GLOBAL ACTION

1ST YOUTH CONFERENCE ON ASEAN & ITALY PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

APRIL 7-8, 2021

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

April 8th, 2021

1ST YOUTH CONFERENCE ON ASEAN & ITALY PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ 2021

We, the Delegates of the 1st Youth Conference on ASEAN-Italy Partnership for Development, met for the first time virtually on April 7th and 8th, 2021.

The Conference pursued the objective to strengthen the relations between Italy and ASEAN nations. We aimed at celebrating the new level of cooperation between ASEAN and Italy in the framework of the partnership of development, involving the youth.

Our working sessions had the objective to find global solutions on the challenges we face in the field of Education & Innovation, Health and Covid19 Response and Sustainability and Resilient Futures.
In a time where we need to define the new normal and match it with the global issues, we ask the institutions to accept and answer our call to action.

We stand up for the right of the youth of our countries to live in a more fair and equitable world. We accept the challenge to make a good change for our generation and future generations delivering this specific and concrete recommendations.

We call on Italian and ASEAN leaders to evaluate our proposals and we are open for feedback and impressions.

EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

We, the delegates of the Education and Innovation Committee, urge the leaders of the ASEAN's Member Countries and Italy, to improve the Education and Innovation sectors within the Partnership for Development, promoting and enhancing the right to education for all, while providing the necessary tools and skills to access the job market.
Following the discussions and interactions that have been held, with the hope to engage with others and empower all youth worldwide to strive for the progress of education and innovation, we recommend the next steps in the Committee's joint action:

Exchange Programmes and Cooperation between Educational Sectors

We, as the youth, call for strengthening collaboration between those in the educational field in ASEAN and Italy. We recommend forming "Educational Pacts" among educational institutions of the two regions to foster collaboration, cultural exchange, and innovation.

Through this, students are given a chance to travel and immerse themselves in other countries' educational systems and expose themselves to the country's culture. Continually, educators, researchers, and professionals are granted opportunities to participate in the exchange, research, and skills-development programs via online or in-person conferences. These programs shall also be accessible to teachers in rural areas who seldomly apply for national residency programs and conferences.

We call for governments to support these programs financially by sponsoring the logistics and the gadgets of participants because it encourages greater cooperation, fosters creativity and innovation, and opens more opportunities for all participants.

Cultural Exchange & Curriculum Improvement Through Online Tools

Educational online applications have become very helpful to all students despite the limitations experienced during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We propose that Governments of ASEAN Member Countries and Italy partner up with local app developers to create a mobile application to provide a cultural exchange platform between students.

Through the mobile application, even the Out of School Children and Youth (OSCY) could learn relevant and appropriate cultural and academic knowledge through interactions with built-in virtual assistant robots and could also exchange this information through photos and videos posting or text similar to a social media platform. Additionally, creating content indifferent languages, integrating computers, and accessing the Web into the curriculum are equally important. Furthermore, we encourage governments to allocate public funding to grant access to the electronic devices and Internet over WiFi from public places.

We call upon governments to implement this long-term policy for youth. Students will have the chance to learn, expand their knowledge, share their unique ideas and establish public relations, especially between ASEAN and Italy.

Promotion and Development of Innovation Through Interregional STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Competitions

Innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship are crucial in the fourth industrial revolution's next technological advancements.

We recommend implementing prestigious, interregional competitions of STEAM subjects between ASEAN and Italian students, such as robotics competitions and science fairs, young innovator's programs, and film competitions. In addition, year-long projects to complement STEAM subjects' integration in the curriculum encourages innovation, where students can showcase final outputs in said interregional competitions, are also encouraged. We suggest that host nations be different every year to encourage the spread of various cultures and request governments to grant financial packages to implement these programs.

We call on all ASEAN and Italian governments to work urgently to implement these interregional competitions and recognize innovative youths in the region.

The Fostering and Revitalization of Innovation in the Economy Through Cooperation between Universities, Companies and Governments

We recognized the need to address the economic devastations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly to small businesses and technologies startups and also to encourage and revitalize technological innovation in the economy.

We can combat this problem by implementing the ASEAN- Italy Innovation Through Cooperation (AIITC) program which encourages close communication between institutions, businesses, and governments to help create favourable environments for the recovery and growth of businesses and technologies startups.

Firstly, universities and corporations should collaborate on creating specialized courses that teach essential skills needed in the workplace. Secondly, we encourage corporations within ASEAN and Italy to make some of their technologies open source to the general public. Lastly, corporations and universities would bring workshops on digital entrepreneurship to rural and undeveloped areas. We call for the governments to support this project by lowering corporate taxes, especially for small to medium enterprise (SME) to allow for the saving up of money.

HEALTH AND COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMITTEE

As the Health and Covid-19 Response Committee, we believe in the equality of everyone's voice. As everyone knows, the youth are the future pillars of our countries. The pandemic clearly affected everyone, but our countries' priorities are on everyone except the youth. With the collaboration between Italy and ASEAN countries, we hope for effective information exchange that would result in the youth's involvement.

Governmental Policies

Firstly, we propose for our various governments to be transparent in providing information to its citizens, such as with the number of infection cases, where the cases come from as well as the efficiency of the vaccines. Withholding this information could cause panic and distrust amongst the public. Providing a judgemental-free platform for citizens to be able to voice their concerns and opinions also encourages transparency and communication.

Secondly, we propose for our governments to be more decisive in making decisions for the country such as protocols, lockdowns and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). We suggest implementing a fixed schedule on our lockdown protocols, a consistent update on the country's true and current condition and a constant and clear health protocol to create the ideal environment and atmosphere during the vaccination period.

Mental Health

Firstly, we would like to propose government / non-government organisations (NGO) to supply digital literacy equipment and adequate Internet connection to needy individuals. We hope parties involved would supply the necessary technology for them to participate in online activities. We believe the government should also cooperate with Internet service providers to supply needy students with enough data for them to attend classes without any hindrances.

Secondly, we would like to propose for online counselling sessions / youth camps. Such initiatives should be implemented as it can act as a form of an outlet for citizens who are feeling stressed.

The government could initiate an online platform for people to share their problems, allowing them to feel better in the midst of the pandemic while providing adequate assistance to aid them with said problems. Youth camps also serve to promote interactions and eliminate feelings of boredom and loneliness.

International Collaboration

Information exchange is an important collaboration that two parties can do. It can result in a complete shift in a country's societal condition. With the Covid-19 pandemic, sharing information related to coronavirus, including amongst each countries' universities, can produce significant results. We propose an honest, transparent and equally symbiotic relationship between ASEAN countries and Italy to share their knowledge through various mediums.

ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENT FUTURE COMMITTEE

According to the United Nations, sustainability means “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future”. It is and must be the long-term goal of global development and every component of society has a key role to play in order to achieve it. We, the ASEAN and Italian youth, believe that enhancing the resilience of the future must be more than just a commitment, it must be an intergenerational effort, aiming at reconciling both people and planet. Such a challenge can be dealt with by states only in the spirit of international cooperation and multilateralism, to pave the way to a more sustainable future.

Enhancing Innovation for Sustainable Businesses

In order to make it possible for businesses to have better access to sustainable resources, we call on ASEAN and Italy to:

- Support technological advancements that aim at creating sustainable options. The use of sustainable technology by businesses would promote a more conscious usage of natural resources. Businesses taking big steps towards sustainability would help more proactively in urging citizens to care about the current state of their environment. Businesses would allocate more of their Corporate Social Responsibility programs to ensuring sustainability. This effort would be encouraged by government funding that can support businesses investing in sustainable resources.
- Promote sustainable manufacturing. This would include making the business greener through the materials used in their products, the machineries employed in the process. The main goal would be to decouple economic growth and environmental degradation in the effort to make sustainability a more viable option especially in developing countries by using research and technologies.
- Implement a multilateral trade agreement establishing a sustainable joint cooperation between countries and businesses that would discourage the trade of non-sustainably produced products, via a taxation of materials that were not produced through sustainable methods.

Cities and Renewable Energy: the Development of Green Urbanization

In order to reduce carbon emissions and the depletion of natural resources, we call on ASEAN and Italy to:

- Create a network of “Sustainable cities”. It should be composed of municipalities that meet the minimum standard requirements for a city to be defined as “sustainable” set by the relevant international bodies. The cities belonging to the said network should have access to knowledge-sharing platforms to discuss lessons learnt and best practices. The relevant resources should also be available to non-member cities to act as a guide in the transition towards sustainability.
- Incorporate solar panels on industrial and commercial establishments for the reduction of carbon emissions as well as a source of renewable energy. This would lessen the amount of fossil fuels burnt which contribute to global warming and consequently, climate change, allowing us to move towards a more ethical means of fueling industrial capital.
- Implement the use of bioenergy and its source, biomass, as a form of renewable energy accessible to households on a larger scale. Biomass products are produced from waste products such as oil palm, jatropha, coconut, soursop, sugar apple, kapok plant and algae, which can later be processed into biodiesel and other forms of biofuels that have diesel-quality-properties.

A Sustainable Approach to Resources: New Agricultura Techniques and Waste Management

In order to make it possible for ASEAN partners to use resources more efficiently and sustainably, we call on ASEAN and Italy to:

- Adapt and implement new technologies to solve agriculture related crises, such as more efficient farming, working on the blue revolution, strongly promote a change in the diet of citizens to counter the growing demand of food caused by the population growth and to avoid shortages of food when natural disasters happen.
- Rely less on imported agricultural goods from non-partner states, and focus more on building commercial networks with member states concerning agricultural goods, as well as an information network to share within members the most advanced agricultural techniques.
- Incorporate natural filtration systems like Mangroves to provide an eco-friendly method of filtering water as well as absorb carbon emissions. It provides an effective and eco-friendly way to collect waste and clean water.
- Reduce waste production by recommending within all member countries to use more compostable and biodegradable materials in supermarkets and public spaces. Regulate the sale of single-use products, through laws that prohibit or limitate the use of not recyclable materials.

DELEGATES

EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

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UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation

IN COOPERATION WITH

ASEAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION

Associazione Italia ASEAN

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