



ABOUT ASEAN+ YOUNG LEADERS SUMMIT (AYLS 2015)

The year 2015 will see the emergence of an ASEAN Community. This represents a major milestone towards the journey of creating a truly integrated region. As a regional grouping, ASEAN is now poised to forge ahead further and become a significant player in the international arena.

As Malaysia assumes the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015, it is with great pride that it will be hosting the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur. In conjunction with this major summit, Malaysia finds it opportune to host AYLS which involves young leaders from ASEAN and its dialogue partners.

This provides an optimal platform for participants from diverse backgrounds to interact, discuss and brainstorm the various pertinent issues and challenges facing the region, particularly matters that concern the youth. This kind of engagement and being responsive to the needs of the youth in this region is vital in creating a genuine as well as sustainable ASEAN Community. In addition, it is hoped that AYLS will enhance the awareness of the ASEAN identity amongst the younger generation throughout the region.

THEME: "YOUTH DRIVING THE ASEAN COMMUNITY"

Over 60% of the ASEAN population today comprises of those under 35 years old and they are the driving force in shaping our future. In tandem with the aspiration of a people-oriented ASEAN, the youth in this region represents one of ASEAN's greatest assets and the most important stakeholder in realising the visions set forth in the ASEAN Community agenda.

In the above context, and reflecting the ASEAN long term commitment to youth involvement and empowerment, the theme of the Summit will revolve around the creation of a youth driven ASEAN. The aspirations, ideals and rights of the youth in ASEAN are important elements in the creation of a holistic and comprehensive ASEAN Community framework.

OUTCOME: YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR ASEAN

The pinnacle of the AYLS 2015 is the Handing Over Ceremony of Youth Manifesto for ASEAN to the President of the Malaysian Youth Council. The Youth Manifesto for ASEAN is a set of concise, practicable, and in-depth recommendations arising out of the deliberations of the Summit. The President of Malaysian Youth Council will in turn handover the Youth Manifesto for ASEAN to the Head of States during the ASEAN Summit Opening Ceremony on the 21st of November 2015.

