

Brief About ASEAN-India Youth Dialogue

India and ASEAN have emerged as the rising Asian powers in the new millennium, with fast-growing economies. While India's civilisational, cultural and commercial trade links with Southeast Asia go back many centuries, renewed and revitalised engagement within the region has come about with India's Act East Policy.

India Foundation, in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, had organised the first India-ASEAN Youth Summit in August 2017, themed on "Shared Values, Common Destiny". The 2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit was organised by India Foundation, in collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat and MEA, Govt of India, in February 2019, themed on "Connectivity: Pathway to Shared Prosperity".

Both the editions of the ASEAN-India Youth Summit elicited a very positive response and resulted in an ongoing association between the delegates which continues till date. Youth Summit has become a platform for youth leaders of both India and ASEAN to engage with each other to develop a resilient and symbiotic relationship between countries.

At a time when most countries in the world are fighting the corona virus pandemic, it becomes highly pertinent to renew this conversation by utilizing the existing Youth Dialogue platforms such as ASEAN-India Youth Summit. Till now, India and ASEAN Countries have handled the COVID-19 crisis in a significantly better way when compared to other parts of the world.

India and ASEAN must enhance their regional cooperation in this fight against pandemic through learning from each other's experiences. In a digital age when many countries are under lockdown and face to face communication has become difficult because of social distancing norms, digital communication networks have emerged as an important tool to remain connected and take the conversation forward. Such exchange of views and perspectives through virtual means will play a significant role in bringing together hearts and minds of youth leaders from India and ASEAN to discuss and deliberate experiences, responses, policies and contemporary issues, to boost ties between the respective nations and to usher the region into an era of shared prosperity.

In this context, India Foundation is organising the ASEAN-India Youth Dialogue (Virtual) on the Zoom Platform with an expectation to take forward the cooperation among Youth of India and ASEAN. This virtual confluence of youth leaders from India and the ten ASEAN countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam will lead to shared understanding of the challenges we are facing during COVID times, and the respective actions and responses that countries are undertaking. Youth Alumni from the previous two ASEAN-India Youth Summits will get an opportunity to participate in ASEAN-India Youth Dialogue over the course of three days (90 Minutes Session on each day) from 08-10 June 2020.

The topics for the discussions are as follows:

- 1. Role of Youth in Nations' fight against Corona Virus Pandemic**
- 2. Experiences from COVID Times and Country Response**
- 3. Role of Technology, Start-Ups, Entrepreneurship in COVID times**
- 4. Geopolitical Impact of COVID-19 on the Global and Regional Order**