

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 7th Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative (HYLI) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from July 11 to 15, 2005. It brought together 24 of the region's brightest students representing leading universities from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

During the initiative, the students participated in a variety of activities including a public forum, closed-door workshops, community work and a media conference. As a platform to inspire and nurture Asia's next generation of future leaders, it provided the students with an opportunity to meet prominent leaders of today and hear their views and recommendations on issues affecting the region.

Established in 1996, the HYLI aims to contribute towards the development of potential future leaders in Asia, and facilitate a deeper awareness of regional and global issues through the exchange of knowledge and views. It also encourages Asian solidarity and values, and promotes cross-cultural understanding and harmony through common activities and shared experience.

The students were selected through a series of rigorous interviews, in partnership with participating universities. They were chosen based on their academic abilities, leadership qualities, participation in extra-curricular activities, in English.

The 7th HYLI delegates are now part of the 168-strong alumni who will continue to network with their counterparts across Asia as they all pursue successful careers now and in the future.

Forum Theme

Under the theme "Balancing People, Planet & Profit in Asia's Future", three sub-themes were discussed by the 24 students:

- Asian Economic Integration: Challenges and Opportunities
- Translating Environmental Awareness into Action
- The Changing Role of Education in a Dynamic Asia

Guest Speakers

Guest of Honour and First Keynote Speaker

- Yang Berhormat Dato' Dr. Shafie Mohd Salleh, Minister of Higher Education, Malaysia

Keynote Speaker

- Ms. Leila Retna Komala, Appointed Representative of Dr. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Minister of State for National Development Planning / Chairperson of National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), and Deputy Minister of National Development Planning for Human Resources and Cultural Affairs, Indonesia.



Panel Speakers

- Yang Berhormat Dato' Mustapa Mohamed, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia
- Dr. Masahiro Kawai, Professor, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo, Japan
- Dato' Dr. Michael Yeoh, Executive Director and CEO, Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute Incorporated Sdn Bhd
- Mr. Victor O. Ramos, Former Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines
- Mr. Ismid Hadad, Executive Director, KEHATI (Indonesia Biodiversity Foundation, Indonesia)
- Dr. Koh Thiam Seng, Director, Educational Technology Division, Ministry of Education, Singapore
- Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Deputy Director, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Secretariat, Thailand
- Professor Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Anuwar Ali, Vice Chancellor / President, Open University Malaysia (OUM), Malaysia



Visions and Recommendations for Asia

The Hitachi young leaders concluded the initiative with the following collective recommendations and vision for Asia, under the three sub-themes:

Economic Sub-theme: Challenges and Opportunities of Asian Economic Integration

Asian nations have been actively integrating their economies through various bilateral and multilateral agreements. These efforts are currently facing a gap whereby many countries are interested but incapable of participating in free trade.



Process for an East Asia Common Economy (PEACE) is a programme devised to accelerate the integration of the economies in Asia. This programme will be integrated into the existing East Asian Community (EAC) as a complementary system to the free trade area. This programme aims to set up a fund by consolidating voluntary contributions from member countries. These funds will be utilised to:

- Develop social safety nets
- Fund economic development of nations which need assistance
- Improve the free trade process through trade facilitation efforts
- Develop a more integrated infrastructure
- Harmonise standards and practices of civil services

Environment Sub-theme: Translating Environmental Awareness into Action

The recommendations aim to address the challenges of economic constraints, poor governance and a lack of ownership, resulting in the continued degradation of the environment in Asia.

- The Green Bank is a financial institution fully devoted to sustainable development by providing financial support to eligible environmentally sustainable projects.
- Sustainable Practices for Holistic Environmental Resource Engagement (SPHERE) is a community-based resource management programme aimed at protecting the environment by empowering the community while enhancing their means of livelihood.



Education Sub-theme: Changing Role of Education in a Dynamic Asia

As Asia faces a new wave of globalisation, new skills are needed to survive in this highly competitive and fluid age. Furthermore, individuals should be given adequate freedom to be exposed to, decide on and pursue disciplines that are in consonance with how they wish to contribute to their society where there are so many choices.

Model for Social Empathy and Asian Identity through Competency Enhancement (MOSAIC) restructures school level education into two phases:

- Phase 1 (Foundation Phase) includes the teaching of standardised Mathematics and Science across Asia, the learning of one additional Asian language, and community work.
- Phase 2 (Immersion Phase) involves the systematic integration of exposure programmes, by networking with various career sectors as a means of educating students on possible career options before they decide on which university course to pursue.

