

COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES BY YOUTH

Achievements of the Red Cross Red Crescent Southeast Asia Youth Network amidst COVID-19 pandemic - Year 2020

REVITALIZATION IN PARALLEL WITH THE AWARENESS OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC



IEC materials developed by SEAYN Communications Task Force - August 2020



YABC Facilitators of Thai Red Cross Society performing a Qi Gong exercise - April 2020

Changing to the online-based approach

HOW WE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED OUR 7 WEBINARS ON COVID-19 RESPONSE:

On March 19, 2020, the annual meeting of the Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN) took place in an unusual way. Instead of greeting each other in person, Red Cross and Red Crescent Representatives from 11 Southeast Asian nations gathered up and voted to renew the coordination team through an online election, which was indeed the first ever internet-based annual meeting of the network. We then came to recognize that while ensuring the revitalization process of the SEAYN is a must, how we were going to achieve that would most likely be associated with COVID-19 response activities, via an online platform.

Since then, SEAYN members exerted their efforts to successfully organize our 7 important COVID-19 webinars, reaching out to members of other sub-regional networks in the Asia-Pacific region. Communication was also a key driving force of our activities. The SEAYN Comms Task Force was established, to effectively raise awareness of the pandemic, and help the SEAYN better reach out to those who share the same interests with us. Many SEAYN members had the chance to raise their voices in prestigious regional and international forums such as the RED Talk Series, the Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leadership Meeting, and so on. In any of those events, COVID-19 response acts were emphasized as a pivotal part of our inspiration stories. The COVID-19 pandemic might have separated us apart from each other physically, but could not divide our shared will to forge ahead in spreading humanitarian values to our communities, not a single bit.

Here are some of the memorable milestones of the SEAYN in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic in the year 2020:

1ST SEAYN COVID-19 WEBINAR - RAISING AWARENESS INTERVENTIONS (APRIL 9, 2020)

In this occasion, Youth Leaders and Staff from 11 National Societies exchanged some of the best practices and experiences in awareness raising interventions carried out by youth volunteers.

Cambodian Red Cross, Thai Red Cross and Viet Nam Red Cross shared their experience in creating and distributing IEC material (leaflets, posters, songs, music videos) in their communities!



Achievement

sharing leaflets and poster to community
RCY & RCV always joining with CRC Staff for sharing leaflets & poster to School and Community.



Moments during Cambodian Red Cross's presentation - April 2020

2ND SEAYN COVID-19 WEBINAR - DISINFECTION ACTIVITIES BY YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (APRIL 16, 2020)

In this meeting, SEAYN Youth Leaders and Staff exchanged practices and experiences in disinfection activities carried out by youth volunteers.

Lao Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross Society and Palang Merah Indonesia (Indonesian Red Cross) shared their experience in disinfection activities implemented in their communities.



**Volunteer Action:
HEALTH PROMOTION**

Palang Merah Indonesia

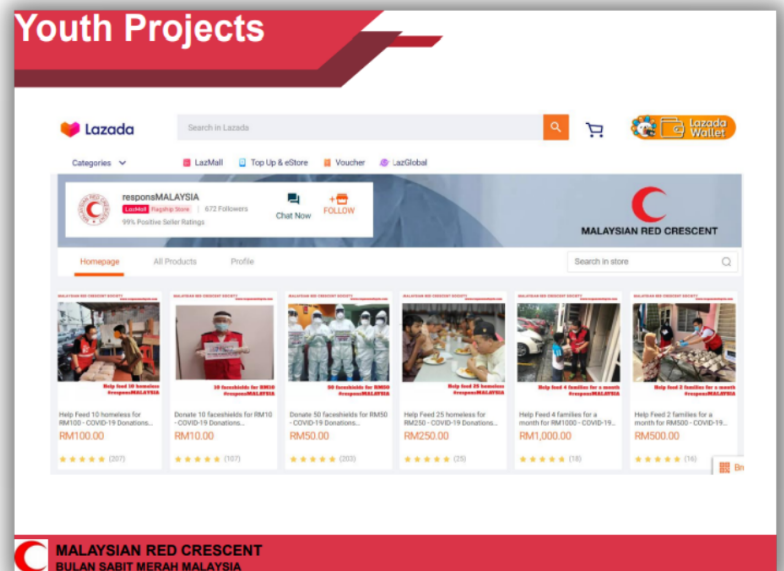
Digital posters, leaflets, banners, videos on how properly wear masks, wash hands, sneeze/cough, self-isolation, health education and promotion through PMI's social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram)

Indonesian Red Cross presenting about Health Promotion - April 16, 2020

3RD SEAYN COVID-19 WEBINAR - PPE BY YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (APRIL 23, 2020)

In this occasion, SEAYN Youth Leaders and Staff exchanged some of the best practices and experiences in youth initiatives (with a particular focus on PPE production).

Malaysian Red Crescent and Philippine Red Cross presented inspirational activities implemented by their youth volunteers.



Youth Projects

Lazada

responsMALAYSIA
872 Followers
51% Positive Seller Rating

MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT

Help Feed 10 homeless for RM100 - COVID-19 Donations... RM100.00

Donate 10 facehields for RM10 - COVID-19 Donations... RM10.00

Donate 50 facehields for RM50 - COVID-19 Donations... RM50.00

Help Feed 25 homeless for RM250 - COVID-19 Donations... RM250.00

Help Feed 4 families for a month for RM1000 - COVID-19... RM1,000.00

Help Feed 2 families for a month for RM500 - COVID-19... RM500.00

MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT
BULAN SABIT MERAH MALAYSIA

Malaysian Red Crescent sharing some of their remarkable youth projects - April 23 2020

4TH SEAYN COVID-19 WEBINAR (APRIL 30, 2020)

This time, Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, Singapore Red Cross and Timor-Leste Red Cross (CVTL) shared the youth initiatives they were implementing in prevention and response to COVID-19. SEAYN members also summarised the previous sessions and had a deeper look into some important elements of volunteering, such as safety and security (volunteer insurance), digital volunteering opportunities and how to give further visibility to all the wonderful initiatives undertaken by our youth.



SEAYN 4th Webinar on COVID-19 prevention and response
30 April 2020

IFRC SEAYN

BDRCS Youth in action

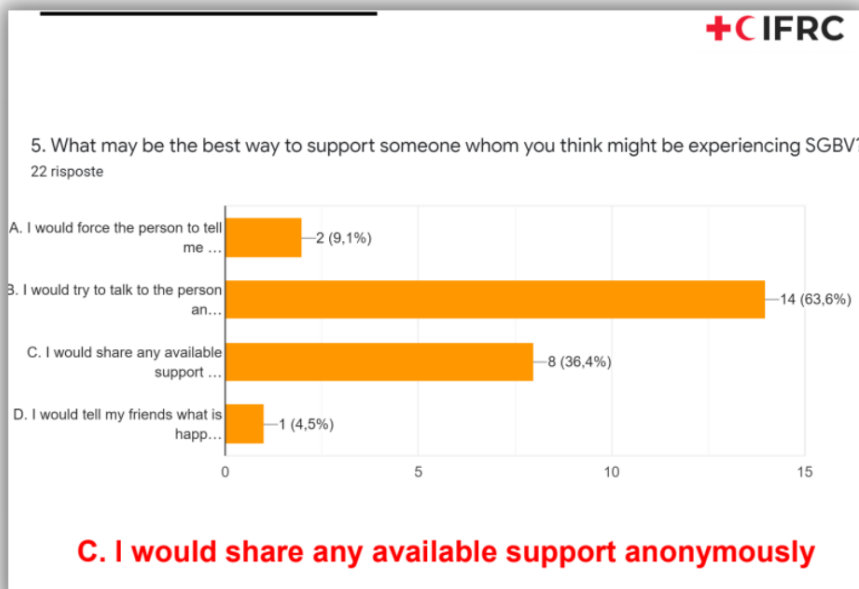
STAY HOME
DON'T SPREAD
WE LOVE YOU!!

Photos of Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent's volunteers at work being shown during the Webinar - April 30, 2020

5TH SEAYN WEBINAR ON COVID-19: SEXUAL- AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND COVID-19 - THE CONTRIBUTION OF RCY (MAY 7, 2020)

For this webinar, we had the opportunity to pick up some precious experience provided by Runjini Raman, IFRC Senior Protection, Gender and Inclusion Officer, who is Asia Pacific Regional Sexual and Gender-based Violence Advisor.

There were a lot of questions raised by SEAYN representatives for a joint reflection on how, as youth network, we could contribute to facing and addressing this challenge.



Part of a questionnaire about sexual- and gender-based violence during the Webinar - May 7, 2020

6TH SEAYN WEBINAR ON COVID-19 - EXPERIENCES FROM THE EAST ASIA YOUTH NETWORK (MAY 28, 2020)

Building on the momentum of our shared sessions RCRC SEA Youth Initiative for COVID-19 Prevention and Response, SEAYN Coordination Team invited representatives of sister sub-regional youth networks to share their valuable experiences.

SEAYN members listened to and interacted with RCRC East Asia Youth Network representatives from: Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), Hong Kong Branch of RCSC, Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) and Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS).

Youth participation in epidemic prevention

青年参与疫情的防控

Red cross youth from all over the country actively participate in local Red Cross branches' emergency support services, such as hotline answering, donation material coordination, translation and communication assistance for overseas work, etc.

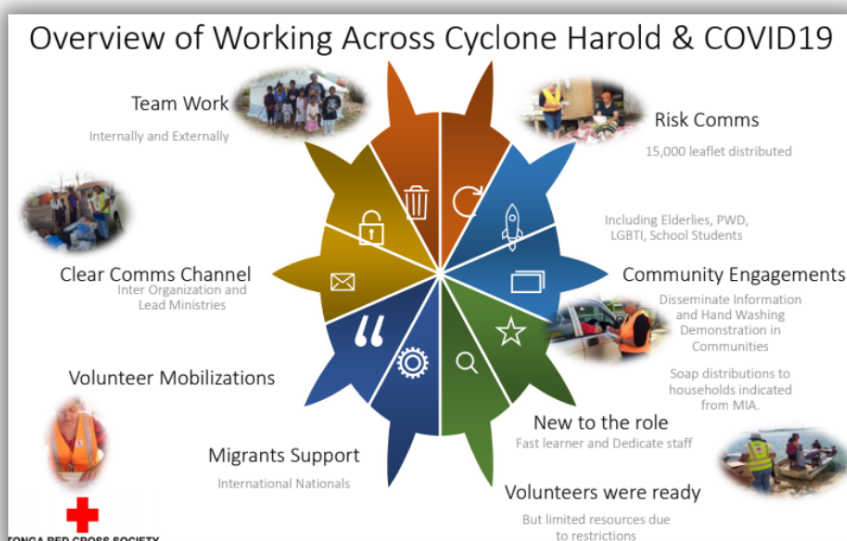
各地的红十字青少年积极参加本地红十字会的紧急情况下的支援服务，如：热线电话接听、捐赠物资协调、协助海外工作的翻译沟通等。

Red Cross Society of China sharing experience about epidemic prevention - May 28, 2020

7TH SEAYN WEBINAR ON COVID-19 - EXPERIENCES FROM THE PACIFIC YOUTH NETWORK (JUNE 11, 2020)

We had the chance to interact with RCRC Pacific Youth Network representatives, presenting about the PYN structure and specific interventions from: Fiji Red Cross Society, Micronesia Red Cross Society, Tonga Red Cross Society and Vanuatu Red Cross Society.

This was the last episode of the COVID-19 response series hosted by the SEAYN.

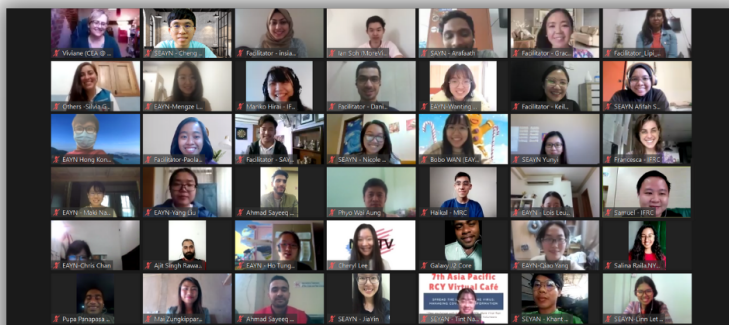


Tonga Red Cross Society analyzing their Youth and Volunteers Engagement activities - June 11, 2020

VIRTUAL ASIA PACIFIC RED CROSS YOUTH CAFÉ SERIES

Inspired by the European Youth Network Tea Party, the Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN) organises a monthly AP RCY Café for youth volunteers across the region to meet and share their feelings & thoughts on important issues such as sexual- and gender-based violence, mental health, YABC, etc.

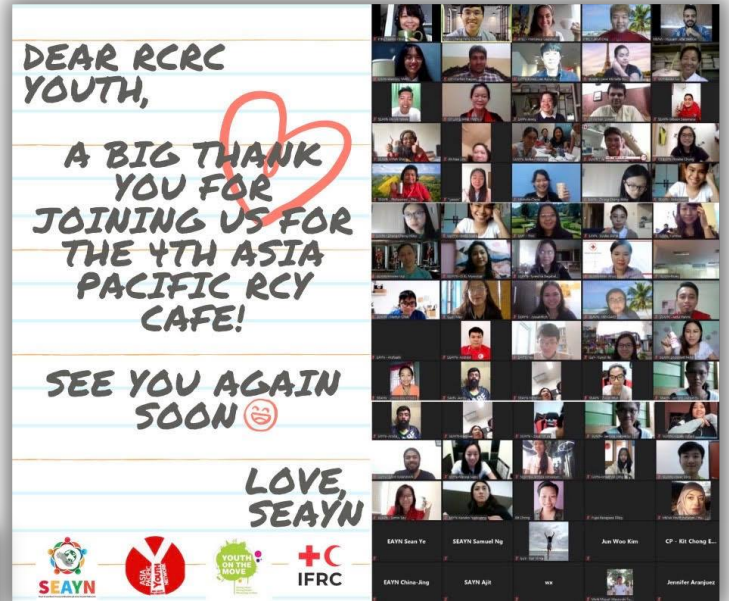
In 2020, the APYN held a total of 6 AP RCY Café meetings. Participants had opportunities to break down and further discuss topics such as social isolation, stigmatization, disruptions in education and livelihoods. These topics are among the many challenges that young people face since the COVID-19 pandemic happened, causing an increase in mental health issues among youth volunteers (both frontliners and those who were stuck at home).



**SPREAD ❤️, NOT THE VIRUS:
MANAGING COVID-19 MISINFORMATION**

77 participants from 16 National Societies
+
Facilitators from MVTTV, UNFPA & Internews

7TH ASIA PACIFIC RCY CAFÉ RCRC APYN



In 2020, the SEAYN highly valued the importance of the RCY Café model in effectively connecting the network itself to youth communities outside the region of Southeast Asia, especially when COVID-19 was hindering their opportunities to collaborate in person. In fact, one of SEAYN's main focus in its 2020 action plan was to develop a close connection with other sub-regional networks in the region and the APYN as a whole.

The SEAYN continued to send its representative to partake in AP RCY café sessions as active speakers and facilitators, sharing a lot of insights about humanitarian activities amid the global pandemic.

Recognizing the strong will of the SEAYN, the APYN invited the network to be the host of the 4th Asia Pacific Youth Café. This was one of the special highlights of SEAYN's activities in 2020.

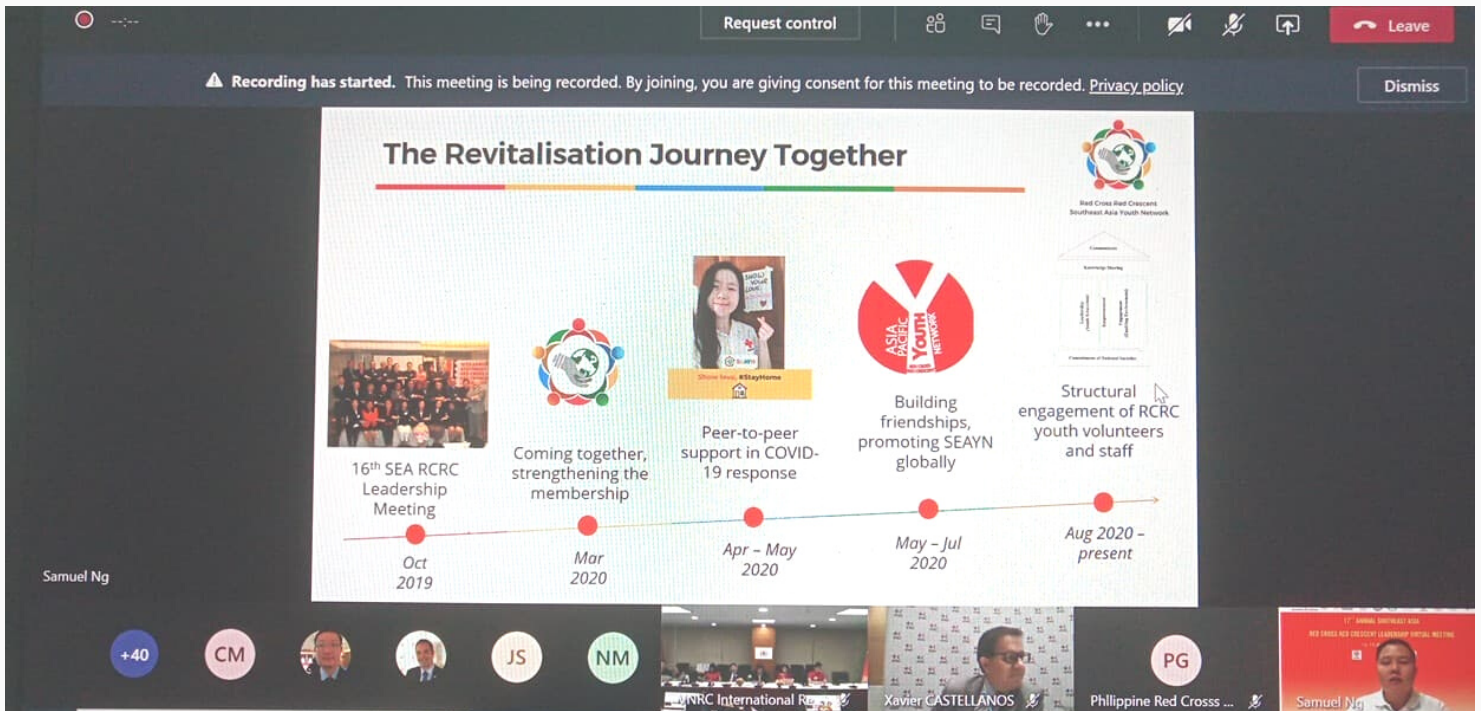
4TH ASIA PACIFIC RCY CAFÉ LED BY THE SEAYN (OCTOBER, 2020)

Upholding the spirits of the first 3 successful RCY Café sessions in 2020, the SEAYN hosted the fourth session of the series, which was the first regional meeting it had ever hosted since the beginning of its revitalization process.

In this issue, 72 participants in the Asia Pacific region got to join some activities of the YABC initiative as well as exchange views and experience on certain aspects related to the promotion of youths in the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

Cheng Yang Chong, Co-Chair of SEAYN, and Francesca Capoluongo, IFRC Youth and Volunteering Delegate for Southeast Asia and ASEAN Cooperation, were responsible for the organization and delivery of the "Let's experience YABC online!" AP RCY Café.





Raising our voices in regional and international forums

FROM THE RED TALK SERIES TO THE SOUTHEAST ASIA RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT LEADERSHIP MEETING

On August 12, 2020, Nam Pham (Deputy-Chair of SEAYN), Simin Say (SEAYN Youth Representative of Singapore Red Cross), Michelle Chew (IFRC Youth Commission Member, Asia Pacific Representative), and Kritsada Lee (Youth Volunteer of the Thai Red Cross) took part in a new issue of the RED talk series organized by the IFRC, celebrating the International Youth Day. During this meeting, they got to share their inspirational volunteering stories amid the severe pandemic. The online session was broadcasted globally and attracted the attention of thousands of people

On October 19, the Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leadership Meeting was held via an online platform, for the very first time. Samuel Ng, Chair and Nam Pham, Deputy-Chair of the SEAYN delivered a passionate 15-minute presentation on the activities of the SEAYN. The network's effort in many aspects, especially in dealing with COVID-19, were praised by National Societies' Leaders.

The participation of SEAYN's representatives in this integral annual meeting, highlighted the determination of SEA Red Cross and Red Crescent Leaders to revitalize the network and making it an active actor in benefiting

youths in Southeast Asia, especially within the context of the enormous challenges posed by COVID-19.

On December 5, representatives from all 11 National Societies of the network participated in a 24-hour LIVE event, celebrating the International Volunteer Day. Each of their amazing volunteering story on dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic was shared from a very personal perspective. The session attracted speakers from 192 countries, and was broadcast worldwide through many social networking sites.

2020 was tough for Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers in the sense that the pandemic made it extremely difficult for us to perform our humanitarian activities. On the bright side, however, it has given us the experience of a lifetime, to constantly adapt and innovate ourselves. For SEAYN's part, we shall continue the work we do to embrace the humanitarian values we respect, and eventually to alleviate the sufferings of people in our community.

THE END



Southeast Asian speakers having fun during the RED talk - August 2020

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"MEANINGFUL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IS LIKE A REST STOP ON A HIGHWAY. IT IS A PLACE FOR THE YOUTH TO REST AFTER THEIR LONG JOURNEY, TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THEIR JOURNEY SO FAR." - SAMUEL NG, 2020 CHAIR OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA YOUTH NETWORK."

The SEAYN Chair's statement was quoted from his speech in the ASEAN Interactive Webinar Series on ASEAN Youth and COVID-19, an important online meeting which was attended by many SEAYN representatives.



Contact us!

THE RED CROSS RED CRESCENT SOUTHEAST ASIA YOUTH NETWORK (SEAYN)

Our official Facebook page

www.facebook.com/RCRCSEAYN/

**Our official page on the
Resilience Library:**

<https://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/youth-and-volunteering/southeast-asia-youth-network-seayn/>

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