



## ASEAN Youth Fellowship Factsheet

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Singapore is committed to playing a key role in leadership development, to foster ASEAN community building at the regional level. One of Singapore's contributions to the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025 is the ASEAN Youth Fellowship (AYF) which was established in 2018 in conjunction with Singapore's ASEAN chairmanship that year.
- 1.2 Strengthening people-to-people ties is essential in creating a close-knit ASEAN community. Through leadership development programmes, young talents who will form the next generation of leaders will be given the opportunity to form networks and connections to bring the ASEAN community forward.

### 2 ASEAN Youth Fellowship (AYF) 2024

- 2.1 Into its 6<sup>th</sup> run, the AYF continues to be an exclusive regional leadership development programme that cultivates and connects established ASEAN young leaders from across diverse sectors.

### 3 Programme Objectives

- 3.1 AYF aims to achieve the following objectives:
  - a. To engage youth leaders in ASEAN through an immersive learning experience;
  - b. To build a strong network among youth leaders from diverse sectors; and
  - c. To expose ASEAN youth leaders to opportunities in the region.

### 4 Target Audience

- 4.1 The target participants are professionals aged between 27 to 35 years old, who are citizens of ASEAN member states. They should be proficient in English.
- 4.2 The nominated youth leaders must have established track record in their communities of influence, with high potential to take on prominent leadership positions in the future. Past AYF Fellows included department heads in national government bodies, CEOs and founders of national-level start-ups and civil society organisations, or management of private corporations and businesses.

## 5 Programme Structure

- 5.1 The AYF 2024 will be held from 3 to 10 November 2024 as an in-person programme with two legs – the first half of the programme will be held in Singapore, followed by the second half of the programme in Laos. There would also be a compulsory hybrid pre-programme on-boarding session in mid-October 2024.
- 5.2 The programme will feature the following key elements:
- Dialogues with senior policy makers and prominent thought leaders;
  - Immersive institutional visits; and
  - Exclusive learning journeys to key installations and organisations

Inspired by the theme of Laos' ASEAN Chairmanship 2024, "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience", AYF 2024 focuses on Innovation and Connectivity which are key drivers for economic growth and integration in the region. AYF 2024 will explore ASEAN's economic potential and the multifaceted dimensions of how innovation and connectivity enhance resilience and address shared challenges effectively. ASEAN youth leaders will embark on a journey that equips them to be at the forefront of driving collaboration and paving the way for a more sustainable, resilient, and interconnected region.

- 5.3 After the programme, ASEAN Youth Fellows are encouraged to work collaboratively on joint regional or bilateral projects stemming from AYF or in areas of need assessed by fellows and / or AYF Alumni. Projects scoped in partnership with other organisations could also be considered. To support their collaborative ground-up initiatives, fellows and AYF Alumni are encouraged to tap on the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF)<sup>1</sup> and the ASEAN Youth Fellowship Impact Fund (AYF Impact Fund)<sup>2</sup>. In addition, Fellows will continuously be re-engaged through various platforms as participants, speakers, moderators, etc.

## 6 Programme Costs

- 6.1 Expenses for the programme will be borne by the Organisers. These include accommodation, transport and meals. All other personal expenses, including any necessary vaccinations as required by the hosting organisation(s) and prevailing health guidelines of the hosting country, as well as personal travel insurance will be borne by the Fellows.

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<sup>1</sup> The Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF) aims to promote greater interaction among youth in the ASEAN member countries by supporting partnerships among ASEAN youth and youth sector organisations. More information on the SAYF can be found <https://www.nyc.gov.sg/programmes-grants/grants---singapore-asean-youth-fund>

<sup>2</sup> As part of NYC's commitment to support the ASEAN Youth Fellows in creating greater impact in the region, the AYF Impact Fund has been made available to the Fellows post programme to pursue ground-up initiatives to promote youth development, community building and other related causes.

- 6.2 Fellows will also bear any additional charges incurred for changes to flight bookings or accommodation beyond the stipulated deadline by the Organisers.

### *7 Application Submission*

- 7.1 All nominees should complete the online application form at <https://go.gov.sg/ayf2024> by **Monday, 3 June 2024**. Application instructions can be found on the front page of the online form.
- 7.2 Nominating organisations should return the completed recommendation form to the AYF Secretariat at [ayf@nyc.sg](mailto:ayf@nyc.sg) by **Monday, 3 June 2024**.
- 7.3 For any further enquiries on AYF, please email [ayf@nyc.sg](mailto:ayf@nyc.sg)

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**Please refer to the next page for some of the Frequently Asked Questions.**

## **Frequently Asked Questions on AYF**

### **1. Who can apply for AYF?**

Professionals aged between 27 to 35 years old, who are citizens of ASEAN member states and are proficient in English can apply.

Applicants should be young leaders with an established track record in their communities of influence, with high potential to take on more prominent leadership positions in future.

### **2. Is participation at AYF fully funded?**

All programme costs including meals, accommodation and flights will be borne by the organisers. However, Fellows will have to bear personal expenses, such as travel insurance, incidentals during hotel stay, and mobile data charges.

Fellows will also bear any additional charges incurred for changes to flight bookings or accommodation beyond the stipulated deadline by the Organisers, and any necessary health requirements such as mandatory vaccinations as required by prevailing health guidelines of the hosting country.

### **3. Can I sit out for certain segments of the programme due to personal/work commitments?**

Fellows are required to commit to the entire programme duration and participate fully in all activities.

### **4. How are Fellows selected?**

Applicants will be assessed based on their leadership records in both their professional and community capacities, expertise, and experience in their respective fields, as well as involvement in or awareness of ASEAN developments. Applicants should submit updated curriculum vitae (CVs) at the point of application.

### **5. Do I need to go for any health check-ups or vaccination to participate in AYF?**

Trip health check-ups are not mandatory, but Fellows will be required to submit a health declaration prior to the programme. The Organisers may request for additional documentation such as vaccination certificates and Doctor's memos to ascertain that fellows are fit for participation in all activities. Fellows are also required to have a valid tetanus immunisation to participate in the mandatory team-building activities organised by Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) as part of the AYF Programme.

### **6. When will the selection results be released?**

The selection results for AYF will be released about 2 months from when the application deadline closes. All applicants will receive an email from the Organisers on the selection

results accordingly. Please ensure that the email that you have provided in registration form is accurate and check your junk folder for misdirected email.

## **7. What is the AYF programme like?**

AYF is a week-long residential programme that is held in Singapore and in another major city in ASEAN.

Fellows can expect to participate in dialogues with senior policymakers and prominent thought leaders. In addition, there will be exclusive visits and learning journeys to various organisations. Lastly, there will be many opportunities for networking with peers and team-building activities.

Post-AYF, Fellows are encouraged to work collaboratively on joint regional or bilateral projects stemming from AYF or in areas of need assessed by Fellows and/or AYF Alumni. Fellows are encouraged to tap on the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (SAYF)<sup>3</sup> and AYF Impact Fund<sup>4</sup> to implement their projects. In addition, Fellows will continuously be re-engaged through various youth platforms and programmes as participants, speakers, moderators, etc.

## **8. What do I need to prepare before the programme?**

There will be a hybrid pre-programme briefing that fellows will need to attend (physical for Singaporean Fellows and virtual for ASEAN Fellows), where the Organisers will share programme updates and detailed instructions. This onboarding briefing will usually be conducted 2 weeks before the start of the AYF. The exact date will be communicated nearer to date. Opportunities will also be given for you to network with fellow delegates during the briefing. In addition, all Fellows will be added to a WhatsApp group chat for logistical and communication purposes. Lastly, please ensure that your passport has at least 6 months of validity to travel.

## **9. What is the difference between a nominator and a referee?**

Nominators are organisations invited by the National Youth Council and the Singapore International Foundation to nominate suitable leaders in their networks to apply for AYF. This includes the National Youth Focal points of each ASEAN Member States, ASEAN embassies, High Commissions, Corporate Partners, Non-profit Organisations, and the AYF Alumni. Referees are individuals who can testify in writing on an applicant's character and ability. The Organisers may check in with your referees during the selection process.

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<sup>4</sup> As part of NYC's commitment to support the ASEAN Youth Fellows in creating greater impact in the region, the AYF Impact Fund has been made available to the Fellows post programme to pursue ground-up initiatives to promote youth development, community building and other related causes.