

2nd ASEAN Regional Conference on School Safety



Mr. Lai Wai Keat, Malaysia Red Crescent Youth Volunteer and Southeast Asia Youth Network member presented the key recommendation on youth engagement during the conference final plenary session.

Photo: Wanweena Tangsathianrphap/IFRC

14 - 15 February 2017
Bangkok Thailand

1. Background

The Second ASEAN Regional Conference on School Safety was held between Feb 14-15 2017 by building on the initial efforts on school safety in the region and the challenges and lessons learned discussed in the 1st ASEAN Regional Conference on School Safety. It reaffirmed the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction in the education sector and recognised the significance of building capacities on school safety programming through knowledge sharing and exchanges. More importantly, it aimed to discuss new frameworks, strategies, goals and targets, including wider partnerships and stakeholders' engagement which will guide the ASEAN to a more unified direction and action towards a comprehensive school safety.

Attendees were Representatives of the Ministries of Education (MOEs) and the National Disaster Management Organisations of the ASEAN Member States, as well as NGO and INGO partners and stakeholders on school safety in the region.

Main objective of the conference was to

- i. Exchange knowledge, and share learning on school safety programming by showcasing good practices, policies, strategies, resources, and tested guidance tools for school safety;
- ii. Discuss ASEAN region's progress in implementing school safety, including the achievements and the strategies to address challenges.
- iii. Discuss partnerships and wider stakeholders' engagement for school safety in the ASEAN region
- iv. Discuss and promote innovation and technology in school safety implementation;
- v. Recognise school safety champions in the region;
- vi. Discuss ways forward for school safety in the ASEAN region vis-à-vis the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 and the ASEAN Work Plan for the Education Sector 2016-2020, as a contribution to the achievement of global targets on school safety under the Sendai Framework for DRR 2016-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

IFRC Bangkok office has co-hosted the conference with the ASSI members by the support of Canadian Red Cross Funding and facilitated one thematic session "enhancing the ASEAN youth engagement in School Safety" by inviting youth representatives from different Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (NSs) such as Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand as well as DRR practitioners from Brunei, Lao, Philippines and Vietnam.

The Youth Engagement Session was a special session in the conference cause the **ASSI Partners** (Plan international, SAVE the Children, World Vision International) basically focuses more on children involvement in school safety under the facilitation of teachers and adults rather than the youth engagement.

This report will highlight on those parts which IFRC has contributed to the conference with joint efforts of ASEAN NSs and ASSI Partners.

2. Updates

2.1 PREPARATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- As a result of an internal discussion in IFRC CCST, IFRC decided to approach the ASEAN NSs to engage youth in this conference and highlighted in the letter of invitation on youth engagement in school safety.
- With this engagement, 5 NSs with the support of IFRC have selected Youth delegates/speakers who would actively participate in the conference.

- IFRC submitted the proposal to the ASSI organizing team to take a host of one thematic session “Enhancing the ASEAN youth engagement in School Safety” and prepared its session. IFRC RRI manager and the organizing team prepared a proposal on it and had a coordination with the IFRC KL office. IFRC DRM delegate and Youth and volunteering officer facilitated the thematic session in a more interesting and interactive way based on discussion and preparations (see attached agenda). IFRC senior Communications officer was present to capture the momentum of the IFRC engagement throughout the conference and IFRC DRR officer also supported all programme at all various items of conference including logistics and administration with a high responsibility and spirit.
- IFRC CCST made a contact with ASEAN Secretariat, ASSI members and UNESCO to have key note speakers in the thematic session and finally three representatives confirmed to present in the session hosted by IFRC; one student from the school in Philippines, one youth from RC and one staff from UNESCO presented their experience in engaging in school safety. All relevant information and presentation slides are [here](#).
- In RC level, one from Malaysia, one from Myanmar were decided to speak in the IFRC thematic session and other rest members decided to attend the different thematic sessions for information sharing. Three delegates from Cambodia, Singapore and Thailand took a responsibility of specific booth at the conference and introduced their IEC materials and RCY activities in school safety to all participants in a more inspiring way. And the rest NSs (Brunei, Lao, Philippines and Vietnam) also actively brought their IEC materials and introduced their activities to participants in the Gallery Hall.
- IFRC key people have involved in the development of IFRC statement, a key document in the conference and Marwan Jilani, IFRC Head of CCST made a final version and announced the IFRC statement to the audience in the closing ceremony.

2.2 ACHIEVEMENTS

- **A total of 9 RCRC people** made significant participation in all sessions of the Conference. IFRC staffs also facilitated thematic session and prepared the plenary session and announced its IFRC statement to the conference.
- **The statement was announced by Mr. Marwan Jilani, Head of IFRC CCST** and highlighted three key points as follows;
 - by first, to strengthen and broaden the engagement the youth and volunteers and scale up the school safety activities to more schools and more children at risk,
 - by second to institutionalize the partnership around ASSI Consortium as an inclusive and long-term program approach
 - and finally made a commitment to support fully the Chairmanship of ACDM, Lao DPR throughout the year.
- Mr. Lai Wai Keat, Malaysian RC youth volunteer and SEAYN member attended the thematic session “Enhancing ASEAN Youth engagement in school safety” and presented regional and personal experience of engaging in school safety. Ms Myat Thiri Soe, Myanmar RC presented the SEAYN New initiative “Youth in school safety facilitators toolkit” and convinced the participants to resort the tool as the ASEAN youth engagement tool.



*Marwan Jilani, the Head of IFRC CCST emphasizing the importance of youth engagement and partners in building safe and resilient communities in the IFRC statement.
Photo: Wanweena Tangsathianraphap /IFRC*

- **Mr. Lai Wai Keat, Malaysian RC youth volunteer and SEAYN member**, representing all ASEAN children and youth following the result of discussion in the thematic session, made the recommendations in the final plenary session to the government officials and School Safety partners with 5 key areas;
 - Recognize youth as key agents of change and empower youth to be key actors in School Safety (SS) by **engaging them in policy making and decision making process**.
 - Support ASEAN youth engagement with Government, IO, NGO, private sectors and CSO for a **strong partnership and resource mobilization** on SS (financial, technical resources).
 - Endorse **YSS toolkit (RCRC youth friendly tool) to ASEAN Youth engagement** in SS toolkit.
 - Support a **continuous capacity building of youth** by incorporating SS knowledge and skills into school curricular and extra- curricular and certify them SS practitioners.
 - Support Youth to **lead the KIM for sharing best practices and P2P learning** on the subject of SS.
- All Youth and Children Centered organizations and other stakeholders appreciated and acknowledged the tremendous capacity and engagement of RC Movement. Therefore, IFRC was requested to be a key leading partner for youth engagement in ASEAN School Safety by ASSI coordinator and it was decided to discuss at the end of February when Abigail, head of ASEAN EYSD is coming to Bangkok.
- There was also a good display of IEC materials from IFRC and some respective NSs such as Singapore RC, Lao RC and Thai RC at the booth in the Gallery Hall. More importantly, there was a strong visibility of RCRC throughout the conference.



Ong Sing Wee, Singapore Red Cross Youth manning at Booth.
Photo: Wanweena
Tanqathianrappap IFRC

3. Recommendations

- IFRC has certainly been acknowledged as important stakeholder among ASSI Partners through this conference. Furthermore, all organizations have fully entrusted the capacity and efficiency of the IFRC as potentially being a key agency representing youth and children in the ASEAN and Global platforms. It might be the good momentum to encourage RCRC CSR Managers to engage youth into the school safety in a more meaningful way at different platforms including CSR Forum.
- This opportunity may not last forever thus would require immediate action on IFRC side to ensure such privileged role is capitalized on. ASEAN secretariat Education, Youth and Sports Division (EYSD) is approaching to IFRC to collaborate more in terms of youth engagement and empowerment. If we don't take action fast, it is possible that this could be the opportunity lost for better positioning of RCY among key stakeholders and ASEAN countries. It was planned to hold a side meeting for a discussion on collaboration between ASEAN and IFRC at the end of February. Without senior leadership support, this would be very difficult.
- It was worth noting that advocacy activities in the conference such as booth introduction and dissemination was limited and in the next process; it should be included/covered more during the planning stage.

4. Conclusion

The 2nd Conference was an excellent opportunity to present RC movement and demonstrate/showcase the RCY works to all partners. The office has been successful in that endeavor. All achievements were made through various preparations, engagements and joint collaboration between teams and individuals.

All of the RC youth delegates and supporting members from IFRC CCST played a very pivotal role to represent and empower the youth and children in school safety at the ASEAN Region.

Youth Participants have expressed their appreciation to the IFRC CCST for this meaningful engagement of RC youths and NS Youth bureau and as well as the 'warm atmosphere and good team building' displayed in the conference.

Thank you very much for your all support and collaboration for this conference!

Annex 1; Thematic Session Agenda
Annex 2; IFRC Statement

