallen in love with history. In fact, despite multiple challenges, being in school always makes her feel home.

Exposing her self to the cultural diversity made her stand in awe. She said she was captivated by the beauty of Indonesia. She learned to speak a little bit of Bahasa, sang an Indonesian song, and played gamelan.

According to her, her training and conference gave her a gist on the Pharmacy practices of Indonesia, which inspired her to become a successful pharmacist someday.

Within the 10-day program, she acquired knowledge and skills in the field of pharmacy, discovered the wonders of Indonesia, and met her SEAYLP friend, **Dennis Deviandoni**.



## Still Together



**Edcel Paul Tejare**  
Philippines  
SEAYLP 2010



Edcel is now working as a Channel and **Brand Leader at IBM, Philippines**. According to him, he consistently visits Malaysia and Singapore for business purposes. On an interview with him, he said that his worked allowed him to provide solutions to their company's problems. He was also able to connect with different people where he learned how to build trust, integrity, and relationships.

**John Floyd Abrico**  
Philippines  
SEAYLP 2010



Floyd shares a lot of similarities with Edcel. Aside from joining SEAYLP in 2012 and graduating in 2015 with Edcel, he is now also working at **IBM, Philippines**.

Floyd works as the New Client Acquisition Representative, where he also travels to Singapore and Malaysia regularly as part of his job with the company.

**Van Choeun**  
Cambodia  
SEAYLP 2015



Van is a hardworking person. Aside from getting a scholarship at **Royal University of Phnom Penh** for his Community Development studies, he is also working as a waiter to support his education.

He said that he sees education to be a great aspect of his life. One reason is that he gets to interact with people from distinct backgrounds and build connections with them.

Recently, he went to the **Philippines** to join the prestigious YSEALI Sea Camp, with a marine life conservation theme. According to him, he was really impressed with the Philippines on its natural resources and biodiversity.

**Kei Seiha**  
Cambodia  
SEAYLP 2015



Gii No is taking Civil Engineering at the **Institute of Technology of Cambodia in Phnom Penh**.

Since SEAYLP, his life started to change, especially his leadership and communication skills. He has been a role model in his province where he worked with various community services.

When asked what he missed about SEAYLP, he said that there were so many unforgettable experiences he had that he will never forget. Some of these were in Chicago and in Washington.

**Sousada Sirimanothai**  
Laos  
SEAYLP 2015



Bibi is honored to be the first Lao student to receive a scholarship in **University of Macau**, where she is studying Business Administration.

According to her, although her university is in China, the educational system is not different from other international schools since they primarily teach in English.

When asked how SEAYLP impacted her life, she said that she learned how to become a good leader in class and got to apply her experience in the real world by taking actions in providing needs for the people around her.

**Dinda Hanifah**  
Indonesia  
SEAYLP 2012



Dinda loves meeting new people. In fact, she is studying International Relations at **Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta in Indonesia**.

She said, she is very happy to be studying International Relations. Pursuing her bachelors at this university gave her a chance to be more globalized since it holds many international events.

When asked what she misses about SEAYLP, she said she misses everything. She is also very happy that she met her best friend and best roommate in SEAYLP.

**Anucha  
Chaiymat**  
Thailand  
SEAYLP 2015



Anucha joined an **ASEAN American Exchange Alumni Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** last year. He said that his experience in KL was more beautiful than what he expected.

When asked how did SEAYLP changed his life, he said, "It changed me a lot from the audition date. I am a kind of boy who lives in a remote area in North-east Thailand, where there are not so much facilities. So, when I was picked to be the representative of my country, my life changed immediately. I have gain more potential in life and was able run community projects by myself. Thanks to SEAYLP, I am stronger now."



## Australia

**Jimmy  
Kouphokham**  
Laos  
SEAYLP 2010



Jim will be graduating next year with a degree in Electrical Engineering from **The University of New South Wales, Australia**. He describes his university as a vibrant campus, where innovative courses, an awesome academic system, and lots of fun activities were set up to encourage personal development.

He said he really misses his SEAYLP family, especially his

ASEAN friends and his host family. He considers this family as the group of people who continue to inspire him to work and pursue his dreams in life.

“ ..the group of people who continue to inspire him to work and pursue his dreams in life... ”

**Jimmy  
Kouphokham**  
Laos  
SEAYLP 2010



Minou is currently taking Human Geography at **Monash University in Australia**. She is amazed by her school since it is one of the greatest schools in Australia that provide myriads of facilities. She also said that she met many great teachers and classmates this year.

According to her, SEAYLP changed her life in many aspects. It opened her mind about understanding other cultures that differ from hers. Moreover, the activities during SEAYLP provided her ample opportunities to strengthen her passion as an environmentalist.





# SEAYLP REPORT

**Mary Pauline Caoili**  
Philippines  
SEAYLP 2012



“...pushing forward for a better and bigger engagement of alumni community.”

## SEAYLP Alumni Join Alumni Engage 2017 in the Philippines

Last March 3-5, 2017, alumni from the different State sponsored programs in the Philippines gathered together at Marriott Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines for an annual program of the United States Embassy in Manila.

Tagged as *Alumni Engage 2017*, the program brought together about 50 representatives of 27 different alumni associations in the Philippines.

Two alumni of the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program were invited to participate in the event. They were **Mary Pauline I. Caoili** and **John Paul D. Castro**, both from the Spring Batch in 2012. They represented the United States Government Alumni Association in Ilocos. **Iphraim “Raffy” Cabrisante**, from the Spring 2011, also joined as one of the volunteers of the said event.

The three-day activity involved reporting on the previous alumni activities of the different organizations and reflecting on the successes of each project. It also served as the head starter for the preparations for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of US Exchanges in the Philippines for 2018. The theme #PUSH70ward was created, pushing forward for a better and bigger engagement of the alumni community. An Alumni Calendar was also set up by the participants to reflect their project line-up for the year and to encourage collaboration opportunities with other associations. The Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Manila also stressed that these projects may also receive small grant support upon approval.

The group also conducted an outreach program at Operation Second Chance, a home for minor offenders in Cebu City, to conclude the event.

The SEAYLP alumni who joined the event look forward to several collaborations with their fellow alumni not only in the Philippines but also with the State Alumni community all over the world. This will also be a good opportunity to build friendships and share experiences with other fellows.



## Timeline



2009 Fall ○



2010 Spring ○



2011 Spring ○



# SEA CROSSWORD PUZZLE



2011 Fall ○



2012 Spring ○



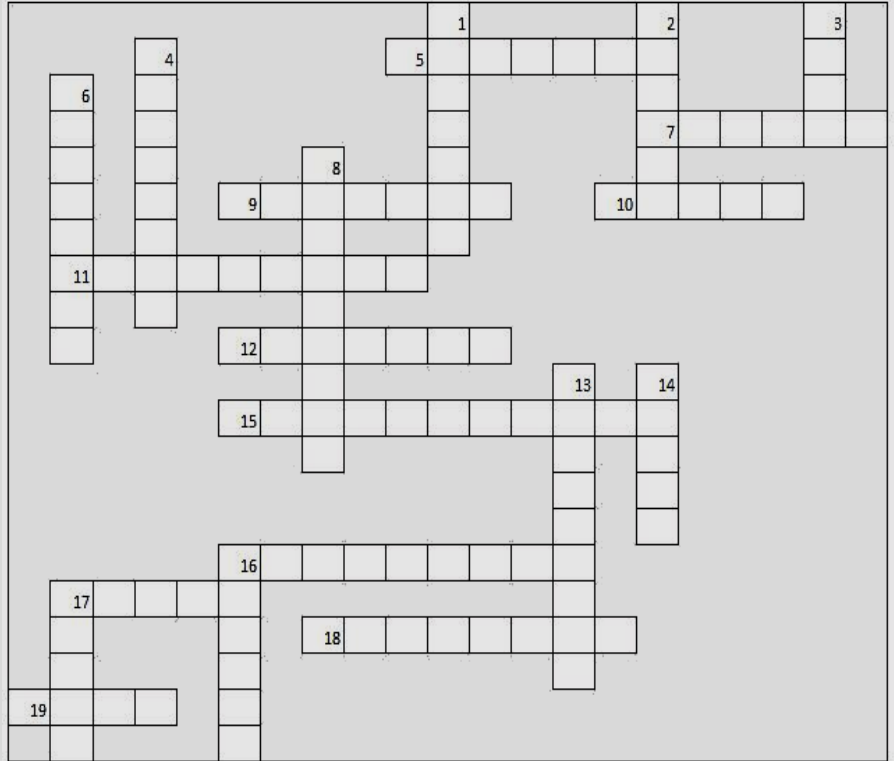
2014 ○



2015 ○



2016 ○



## Across

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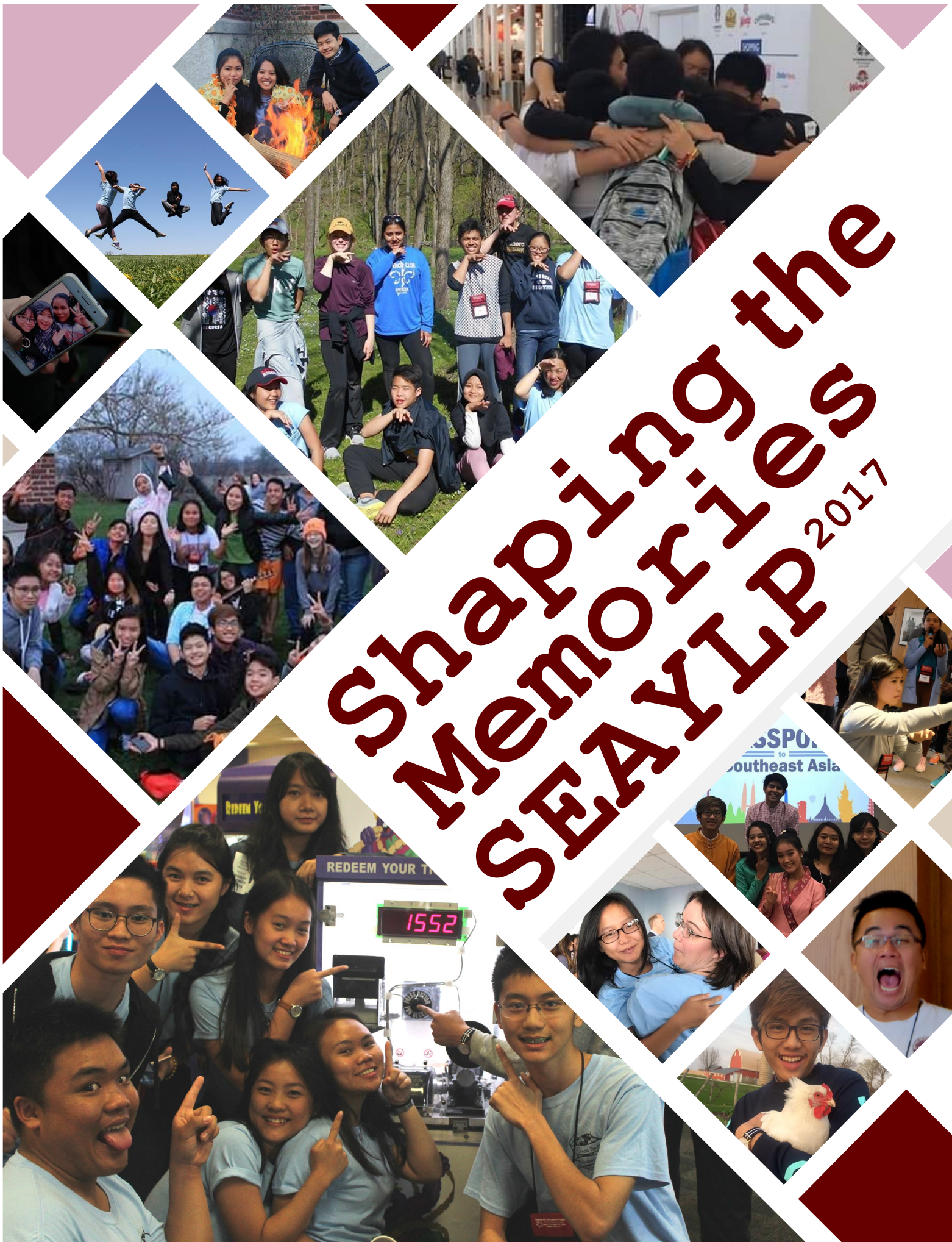
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1. Myanmar 2. Brunei 3. Fire 4. Thailand 6. Malaysia  
 8. Indonesia 13. Angkor Wat 14. ASEAN 16. Bahasa  
 Singapore 12. Vietnam 15. Philippines 16.  
 Borobudur 12. India 18. Petronas 19. Laos

17. Islam  
 1. Typhoon 2. Brunei 3. Fire 4. Thailand 6. Malaysia  
 8. Indonesia 13. Angkor Wat 14. ASEAN 16. Bahasa





# Shaping the Memories SEAYLP<sup>2017</sup>

SSPO  
to  
Southeast Asia

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# SEAYLP 2016

## BRUNEI

### Green Brunei Initiatives

As part of our mission for the Green Brunei Initiative, the Brunei Darussalam SEAYLP 2016 team conducted an inter-house recycling drive in our school in April 2017. The aim and objective of this project was to raise awareness of recycling in school and to encourage, motivate, and spread awareness to the student body to keep the school compound clean. Another aim was to ensure that recycling becomes a common practice within our school and community.

From our recycling drive, we collected 607 kg of waste, which consisted of 75 kg of plastic, 519.7 kg of paper, and 12.3 kg of aluminum. This project was made successful through the help of our Environmental Bureau of our student representative council and some generous volunteers. For our closing ceremony, we invited representatives from both the US Embassy, the Ministry of Education, and our student body to showcase our project's results.



## CAMBODIA

### Youth for Green

During our project, Youth for Green, we learned a lot about solidarity, volunteering, education, and friendship. Our action plan included planting trees in order to make our community greener through promoting and planting many trees. We started running our project in August 2016 in three schools (Cher Teal Primary School, Sok AnPrey Sandek High School, Sok An Thnol Bombek High School) and a pagoda (Wat Prey Thom pagoda) in Takeo province.

Our project ran for a few months, and our student volunteers insist that the trees will be lovingly looked after, watering the trees every morning, even during rainy season. In a few years, they will help fill the community with more greenery. We all grew so much from the project and are proud to be who we are because of this project.



The Borneo Coal-tivation Project's aim has been to clean up an area lake contaminated by coal-mining activities and to improve the economy of the community nearby. With the help of volunteers and advice from experts, they chemically restored the lake water quality and built fish farming ponds and platforms. They introduced 1,500 fish into the pond and fed and cared for them. The purpose of this project was to empower the community. They do not want anyone to have financial gain from fishing at this farm, so the farm was donated to the community after their first successful harvest.



Our free English course was organized at Hadxaykhao Elementary School. A total of 61 students (grade 3 to grade 5) from three different elementary schools in the local area participated in our classes. The course ran from 27 March-7 April, and was extended to 19-28 April and took place each evening, Monday to Friday.

We recruited volunteers to help with teaching and activities, and selected 14 from high schools and 4 from university.

Before the course started, we organized a test and divided our students into three classes according to their English skills. We tried our best to get students involved in the classes; we played a lot of games to keep our classes exciting. After 4 weeks, we retested students to see their progress. The lowest class could now read and write the alphabet, numbers, and some basic words.

We raised money with a bake sale and are renovating a space to create a small library. We repainted the wall, installed bookshelves, and installed plastic mat on the floor. We aimed to have 400 books; we got 70 books donated by Room to Read and around 200 books from school which we are arranging them into the bookshelves. It's now 80% completed. However, the library still need lights, ceiling fan and more books.





**MALAYSIA**  
**Tiger Troopers**

**SEAYLP**  
**2016**

**MYANMAR**  
**Project Youth**

After the success of our plastic rubbish bins and the monthly small-scale beach clean-ups, we wanted to change things a little in 2017. We felt that one way to bring awareness to the local community is through education. While beach cleanups promote co-operation and teamwork, the problem is endless as some locals take the environment for granted. Hence, we chose to spend our energy empowering youngsters in the vicinity to promote our cause.

Our mentor, Mr. Pravin, is spreading the cause through his school with a group of students, mentored by Luqman, Auni and Sarah. We coordinated with local hawkers to spread proper waste disposal by providing rubbish bins around the beach. Inspired by Tiger Troopers, another youth movement has spawned to empower the youths within the vicinity of Besut.

Besides that, a weekly English class is also held for remedial students. The classes are conducted by student leaders of the Golden Bat Squad with Mr. Pravin monitoring and facilitating the learning process. Several art workshops are also on the pipeline, with the aim to spread environmental awareness through drama and poetry recitation.



To initiate our Civic Action Plan, our team divided into two groups; 3 of us in Mandalay and other 3 in Yangon with the help of volunteers. In Mandalay, we started teaching boys working in tea shops with the permission of owners. All teaching plans & accessories were free for them, from text books. In Yangon, we helped sell flowers in some traffic zones where many under-aged kids sell their daily survival. While we were selling flowers together, we tried to impart knowledge, moral and life skills which could make them aware of things they were lacking.

We brought the project to an end in Yangon on December 25 by donating self-learning text books, English, Myanmar readers' digests and built up a small library at **Shwe Nan Oo** Monastery Education Centre where Monks give room to the unaffordable kids and the Nuns teach to them. Also in "**Htauk Kyant**" orphaned girls center, we conducted a knowledge sharing program about women's health and empowerment, and the importance of developing their life-skills to be independent.

We all are glad to see that although their lives have not been easy, they still dare to dream and we are proud to support them in their steps for future.



A year out, BeYOUTHifiers continue to bring out the best in the youth to help them achieve their goals and engage in their communities. We successfully launched our first project entitled “Drug - I’m No User” in four places in Navotas (June 2016), Marinduque (July 2016), Muntinlupa (August 2016), and Surigao del Sur (December 2016). This project focused on the youth’s education and awareness to drug-related issues

Moreover, BeYOUTHifiers Muntinlupa became an official organization in Muntinlupa National High School and conducted their first outreach program in Kappville, Poblacion with the help of their city’s Youth Affairs and Sports Development Office (YASDO) last March 2017.

Who would have thought that a 25-day training could bear out lifelong learning and an awesome experience not only to us, but to the community where we belong! What we learned in SEAYLP paved the way for us to have camaraderie with families, friends, school personnel, and even city government units. Just like what our name says, the youth can help beautify the world.



The journey for Team Singapore started out very uncertain. We were five students out of many, who didn’t even know each other beforehand. We had no clue what SEAYLP was going to be like for us. The only thing we were sure of: we needed to do a good job for our school and for our country. Little did we know that we were going to enjoy ourselves so much and make so many friends along the way.

Through our small organization, FoodStory, we approached local organizations to be part of our project on food wastage. We spread awareness about wasting food through booklets to educate the public. These booklets focused on reducing food waste and to have a more food waste conscious mindset. Overall, we feel like there’s still a lot to do for food wastage in Singapore, but we feel as though we contributed at least some toward a solution. Individually, after everything that we have done together to form this project, we continue to believe in our motto, we are all striving to “*Save our Nation, One Grain at a Time.*”





SEAYLP Thai 2016 Group organized a project to provide approachable, safer sex education and easy access to condoms and birth control for teenagers. This has been accomplished through special talks organized by teens.

The talk took place in Lopburi province with 25 local teenage participants, along with a health expert from a hospital. This health expert came to provide essential information on sex education, sexually transmitted infections, and methods of contraception. All participants had an opportunity to learn something new, but more crucially, were able to ask questions. There were educational tutorials on methods of contraception such as proper condom usage. An artificial model was used, which was initially embarrassing, but the activity was carried out with the understanding and awareness of participants on the importance of the conduct. As time passed, the activity was a lot of fun.

In the beginning, we struggled with this topic, with the concern that this topic was taboo. Nevertheless, our team decided that an action is worth a try if it could help guide even just one person to a better way of living. In the end, we felt that this project accomplished helping the community.



“Garbage Gifts”, established by SEAYLP Vietnam 2016, gained many outstanding achievements after a one-year trial in Vinh Phuc province. The trial was conducted at Lien Minh primary school. Our team provided many informative and interesting lectures on types of garbage and how to classify them properly. We used images and samples of garbage in the lessons, along with many multiple choice questions to test students’ understanding. After the trial, the results were incredible: 100% of students in grade 5 can classify garbage correctly, and the trial at other grades also received many positive responses. Hopefully, the project can bring enormous benefits to the environment in Vietnam.

